

PRESS STATEMENT

12 November 2019

**MTR Strongly Condemns Attacks Targeting MTR Stations and Trains**

The MTR Corporation strongly condemns rioters for maliciously damaging facilities at operating MTR stations today (12 November 2019). The extensive damages caused serious disruption and serious service delays on seven railway lines (including the Kwun Tong Line, Tsuen Wan Line, East Rail Line, West Rail Line, Ma On Shan Line, Tseung Kwan O Line and Tung Chung Line) and severely undermined the safety of railway operations. A number of stations were also forced to close on these railway lines. Train services were temporarily suspended along various sections of the East Rail Line (between Tai Wai and Tai Po Market stations, and between Fanling and Lo Wu/ Lok Ma Chau stations) and West Rail Line (between Kam Sheung Road and Tuen Mun stations). The Corporation has reported the cases of vandalism to the police and reserves the rights to take legal action against the parties concerned.

Objects were thrown onto track areas along open sections of the East Rail Line. MTR staff were deployed along the tracks to remove the objects. From 6:00am, objects were thrown onto track sections between Fanling and Tai Wo stations, and sections adjacent to University Station. In the occurrence adjacent to University Station, an object was left hanging on the overhead line, causing the power supply system to trip and an East Rail Line train heading towards Hung Hom was stopped between Fo Tan and Tai Po Market stations. Train service on the concerned section was immediately suspended. As objects continued to be hurled from height onto the tracks intermittently, it took some time before MTR staff could safely access the tracks and arrange for passengers on the affected train to alight and walk along the tracks to University Station.

Later at around 7:40am, objects including bicycles and water-filled barriers were thrown onto tracks between Sha Tin and Tai Wai stations. A train heading to Hung Hom from Sha Tin Station hit a bicycle which had been thrown onto the tracks. The train was unable to move as the bicycle was stuck beneath the carriages. Passengers were detained with the arrangement of MTR staff in order to walk back to Sha Tin Station. In the meantime, the service suspension was extended from Fo Tan to Tai Wai Station. At around 6:00pm, Sheung Shui Station was attacked and maliciously damaged by rioters. A train heading towards Hung Hom was unable to leave the station platform after performing platform duty due to objects being thrown onto the tracks. Passengers had to evacuate from the train compartment. Rioters later entered and vandalised the train compartment. A fire was subsequently set in the train compartment.

In addition, train departures at Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long stations were continuously obstructed, resulting in the temporary suspension of train service between Kam Sheung Road and Tuen Mun stations. The Corporation provided free shuttle bus services for the passengers affected where possible, and maintained close contact with the Transport Department about the arrangement. However, due to road congestion and unexpected conditions, passengers might have experienced longer than normal waiting times even

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when the service was available. We would like to express our gratitude for passengers' patience and co-operations.

There were also further serious incidents today involving petrol bombs being thrown onto facilities along the tracks. At around 8:40am, a petrol bomb was hurled onto the section of tracks adjacent to Hung Hom Station on the East Rail Line. Train regulation was arranged by the Operations Control Centre, thus no major impact was caused to the train service in the concerned section. A petrol bomb was also thrown onto the track side of Tai Shui Hang Station on the Ma On Shan Line at around 7:15am.

At Tung Chung Station, objects were thrown into the station and affected passenger safety. Tung Chung Station was forced to close due to severe disruption of station operations and risks to crowd management. Moreover, Whampoa and Prince Edward stations were also forced to close due to similar reasons. Trains were arranged to skip these stations. Unauthorised activation of emergency exit ramps also occurred on trains on the Tung Chung Line and Kwun Tong Line.

The MTR Corporation reiterates that throwing objects onto tracks and operating trains might lead to severe consequences including derailment which could cause serious injuries. Acts such as hurling petrol bombs into trains and stations, and unauthorised activation of emergency exit ramps on trains could pose serious threats to the safety of passengers, staff and railway facilities. MTR strongly condemns the violent acts of the rioters, and expresses deep indignation over their actions to damage railway facilities which endangered the safety of passengers and MTR staff.

The Corporation will continue to closely monitor the situation and may suspend or adjust the train and station services to ensure safety of passengers and MTR staff. The Corporation will disseminate relevant information via the MTR website, MTR Mobile, station and in-train announcements as well as the media. Passengers are advised to pay attention to the latest service information.

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**Photo captions:**

1. A petrol bomb was hurled onto the section of tracks adjacent to Hung Hom Station on the East Rail Line.



2. A train heading to Hung Hom from Sha Tin Station hit a bicycle which had been thrown onto the tracks. The train was unable to move as the bicycle was stuck beneath the carriages. Passengers were detained with the arrangement of MTR staff in order to walk back to Sha Tin Station.



3. An East Rail Line train at Sheung Shui Station was vandalised. A fire was subsequently set in the train compartment.



4. Foreign objects were thrown from height onto the open section near University Station. MTR staff were deployed along the tracks to remove the objects.





5. Station facilities at Tung Chung Station were vandalised. Various objects were thrown into the station.

