

# 繩之以法

*sheng2 zhi1 yi3 fa3*

We see the idiom “繩之以法” (*sheng2 zhi1 yi3 fa3*) or “繩之於法” (*sheng2 zhi1 yu2 fa3*) a lot in the media these days as the police continue to follow up leads and bring in suspects in connection with the recent street violence.

People called on the police to get the rioters “繩之以法” (*sheng2 zhi1 yi3 fa3*). The police, meanwhile, pledged publicly to do exactly that.

“繩” (*sheng2*) is “a rope,” “a line.” It also means “to restrain,” “to rectify,” “to correct,” “之” (*zhi1*) “this,” “that,” “those,” “these,” “以” (*yi3*) “to use as,” “according to” and “法” (*fa3*) “the law.” Literally, “繩之以法” (*sheng2 zhi1 yi3 fa3*) “to restrain according to the law.”

It means “to be dealt with according to the law,” “to punish according to the law,” “to keep someone in line by punishment.”

## Idiom by Lon Yan

So what people want is to bring to justice those who set fires, vandalized property and threw bricks at policemen.

“法” (*fa3*) “the law.” A related idiom that also has the character “法” (*fa3*) “目無法紀” (*mu4 wu2 fa3 ji4*). “目” “the eyes,” “無” (*wu2*) means “without,” and “法紀” (*fa3 ji4*) “law and discipline.” “目無法紀” (*mu4 wu2 fa3 ji4*) “no law and discipline in the eyes,” meaning “with no regard for the law or discipline.”

People who are “目無法紀” (*mu4 wu2 fa3 ji4*) must be “繩之以法” (*sheng2 zhi1 yi3 fa3*)!

**Terms containing the character “繩” (*sheng2*) include:**

繩索 (*sheng2 suo3*) – a piece of rope or cord

繩結 (*sheng2 jie2*) – a knot

跳繩 (*tiao4 sheng2*) – skipping rope

準繩 (*zhun3 sheng2*) – guideline, standard