

# 無所適從

wu2 suo3 shi4 cong2

The headline splashed across the front page of *Headline Daily* said ATV is continuing “不死傳奇” – an “undying legend.” Legend or not, the curtain will finally fall on Hong Kong’s oldest television station by April 1, or will it?

Well, that is the day the station’s license will expire. It is hard to imagine how it can keep running without a valid license. But then the station has delivered enough surprises to make one wonder.

When the provisional receiver instructed that all employees be dismissed, someone offered millions of dollars – dramatically in a briefcase full of HK\$1,000 notes in front of news cameras – to rehire a skeleton crew of 160 to keep the station running until its “natural” end.

But then staff were reported to be required to give up their right to chase salary arrears for the time being, whereupon the authorities quickly warned that contracts taking away workers’ statutory rights are illegal and void.

## Idiom by Lon Yan

Where did that leave the employees? Keep working and hope for a miracle? Sign off their rights to keep the station running? Or say “forget it” and move on? Their feelings may be described by the idiom “無所適從” (*wu2 suo3 shi4 cong2*).

“無” (*wu2*) means “nil,” “without,” “所” (*suo3*) “that which,” and “適從” (*shi4 cong2*) “to follow, choose” in respect of a line of action.

Literally, “無所適從” (*wu2 suo3 shi4 cong2*) is “without that which to follow.” It means “don’t know what course to take,” “to be at a loss as to what to do,” “don’t know whose suggestion to follow.”

### Terms containing the character “從” (*cong2*) include:

從前 (*cong2 qian2*) – once upon a time, at one time

從此 (*cong2 ci3*) – from this moment on

從政 (*cong2 zheng4*) – to enter politics

服從 (*fu2 cong2*) – to obey