The campaign to scrap the Primary Three Territory-wide System Assessment, or TSA, has gained support from tens of thousands of parents. They say it puts unnecessary pressure on children, but the test is not a new one. It has been administered since 2004 and parents must have finally decided that they’ve had enough.

Meanwhile, doctors were told they will not get a pay rise along with civil servants because of a pay system glitch. At the venue of their mass protest, there was a big banner with the Chinese character “怒” (nu4) meaning “angry.” Clearly, the doctors have decided they don’t want to endure unfair treatment any more.

Parents and doctors share a common feeling, and that is “忍無可忍” (ren3 wu2 ke3 ren3).

“忍” (ren3) is “endure,” “suffer,” “tolerate,” “bear,” “無” (wu2) is “no,” “可” (ke3) means “can,” and the last character “忍” (ren3) is a repeat of the first.

one. Literally, “忍無可忍” (ren3 wu2 ke3 ren3) is “endure no can endure,” “not able to endure any longer.”

It means “to be driven beyond the limits of forbearance,” “to come to the end of one’s patience,” “cannot stand (insults or provocation) any longer,” “at the end of one’s tether.” It is like saying: “That’s too much!”

“忍無可忍” (ren3 wu2 ke3 ren3) is used in unsatisfactory situations that one has endured for some time. Saying “忍無可忍” is usually a signal of imminent action to stop the situation from continuing.

Terms containing the character “忍” (ren3) include:

- 忍耐 (ren3 nai4) – endure patiently
- 容忍 (rong2 ren3) – tolerate
- 難忍 (nan2 ren3) – unbearable
- 忍心 (ren3 xin1) – hardhearted, unfeeling, pitiless