

Letter

Hong Kong's justice department will discharge its duties impartially

JULY 17, 2019

I write in response to your report “Hong Kong protesters accused of rioting in shopping mall” (July 16). It was mentioned in the report that the chief executive’s “characterisation of the protesters on Sunday as ‘rioters’ is significant because it will allow police to pursue more serious charges against them”.

The statement is incorrect. As the chief executive and the secretary for justice pointed out repeatedly at various occasions, in Hong Kong, investigations of alleged violation of the law are conducted by law enforcement agencies which will, after investigation and when necessary, refer to the Department of Justice for independent decisions on whether to prosecute. The DoJ makes each prosecutorial decision based on evidence, the applicable laws and the prosecution code. Any description or “characterisation” by any person, the chief executive included, would not affect the DoJ in discharging its prosecutorial duties impartially in accordance with the basic law, Hong Kong’s miniconstitution. There is therefore no basis to suggest that the chief executive’s words would result in more serious charges against any person.

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