

To: The Economist (November 11, 2019)

Dear Editor,

I thank *Chaguan* for exposing in his column, "Lessons from the Square" (October 12, 2019) the true character of the protests which have rocked Hong Kong for more than five months. By his account of his conversations with various activists, including one labour activist who fled from mainland China, the world is finally told the truth - the real motive of the increasingly violent protests is to force a crackdown by Beijing to show the "true nature" of the "hard men" there.

So a small number of "all or nothing" fanatics are ready to sacrifice Hong Kong for their political gains. They do not represent people like us who have worked tirelessly over decades to build Hong Kong as it is - one of the world's top financial centres and Asia's greatest cities, and until recent years a safe haven from turmoil where millions have built their homes and dreams. By pressing for more democracy, these fanatics are simply seeking more power to themselves, without regard to the discord and divisions democracy has brought to the city. They have made zero contributions to our prosperity and stability. Even more reprehensible is the way they have misled and goaded our young people to destroy our city and, in the process, their own future. Some might escape prison, but there should be a special place for them in hell.

Regina Ip

Executive Councillor

Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region