



**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION**
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office
香港特別行政區政府
香港駐倫敦經濟貿易辦事處
18 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JA, UK

Letters to the Editor
The Guardian
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9GU

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Dear Sir or Madam,

For Publication

Your editorials The Guardian view on Hong Kong: a city on the brink (19 Nov) and The Guardian view on Hong Kong: policing the crisis (12 Nov) allege that actions by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) and the force used by the Hong Kong Police (Police) have accelerated and magnified the protests in Hong Kong.

The HKSARG's political team and the Police have been working tirelessly to seek ways to put an end to the violence and restore peace and order. In the past few months, the Chief Executive (CE) Mrs Lam and all Principal Officials have been meeting representatives from various sectors of the community to hear their views.

The Government is open to frank and candid exchanges with groups from all sides. Its priority is, first and foremost, to end the violence and restore calm so as to create a positive environment for dialogue on the deep-seated issues in our society.

Since early June this year, there have been over 700 public demonstrations, processions and public meetings staged in Hong Kong. Many of them have eventually turned into violent illegal activities, causing major consequences for almost everyone in Hong Kong. In response, the Police have been carrying out enforcement actions in strict accordance with the law. The Police have the statutory duty to maintain public safety and public order. Hence, whenever unlawful assembly or violent action occurs, the Police have to take appropriate actions to protect the life and property of the general public bring offenders to justice and restore social peace.

Allegations of Police brutality will be dealt with thoroughly by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC), a statutory body established under the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance. IPCC has, pursuant to the powers conferred by the law, proactively initiated a study on the major public order events in Hong Kong since 9 June and the corresponding actions taken by the Police, and established a Special Task Force and an International Expert Panel to this end. IPCC will announce the progress of the study by phases. The Government will closely monitor and carefully study IPCC's reports and its recommendations in order to decide on the follow-up action.

Violence is not going to give us any solution to the problems that Hong Kong is facing. Our joint priority now as a city is to end the violence and to return Hong Kong to normal as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Winky So
Director-General
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London

Tel: 020 - 7499 9821 E-mail: general@hketolondon.gov.hk <http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk>