



**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 Times  
1 London Bridge Street  
London SE1 9GF

21 November 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

**FOR PUBLICATION**

Your article British officers are doing China's dirty work in Hong Kong (19 Nov) alleged that the Hong Kong Police have been 'sucked into more aggressive tactics to serve their Chinese masters,' and that expat British officers are 'doing China's dirty work' in Hong Kong.

This is patently untrue: the Hong Kong Police (Police) report to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government only. British officers in the Police have been serving Hong Kong faithfully for many years, and they continue to do so.

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.

To ensure the injured in the conflicts got appropriate first-aid treatment, the Hong Kong Police had, with the assistance of the Fire Services Department, set up a temporary first aid treatment centre nearby. The Police's Media Liaison Cadre have also been liaising with the media on the streets during protests, at some risk to themselves: one was seriously injured while doing his duty to facilitate press freedom.

Complaints against 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. The IPCC has initiated a study on the major public order events in Hong Kong since 9 June and the actions taken by the Police, and established a Special Task Force and an International Expert Panel to this end. The IPCC will announce the progress of the study in phases. The Government will closely monitor and carefully study the IPCC's reports and its recommendations in order to decide on any follow-up action.

The HKSARG's leaders have been earnestly seeking ways to put an end to the violence and restore peace and order. In the past few months, the Chief Executive Mrs Lam and all Principal Officials have been meeting representatives from groups within the community to hear their views, and the Government is open to opinions from all members of the community. Its priority is to move beyond the violence and restore calm so as to create a positive environment for dialogue on resolving the deep-seated issues in Hong Kong society.

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,

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