

# 警察公共關係科

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警察總部警政大樓十及十一樓



# POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

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26 November, 2019

The New York Times Company  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York  
NY 10018

**By e-mail**

To the Editor,

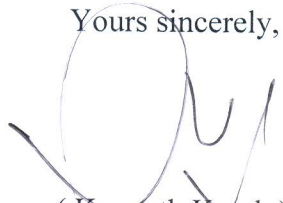
We write regarding the 23 November analysis by Louisa Lim entitled “If Protests Are an ‘Infection,’ What Is China’s Cure?”

We strongly refute the allegation that the Hong Kong Police Force has attempted to “dehumanise” those who engage in violent protests through the use of derogatory language. Specifically, the allegation that Chief Superintendent John Tse Chun-chung used the word “cockroaches” to describe those who vandalized a grave site in July, is categorically false. The Police is opposed to the use of this term or any offensive language in the line of duty. While we acknowledge that strong language is sometimes used in the heat of the moment, this is an undesirable course of action. Rather, we strive to maintain a good relationship between the Police and the general public as the most effective strategy to maintain law and order.

In regards to Police action, we must stress that Police do not initiate action against protesters. Police only respond with appropriate and proportionate force when protesters take part in illegal activities. Violence has indeed escalated in recent weeks, including serious acts that endanger public safety by blocking roadways, setting barricades, committing arson, vandalizing private and public property, assaulting bystanders, hurling bricks, and throwing petrol bombs. Protesters have also used bows and arrows to attack Police. Law enforcement agencies the world over would not tolerate such blatant disregard for the law, attacks against Police and threats to life and property.

The Hong Kong Police Force is committed to working with the general public to end the violence and restore law and order in our city.

Yours sincerely,



( Kenneth Kwok )  
Chief Superintendent  
Police Public Relations Branch  
Hong Kong Police Force