

(By email)

To the Letters Editor of the Guardian

Your articles “‘What better time than now?’ Fears China will use crises to cement grip on Hong Kong” and “A fresh crackdown in Hong Kong 'will result in deaths', says democracy leader”(both April 22) contain a number of inaccuracies and misinterpretations about the recent arrests of certain people for organising and participating in unauthorised assemblies in Hong Kong.

The arrests have everything to do with upholding the rule of law. They were made based on evidence from investigations and strictly in accordance with Hong Kong law, which is enforced in a transparent manner and free from political interference. In Hong Kong, as in the UK, everyone is equal before the law; no one can break the law without facing consequences. The Police are duty bound to handle every case in a fair, just and impartial manner. Cases will not be handled any differently because of the political beliefs or the status of the persons involved.

The articles suggest that recent comments by the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government (CPG) in Hong Kong amount to unwarranted interference in Hong Kong’s affairs. This is not the case. The comments should be seen from the perspective of the constitutional setup of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). As a Special Administrative Region of China, the HKSAR enjoys a high degree of autonomy and comes directly under the CPG according to Article 12 of the Basic Law.

Like elsewhere in the world, the HKSAR Government is presently devoting most of its time and energy to combatting COVID-19, keeping its citizens safe, preventing the spread of the virus inside and out of Hong Kong, and gladly sharing our knowledge on our very effective strategies to detect, isolate, trace and treat COVID-19 infections and possible carriers. At the same time, we must also ensure the smooth functioning of government and our legal system both of which are fundamental pillars of Hong Kong’s success.

Sincerely,
Winky So
Director-General
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