

(By email)

Letters Editor
The Philadelphia Inquirer
By Email: inquirer.letters@phillynews.com

Dear Editor:

Your article “China uses coronavirus as a cover for further crackdown on Hong Kong freedoms” (April 23) shows a misunderstanding of the basis for the recent arrests of certain individuals for organizing and participating in unauthorized 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. The Police are duty bound to handle every case in a fair, just and impartial manner. There are no political considerations behind when it comes to law enforcement. The well-established procedures of our criminal justice system include the independent investigations by law enforcement agencies, the independent prosecutorial decisions based on objective assessment of evidence, applicable laws and in accordance with the Prosecution Code, and finally open trials by our independent judiciary. In Hong Kong, as in the United States, everyone is equal before the law, irrespective of social status or political beliefs.

Like elsewhere in the world, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region 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. At the same time, we must also ensure the smooth functioning of our legal system and uphold the rule of law, our core value in Hong Kong.

Sincerely,
Joanne Chu
Director
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, New York