

June 2, 2020

The Times of India

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Dear Editor,

Your editorial “Adieu Hong Kong? Beijing pulls the rug out from under the ‘one country two systems’ formula” (June 1) seemed to reflect some mistaken assumptions and misunderstandings.

Every country has a right, and indeed a duty, to protect national security and sovereignty. It is plainly incorrect to suggest that our sovereign, China, does not have the right to legislate, protect national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). To allege that the improved legal system and enforcement mechanisms targeting an extremely small minority of criminals to be introduced by the national security law is undermining Hong Kong people’s freedoms is simply fallacious.

The law targets only four types of activities that threaten national security. It will not affect overseas investors running business legally in Hong Kong nor the city’s status as a separate customs territory as well as its economic ties with foreign jurisdictions. Hong Kong’s status as a separate customs territory, enshrined by relevant provisions in the Basic Law and assured by the World Trade Organization, will not be arbitrarily invalidated.

The relevant law will not undermine “one country, two systems”. As always, the HKSAR will continue to exercise “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy. The relevant law will not change the fact that the HKSAR enjoys executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. It will not affect the legitimate rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong people.

Yours sincerely,

CT Wong

Director

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HKSAR Government