

11 June, 2020

The Australian

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Dear Editor,

I refer to the article “Hong Kong and Chinese lives matter just as much” (10 June).

Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China and it cannot and must never become a base for subversive activities or organisations seeking to destabilise our country. The proposed national security legislation for Hong Kong will only target acts of secession, subversion, terrorist activities as well as activities interfering with Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s internal affairs by foreign or external forces. While we appreciate that there are concerns over the national security law to be enacted, we consider it inappropriate for anyone to make unwarranted speculations on its content at this stage, given that the details of the same to be enacted by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and to be listed under Annex III of the Basic Law for application in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by promulgation are not yet made public.

Fundamental rights and freedoms such as the right to freedom of expression are well protected in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by the Basic Law. Article 39 of the Basic Law further provides, amongst others, that the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong (“ICCPR”) shall remain in force and shall be implemented through the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. At the domestic legislation level, the provisions of the ICCPR as applied to Hong Kong have been implemented by way of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights under the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383), which binds the Government. The vast majority of law-abiding Hong Kong residents, including overseas investors, have nothing to fear.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Fan

Director

(Representative to Australia and New Zealand)