



(By e-mail)

6 July 2020

Letters to the Editor
The Irish Times

Dear Editor,

I refer to the letter by John Cushnahan of 2 July 2020 on the National Security Law in Hong Kong. The letter said that the law would override Hong Kong laws and its judicial independence, effectively ending Hong Kong's autonomy. It added that freedom of speech, human rights and the right to political dissent will be casualties.

I respect Mr Cushnahan's views and am delighted that he cares so much about the developments in Hong Kong.

I feel obliged to point out a few facts to enable readers to have a full picture of the situation in Hong Kong and to have an informed opinion about the National Security Law.

First, the law does not target anyone. It targets specifically four offences, i.e., secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security.

Second, the law aims to restore stability in Hong Kong, after a year of escalating violence and riots since last June.

Third, Article 4 of the National Security Law stipulates that the principle of respecting and protecting human rights shall be upheld in safeguarding national security. The legitimate rights of Hong Kong citizens to exercise their freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of demonstration, and of procession in accordance with the Basic Law and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should not be compromised. It is relevant to note that the abovementioned International Covenants also stipulated that certain basic rights and freedoms of

香港特別行政區政府
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HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE
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Administrative Region

individuals can be restricted through legislation for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Cheung".

Eddie Cheung

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