

13 July, 2020

Editor  
Australian Financial Review  
Email: edletters@afr.com.au

Dear Editor,

I refer to the article "Welcome to the new police state of Hong Kong" on 7 July 2020.

The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Law) was gazetted for promulgation on 30 June and took effect at 11pm the same day. Safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests is the constitutional duty of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and concerns every Hong Kong citizen.

The scope of the Law is very defined and confined. It only deals with four types of acts and activities endangering national security, and the offences are clearly defined in law. The legal principles that we attach a lot of importance to, like presumption of innocence and no retrospective effect and so on, are being upheld. The Law respects and protects human rights as provided for under the Basic Law, and relevant provisions in the two international covenants as applied to Hong Kong.

Our respect and protection of human rights is also demonstrated in the making of those detailed Implementation Rules that were gazetted on 6 July and took effect on 7 July. The rules laid down very clear processes, prerequisites and authorisations before the Police in the National Security Department can resort to the measures and power under the Article 43 of the Law.

Instead of undermining people's freedom, the Law will restore stability and help ensure the great majority of Hong Kong people could exercise their rights and freedoms, without being intimidated or attacked. The Law will actually remove fear and let Hong Kong people return to a normal, peaceful life. And Hong Kong will resume her status as one of the safest cities in the world.

Yours sincerely,  
Raymond Fan  
Director  
(Representative to Australia and New Zealand)