

18 August, 2020

Editor  
Australian Financial Review  
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Dear Editor,

I refer to Elaine Pearson's article "What Jimmy Lai's ordeal means" on 13 August.

The National Security Law clearly stipulates that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) shall protect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by residents under 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 as applied to Hong Kong in accordance with the law.

Freedom of the press is an important cornerstone of Hong Kong. The National Security Law does not affect the legitimate rights of Hong Kong residents to exercise freedom of speech, including criticising government policies or policies and decisions made by officials. Neither will freedom of information, academic freedom, policy studies, personal data privacy and general business activities be compromised.

What the National Security Law regulates is the use of Hong Kong by foreign countries or external elements to carry out activities of secession, subversion, infiltration and sabotage. Given that the Law has provided a clear definition of the offence of collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security, the legitimate rights and freedoms enjoyed by the residents will not be affected.

Upon the promulgation and coming into effect of the National Security Law, the HKSAR Government immediately established the National Security Department under the Hong Kong Police Force, and has been proactively implementing the legal system and enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security. The Police have the responsibility to make the best efforts to gather evidence and will act in accordance with the laws and procedures.

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