

(By email)

September 7, 2020

The Independent

Dear Letters Editor,

The article “I’m a doctor in Hong Kong – the police crackdown on protesters has turned even hospitals into war zones” on your website on September 2 ([www.independent.co.uk/voices/hong-kong-protests-national-security-law-hospitals-safety-a9699776.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/hong-kong-protests-national-security-law-hospitals-safety-a9699776.html)) contained some serious but unsubstantiated allegations made by a Hong Kong doctor against the Hong Kong Police and their behaviour during the civil unrest in the territory over the past year. It is noted that the writer has given testimony to the All Party-Parliamentary Group on Hong Kong for its report on Hong Kong and regarded the inquiry as “a glimmer of justice”. I would like to set the record straight.

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has already strongly deplored and opposed the biased report published by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hong Kong (APPG) on August 4. The APPG does not represent the UK Parliament, nor does it have the remit to investigate developments in Hong Kong. Furthermore most of the comments, if not all, in the report come from information tendered by unnamed or anonymous persons, and no attempt appears to have been made to establish the veracity of any these claims.

With respect to the specific allegations in the article, the HKSAR Government has on various occasions made it clear that for the Hong Kong police, the well-being and safety of any people injured in the demonstrations, whether protesters or police officers, has all along been a top priority. Furthermore, police officers never conduct routine foot patrol in the precincts of hospitals. They would only enter such areas when responding to incident calls.

There is a well-established mechanism laid down by the law for making complaints against the police in Hong Kong. In the spirit of the rule of law, one would expect the writer of the article to substantiate her serious accusations against a law enforcement agency with evidence and file formal complaints using the established mechanism, instead of making unsubstantiated assertions to a group which does not have any legal basis or authority to conduct an inquiry into the functions of the government of Hong Kong.

Sincerely,

Miss Winky So

Director-General, London ETO