

November 19, 2020

Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

Your editorial “Democracy Dies in the Open” (November 11, 2020) ignores fundamental facts that lie at the heart of Hong Kong’s relationship with our country and with the rest of the world.

First, the commitment to the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” remains solidly strong. “One Country” has its baseline while “Two Systems” has its boundary. All Legislative Council (LegCo) members have the right to express different political views and to monitor the Government. This is their duty. It, however, does not mean that legislators can do whatever they like in exercising their rights. Inviting foreign countries to impose sanctions on our nation and Hong Kong, completely ignoring the interests of our nation and Hong Kong, is absolutely unacceptable.

Second, the four legislators were disqualified because they had already been barred from running for re-election in the September 6 election in accordance with the law, on grounds that they were not genuinely upholding the Basic Law and honouring the pledge of allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The election in question had been unavoidably postponed for a year owing to the exceptional circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. While the current-term LegCo continues discharging its duties, it would be illogical and arbitrary if those not qualified to contest in the election are allowed to continue to serve as LegCo members.

Third, the HKSAR Government is not targeting any LegCo member. Nor are we going for political suppression, or silencing dissenting views. Many countries require legislators to take an oath of allegiance. In the United States, Members of Congress are required to swear to support and defend the US constitution or face criminal charges. This is an international norm. To suggest otherwise smacks of double standards.

Yours sincerely,

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