

January 13, 2021

The Editor
Washington Post

Dear Editor,

Your editorial “The U.S. and E.U. must respond forcefully to China’s destruction of liberty in Hong Kong” (January 7, 2021) is wide off the mark.

The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region clearly stipulates that 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 shall be protected.

Those arrested on January 6 are suspected to have violated the offence of subversion. They were suspected to have conspired to obtain 35 or more seats in the Legislative Council through their so-called “35-plus” and “10-step mutual destruction plan”, and conducting so-called “primaries” among themselves in July 2020, with a view to recklessly and blindly vetoing the government budget and public funding applications, forcing the resignation of the Chief Executive. The “10-step mutual destruction plan” aimed to paralyse the Government and, coupled with massive riots and other measures, bring society to a complete standstill.

We totally reject any suggestion that people with certain political backgrounds should be immune from legal action if they commit unlawful acts.

Hong Kong fully enjoys the rule of law and judicial independence. These core values have always been, and will remain, jealously guarded.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Cheung Kin-chung
Chief Secretary for Administration
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government