

January 26, 2021

The Editor
New York Times

Dear Editor,

Your editorial “Hong Kong Crackdown Is an Early Test for Biden” (January 24) misunderstands Hong Kong and the National Security Law (NSL).

The NSL clearly stipulates that the rights and freedoms enjoyed by residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region 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.

Hong Kong is an inalienable part of the People’s Republic of China and a local special administrative region enjoying a high degree of autonomy under the Basic Law, and not “independence” as suggested in your editorial. The latter description is simply wrong, if not deliberately misleading.

The NSL was promulgated to restore stability to Hong Kong, following months of violent social unrest. It fully and faithfully implements the “One Country, Two Systems” principle. It targets universally unacceptable acts or activities that undermine sovereignty and national security – secession, subversion, terrorist activities and collusion with foreign forces.

The so-called “primaries” held last July were more than just an exercise “to select candidates” for the Legislative Council. It was part of a “10-step mutual destruction plan” that aimed to paralyse the Government and, coupled with further riots and other measures, disrupt society.

Hong Kong is and will remain an open and vibrant international financial centre firmly underpinned by the rule of law and judicial independence.

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