

September 3, 2021

The Editor  
Voice of America  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Editor,

Your article “Space for Journalism Shrinking by the Day” (Sep. 1), is inaccurate on a couple of points.

The Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2021, which took effect in Hong Kong on August 1, 2021, does not prevent people from leaving Hong Kong. Our constitutional document, the Basic Law, guarantees Hong Kong residents the right to travel, and to leave and enter Hong Kong.

The amendment aims, among other things, to ease pressure in handling the large number of non-refoulement claims by preventing at source the arrival of visitors who are potentially inadmissible to Hong Kong, in particular the potential and former non-refoulement claimants.

It is also part of the government’s response to an International Civil Aviation Organization directive to members to implement an Advanced Passenger Information system, which has been adopted in over 90 countries, including the U.S. As clarified by the government, the system is intended to require the provision of passenger information on flights heading to Hong Kong, rather than flights departing from Hong Kong

The Radio Television Hong Kong show “Morning Brew” was not hosted by Steve Vines. He was a weekly contributor to the show, which remains on air.

In accordance with its Charter, RTHK provides professional and accurate public broadcasting services to the Hong Kong people.

Sincerely,

Eddie Mak  
Hong Kong Commissioner to the United States