

October 22, 2022

The Editor
Bloomberg

Dear Editor,

I write to express grave concern about the way you reported yesterday (October 21) the screening of a film outdoors in Hong Kong.

It is a pity that you once ran an article “Hong Kong Cancels Screening of Batman Film Shot in the City” (October 21) reporting that “Hong Kong officials canceled the screening” of the film, previously screened in 2008, at an outdoor activity in Hong Kong next week “one year after passage of a law that lets them ban movies on national security grounds”. This report was highly misleading and far from the facts.

A statement issued by the event organiser on October 21 clearly stated that it has decided to make a change of the movie based on the recommendation of Hong Kong’s Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration that an outdoor screening of the film is not appropriate due to the level of violence in the film.

While noting that your article was rewritten with, inter alia, “citing violence” added, one would have expected accurate reporting having been observed in the first place.

As it now stands, the article nonetheless still goes on to allege, inter alia, that “the cancellation comes amid concerns about the erosion of free speech in Hong Kong, where the government has been cracking down on anti-China speech following large and sometimes violent anti-government protests in 2019”. This remains a sheer self-fulfilling prophecy.

Freedom of speech, and indeed many other rights and freedoms, are protected under the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights.

Also, Article 4 of the Hong Kong National Security Law, enacted to restore the enjoyment of rights and freedoms that people in Hong Kong had been

unable to enjoy during the period of serious violence between June 2019 and early 2020, stipulates that freedom of speech, inter alia, shall be protected in accordance with the law while safeguarding national security in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is proud of its unwavering commitment to the rule of law. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region remains as firmly committed as ever to safeguarding human rights and freedoms.

Yours sincerely,

Chan Kwok-ki
Chief Secretary for Administration
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region