

17 April 2026

The Editor
The Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

In the opinion piece, “Now China Is Taking Jimmy Lai’s Property” (April 16), the authors resort to their old unfounded claims that have been repeatedly refuted and exposed as fake news, aimed at undermining China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

I reiterate that Hong Kong is a society underpinned by the rule of law. Lai Chee-ying was convicted of offences endangering national security after a fair, impartial and open trial. The court's verdict and sentence were published with detailed reasons and supported by overwhelming evidence, for which Lai chose not to appeal.

Under the law, the court may order the forfeiture of property upon application by the Secretary for Justice only if it is satisfied that the property to be forfeited meets relevant conditions. Applying to the court for a forfeiture order is one of the effective means to combat serious crimes and protect the public interest, and laws and mechanisms for forfeiture of offence-related property are commonly found around the world. The law in the United States provides that in general, for individuals involved in terrorist activities, all of their property is subject to forfeiture.

Regarding the repeated attempts to smear Hong Kong, I refer readers to the facts: In the Fraser Institute’s annual report in 2025, Hong Kong has once again been ranked as the world's freest economy; Hong Kong continues to rank among the top three international financial centres alongside New York and London; the business sentiment survey conducted by American Chamber of Commerce this year showed that 94% of its member respondents have confidence in Hong Kong’s rule of law.

Amid geopolitical conflicts and uncertainties, these facts speak volumes for Hong Kong’s attractiveness as a safe haven for businesses and investors.

Tang Ping-keung
Secretary for Security
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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