

September 24, 2021

Producer

60 Minutes, Channel 9

Dear Producer,

I refer to the programme 60 Minutes entitled “Game Over” broadcast on September 19 which contains misleading information and makes false accusations against the Hong Kong National Security Law (HKNSL) and its impact on Hong Kong.

The programme has taken a selective approach in its reporting, groundlessly alleging that press freedom is being assaulted and civil society is being cracked down in Hong Kong.

It is the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)’s constitutional responsibilities to safeguard national security. Since the promulgation for the application of the HKNSL, the HKSAR Government has been discharging its duty to safeguard national security in Hong Kong lawfully and dutifully. The fact is that the HKNSL has restored stability in Hong Kong after more than a year of social unrest.

The HKNSL upholds the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people as well as high degree of autonomy of the HKSAR. The HKNSL 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 in accordance with the law. Freedoms of speech and of publication are among the rights and freedoms explicitly mentioned in Article 4 of the HKNSL.

Hong Kong prides itself on its rule of law. Any law enforcement actions taken by Hong Kong law enforcement agencies are strictly according to the law, based on evidence, and for the acts of the persons or entities concerned, which has nothing to do with their political stance, background or occupation.

Apart from embracing key legal concepts including the presumption of innocence, the prohibition of double jeopardy, and the right to defend oneself and other rights in judicial proceedings that a criminal suspect, defendant and other parties in judicial proceedings are entitled to under the law, the four types of offences endangering national security provided in the HKNSL are also clearly defined. Law-abiding people will not unwittingly fall foul of the law.

The implementation of the HKNSL has safeguarded Hong Kong’s unique strengths under the “One Country, Two Systems” and ensured a safe and stable environment. Hong Kong will continue to thrive and prosper as an international business and financial centre.

Yours sincerely,

Trista Lim

Director

(Representative to Australia and New Zealand)

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Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region