

Dear Sir,

It has come to our attention that an advertisement titled “Stand with Hong Kong until Dawn” was published in your paper on 20 August 2019.

We regret to find that the advertisement was misleading about the situation in Hong Kong. There is no basis to suggest that the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people are under threat or have been eroded. The freedom of protest and the freedom of the press are very much alive and well for the whole world to see. For example, since June, the Hong Kong Police have issued more than 100 Letters of No Objection in response to 125 applications for rallies or processions. Local and international media have been covering these events in great detail without interference and continue to do so.

While there are many instances of peaceful rallies and processions in the last two months, we also witnessed violent protests orchestrated by a small group of hard-core agitators which were not peaceful and orderly protests, nor rational expression of views. Some protests also caused severe chaos at the Hong Kong International Airport. While the Airport managed to quickly restore normal operation, such protests prevented tens of thousands of visitors from returning home to their loved ones or their businesses.

At such a critical juncture in Hong Kong’s history, people who care about Hong Kong should jointly reject any use of violence and help restore the peace and calm for which Hong Kong is well known and under which it has thrived.

Please publish this letter in your paper.

Yours faithfully,

Priscilla To  
Director-General  
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London