

The Editor
Letters to the Editor
Toronto Star
Email: lettertoed@thestar.ca

Dear Editor,

I refer to your article “Hong Kong battles a political contagion” published on April 26, 2020.

The recent arrests of individuals for organizing and participating in unauthorized assemblies in Hong Kong are not “targeted to silence the most influential voices of democracy” as suggested in your article. It is about upholding the rule of law, which is a core value in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, everyone is equal before the law. Prosecutions would only be commenced if there is sufficient admissible evidence to support a reasonable prospect of conviction. Cases will not be handled any differently owing to the political beliefs or background of the persons involved.

In the article, it was also mentioned that “Hong Kong has lost its lifeblood – its political autonomy and economy that depends on it”. The truth is that “One Country, Two Systems” and a high degree of autonomy are implemented in accordance with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Freedom and the rule of law are the cornerstones of Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability, and the HKSAR Government is determined to safeguard these core values at all times.

In addition, it is incorrect to state that the Hong Kong’s extradition proposals last year “was an astonishing plan to extradite Hong Kong people to the mainland at the behest of the Chinese authorities.” The proposals, which have been withdrawn, would allow for the case-based surrender of fugitives wanted for serious crimes with jurisdictions with which Hong Kong has no long-term bilateral surrender agreement and which cannot invoke any applicable multilateral convention to seek surrender from Hong Kong. Only crimes of the most serious nature (carrying a sentence of at least 7 years’ jail) and which were crimes in both jurisdictions would have been considered. Any such cases were also subject to judicial appeal at different stages of the process.

Sincerely,
Emily Mo
Director
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