

(By email)

Letters Editor,
The Times

Dear Editor,

The articles “China security law: We have 100 days to save Hong Kong, say activists”; “The Times view on Britain’s responsibilities to Hong Kong: freedom curtailed – Britain has a moral duty to lead the world in unambiguous condemnation of China’s assault on liberty in Hong Kong”; and a commentary by John Kampfner: “While Hong Kong cries out Britain drifts in isolation”, all published on 29 May, contain misguided assertions.

The national security law in question has not yet been drafted. Suffice it to say that in the absence of any provisions of that piece of legislation, any criticisms of its operation or penalties are mere speculation at this stage.

Critics also tend to ignore the facts that Hong Kong is part of China. To any sovereign state, national security is of prime importance. Like any other sovereign state, China has the right, and indeed a duty, to protect its national security and sovereignty. Countries like the United Kingdom, the United States, France and Germany have all enacted national security laws and formed decision-making councils for their enforcement. To suggest that our sovereign, China, does not have the same right to legislate to protect national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region smacks of double standards.

Yours sincerely,

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