

April 8, 2021

Daily Express
Dear Editor,

The article “China fury: Beijing relations to sour if Xi does not conform to global human rights” on April 4, 2021 contained some misinformation about the situation in Hong Kong. I write to set the record straight.

In view of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID19), the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has put in place the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) to restrict group gatherings in public places through legislation. This is one of the elements of the overall measures for social distancing, aiming to reduce the risks of transmission of COVID19 in the community as far as practicable. No political considerations have ever come into play.

The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (The National Security Law) fully and faithfully implements the principles of “One Country, Two Systems”, “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy.

The National Security Law is by no means “draconian”. It targets universally unacceptable acts that undermine sovereignty and national security - secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces to endanger national security. It 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.

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