

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

香港添馬添美道 2 號

2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.:

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

May 18, 2021

The Editor
The Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

Re: Your editorial “Hong Kong Snatches Assets” (May 17).

My decision to freeze certain property held by Mr Jimmy Lai is neither “arbitrary” nor related to any person who “offends Beijing on political grounds”.

The action is taken pursuant to Schedule 3 to the Implementation Rules for Article 43 of the Hong Kong National Security Law (HKNSL) : where the Secretary for Security has reasonable grounds to suspect that any property held by any person is offence related property, the Secretary may issue a notice to freeze that property.

The Government's position is very clear. Mr Lai was charged for committing the offences of “Collusion with a Foreign Country or with External Elements to Endanger National Security”, “Conspiracy to Commit Collusion with a Foreign Country or with External Elements to Endanger National Security”, and “Conspiracy to Do an Act or a Series of Acts Tending and Intended to Pervert the Course of Public Justice”. Endangering national security is a very serious crime. We will use all appropriate legal measures to crack down on activities endangering national security, and bring any person violating the law to justice regardless of his/her background. Action must be taken to prevent, interdict and suppress the act.

Apart from seeking for a licence to deal with the property, the person affected by my notice issued may make an application to the Court of First Instance for the revocation of the notice of freezing the property.

Since the HKNSL took effect last June calm has returned to Hong Kong and the city's reputation as a safe, secure and vibrant global business and financial centre has been restored.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J.K.C. Lee', written in a cursive style.

(John K C Lee)

Secretary for Security

Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region