

June 16, 2021

Dear Editor,  
The Times

I refer to an opinion piece titled “G7 summit reveals a consensus emerging on challenging President Xi of China” published in The Times online of June 15. The series of allegations about “crisis in Hong Kong” are unfounded. I write to set the record straight.

Freedom of movement is guaranteed under the Basic Law, our constitutional document. The Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020 (the Bill) does not restrict the ability of Hong Kong people to leave the city. Nor does it impinge on the right for Hong Kong residents to travel. To the contrary, the Bill aims to stop potential illegal immigrants and persons who were refused permission to land in Hong Kong from entering our city. Amendments are made to expedite the handling of non-refoulement claims, to prevent delaying tactics by some claimants and to stop at source the rising number of non-refoulement claimants in Hong Kong.

Changes made to HKSAR’s electoral system are also reasonable and rational. The adjustments to the size and composition of the Election Committee and the Legislative Council mean that there is an increase of some 25% to 28% of members, and hence a broader representation overall. The additional sector and constituency will also provide a more balanced political participation.

Hong Kong prides itself on the rule of law. Any law enforcement actions taken by Hong Kong law enforcement agencies are based on evidence, strictly according to the law, for the acts of the person concerned, and have nothing to do with his/her political stance, background or occupation. It would be contrary to the rule of law to suggest that people of certain political background could be above the law.

The Hong Kong National Security Law upholds the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people as well as the high degree of autonomy of the HKSAR. It clearly stipulates that the HKSAR shall protect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by residents under the Basic Law of the HKSAR and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to Hong Kong in accordance with the law. The ICCPR also stipulates that certain rights and freedoms may be subject to restrictions as prescribed by law if it is

necessary in the interests of national security, public safety, public order or the rights and freedoms of others, etc.

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