

June 24, 2021

Dear Editor,
The Guardian

I refer to the opinion piece titled “The Observer view on China’s human rights abuses in Hong Kong” published on June 20, 2021. The piece has wrongly alleged that press freedom and free speech is being assaulted in Hong Kong. I write to put things into perspective.

It is plainly wrong to suggest that the police operation is an act of injustice or an assault on press freedom and free speech. The arrests under the National Security Law (NSL) relate to an alleged conspiracy involving the exploitation of journalistic work.

The NSL upholds the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people as well as the high degree of autonomy of the HKSAR. The Hong Kong National Security Law clearly stipulates that the HKSAR shall protect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by residents under the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the PRC 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 in accordance with the law. Freedom of speech, of the press and of publication are among the rights and freedoms explicitly highlighted in Article 4 of the National Security Law as being protected in accordance with the law in Hong Kong.

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. We totally reject any suggestion that people with certain political backgrounds should be immune from legal action if they commit unlawful acts.

Miss Winky So
Director-General, London ETO