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The Editor
The Washington Post

June 24, 2021

Dear Editor,

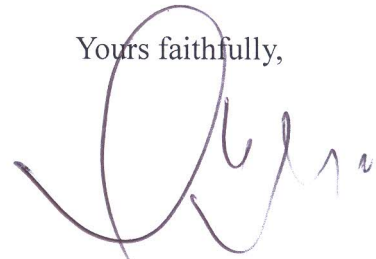
I refer to your article of 22 June titled “An American lawyer tried to break up a scuffle in Hong Kong. Now, he’s in jail”. The article is disappointingly misleading and ignores the facts of the case with unfounded accusations made against the Hong Kong Police Force.

We strongly refute the baseless accusation that the Hong Kong Police Force is emboldened by impunity. It is also misleading to suggest in the article that an American corporate lawyer was convicted of assaulting an officer and common assault simply because he intervened to prevent a man from hitting a teenager with a baton. In fact, the defendant obstructed an off-duty police officer from arresting a suspect and adopted violence in snatching the officer’s baton during the process.

The rule of law is a fundamental core value of the Hong Kong society. Hong Kong Police Force shoulders the responsibility of upholding the law, combating crimes and protecting life and property. Suspecting that a crime was being committed, the off-duty police officer involved in the case took the initiative to enforce the law by subduing the suspect for inquiry. Section 21 of the Police Force Ordinance, Cap.232 states that “every police officer shall for the purposes of this Ordinance be deemed to be always on duty when required to act as such and shall perform the duties and exercise the powers granted to him under this Ordinance or any other law at any and every place in Hong Kong where he may be doing duty”. However, he was prevented from doing so by the defendant. Given the circumstances, it is wildly inaccurate for your report to frame the officer as the “assailant”.

I am appalled by the lack of professionalism in your article, published under a misleading and irresponsible headline and failing to give a full and accurate account of the case. It is incumbent upon me to set the record straight for your readers.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kwok Ka-chuen', written in a cursive style.

(KWOK Ka-chuen)
Chief Superintendent
Police Public Relations Branch
Hong Kong Police Force

c.c. Information Services Department