

July 7, 2021

The Editor
Letters to the Editor
The Globe and Mail
By Email: letters@globeandmail.com

Dear Editor,

I refer to the editorial "One country, one system in Hong Kong" published on July 6, 2021 which contains misunderstandings about the arrest of Mr Jimmy Lai and the freezing of assets of Apple Daily in Hong Kong.

The freezing action related to the media company in question was taken in accordance with 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 in offence related property, the Secretary may issue a notice to freeze that property.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's position is very clear. Mr Jimmy 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. It is necessary to 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 acts.

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

Countries around the world take threats to national security extremely seriously. China, with Hong Kong as its Special Administrative Region, is no different.

Since the HKNSL took effect last June, calm has returned to Hong Kong, and the city remains a secure, open and dynamic environment that welcomes investors and visitors from around the world.

Sincerely,
Emily Mo
Director
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto)