

Jul 10, 2021

Editor

CNN.com

Dear Editor:

Your story “A man stabbed a police officer. Now people are calling him a hero” contains biased and misleading comments about a tragic incident that should be roundly condemned by all who value the rule of law. The man who stabbed the police officer is definitely not a hero and should not be represented as such.

Yet again CNN.com has taken a selective approach in its reporting, playing down the serious violence by rioters that plagued Hong Kong in 2019, demonising the Hong Kong National Security Law that has stopped chaos and restored stability in Hong Kong, and making incorrect assertions about why protests are not taking place in Hong Kong.

It should be obvious to any objective observer that the highly unstable COVID-19 situation warrants ongoing vigilance, especially when more contagious variants are emerging and wreaking havoc across the globe. The social distancing measures in Hong Kong – which have included a ban on mass public gatherings for well over a year – have of course been an important factor in preventing the rapid spread of the virus in the community. The effectiveness of this approach can be seen in the fact that Hong Kong has not had to ensure prolonged city-wide lockdowns seen elsewhere, and that we have not had any local transmission cases for more than a month. To suggest that other reasons are behind the refusal to approve protest marches during a global health crisis does not stand up to any scrutiny.

It should also be emphasised that 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(s) or entity (entities) concerned, and have nothing to do with their political stance, background or occupation. It would be contrary to the rule of law to suggest that people or entities of certain sectors or professions could be above the law. Moreover, nobody in Hong Kong has been forced into exile or to leave. The so-called political “refugees” include those who championed violence and the overthrow of the HKSAR Government but have avoided the consequences of their actions by running away. To suggest that thousands have left the city because “avenues for peaceful protests have been blocked” is nothing more than pure conjecture.

Every country is entitled to protect its national security and China is no different. There is one national security law that applies to Hong Kong compared to dozens in the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and Europe. As such, it is hypocritical to present Hong Kong’s duty to protect national security in a negative light when the city was paralysed by violence and mayhem for much of 2019. The fact is, the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law since June 2020 has restored much-needed peace, calm and stability to society and the streets of Hong Kong.

It is a pity that in reporting on this tragic and shocking incident, CNN.com has preferred innuendo and unfounded assertions rather than objective reporting in its coverage.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Secretary for Administration

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government