

September 1, 2021

The Editor
The Independent

I refer to the article titled “‘Public spaces are no longer safe’: the Hong Kong artists fleeing to Taiwan to build new lives” published on August 31, 2021. The piece has groundlessly alleged that press freedom is being assaulted and civil society is being cracked down in Hong Kong. I write to put things into perspective.

It is the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)’s constitutional responsibilities to safeguard national security. Since the promulgation for the application of the Law of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (the National Security Law) in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government has been discharging its duty to safeguard national security in Hong Kong lawfully and dutifully.

The National Security Law 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.

Our robust legal system premised on the common law and the independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, are cornerstone of Hong Kong’s success. The rule of law and judicial independence in Hong Kong are as robust as ever, and has not been undermined by the National Security Law as the article wrongly suggested.

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