

25 November 2019

The Irish Times
Letters to the Editor
24-28 Tara Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

Sir,

I refer to your editorial (Too little, too late – 14 November 2019) regarding the current unrest in Hong Kong.

Violence has indeed escalated in Hong Kong in recent weeks. Armed radical protestors have hijacked peaceful demonstrations. In the past week or so, they occupied university campuses to turn them into arsenals to manufacture thousands of petrol bombs, hurling them at the Police when it tries to disperse them and at infrastructure in the vicinity of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. They repeatedly firebombed toll booths and destroyed the whole ventilation system of the Cross Harbour Tunnel, which is one of the major routes connecting Hong Kong Island and Kowloon.

Police only respond with necessary force when radical protestors take part in illegal and violent activities that endanger public safety. Any law enforcement agencies, including in Ireland, would not tolerate such blatant disregard for the law and threats to life and property.

Violence will only breed more violence. Tolerating the violent protests is not only irresponsible, it is counter-productive and could seriously undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and way of life as a Special Administrative Region of China under "One Country, Two Systems".

The priority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is, first and foremost, to end the violence and restore calm so as to create a positive environment for dialogue on deep-seated issues in our society. In the past few months, our Government has been meeting various sectors for frank and candid exchanges.

Yours faithfully,

Eddie Cheung
Special Representative for
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs
to the European Union