

警察公共關係科  
香港灣仔軍器廠街一號  
警察總部警政大樓十一樓



POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

11/F, Arsenal House,  
Police Headquarters,  
No.1 Arsenal Street, Wanchai  
Hong Kong

警察網頁 POLICE HOME PAGE : <http://www.info.gov.hk/police>

本署檔號 OUR REF: CP SUP PPRB 1-55/4 Pt.2

來函檔號 YOUR REF:

電話 TELEPHONE : (852) 2860 6133

圖文傳真 FAX : (852) 2200 4305

6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Hon Claudia MO,

It is with regret that I find it necessary to write to you regarding your false, misleading and baseless accusations made against the Hong Kong Police Force in a live Sky News broadcast on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Without any factual basis, you outrageously and irresponsibly claimed that the Hong Kong Police Force have sent two undercover police officers to vandalise shops in Wan Chai with the intention to use the incident to halt the public protest on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. You also blamed that the Police's use of force was excessive, alleging that Police had rounded up people and thereby terrorising Hong Kong.

We strongly refute these wild accusations that the Hong Kong Police Force have sent undercover police, disguising as rioters, to commit crime of any sort. Such accusations were utterly false and founded on fake news. In fact, the Hong Kong Police Force have made a prompt clarification two hours after the fake news surfaced at around 4pm of the same day and such clarification was widely reported in local news.

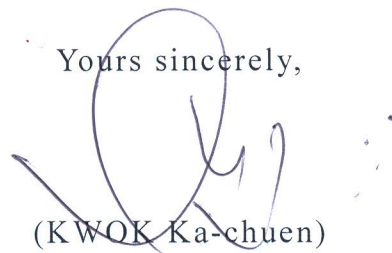
One would have thought that as a respected and experienced journalist as you once were, you would still hold dear to your heart the code of ethics of journalism, in particular ensuring fair and accurate dissemination of information and rectifying harmful inaccuracies. It is therefore of utmost disappointment that you still chose to report this piece of apparent fake news on live broadcast in the very same evening.

I cannot reiterate enough that the Hong Kong Police Force respect all citizens' right to assembly and association, and to express their opinion freely and without fear. We have been facilitating peaceful and orderly public gatherings time and again. During the protest on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, rioters set barricades, threw bricks, debris and petrol bombs, started street fires and vandalised multiple banks and shops along the route of a public procession, posing a grave threat to public safety. Despite repeated appeals by the organiser, rioters' acts had no signs of abating. In light of the uncontrollable circumstances, the Hong Kong Police Force decided and the organiser agreed to prematurely conclude the public meeting and the public procession for the sole purpose of public safety. It was only due to the violence and illegal acts committed by the protestors that the Police responded with appropriate and proportionate force, including the use of tear gas, pepper spray and Specialised Crowd Management Vehicles. We have stressed repeatedly, in no uncertain terms, that our use of force is only reactive. If rioters do not commit dangerous and destructive acts, there is no reason for the Hong Kong Police Force to respond with any use of force whatsoever.

I do not doubt your intention in striving for the betterment of the public but the well-being of the public is being increasingly eroded by the omnipresence of fake news and misinformation. I therefore strongly urge you to refrain from disseminating or endorsing any information, the veracity of which has not been duly verified.

As a Legislative Councillor, you play an important role in this regard and are urged to join hands with the Government and different walks of life in a bid to put an end to violence. We should jointly condemn violence and take resolute actions to support our common mission to fight crimes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KWOK Ka-chuen', written over a circular stamp or watermark.

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

c.c. President of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR  
Chairperson of the Legislative Council Panel on Security

Secretary for Security