

(By email)

Letters Editor,  
The Sunday Times

Sir or Madam,

Your articles: “The great China dilemma”; “China has earned our distrust: but we still need to engage”; “Hong Kong protesters rush to wipe devices before Beijing's iron fist falls” (all May 24) seemed to reflect some mistaken assumptions and misunderstandings.

Every country has a right, and indeed a duty, to protect national security and sovereignty. The provisions of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights stipulate that international covenants on rights and freedoms cannot undermine national security.

To suggest that our sovereign state, China, does not have the right to legislate, and protect national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) smacks of double standards and hypocrisy.

Much of the international criticism and commentary from politicians and pundits is no more than alarmist speculation and innuendo that completely ignore the constitutional reality that Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China. As such, Hong Kong cannot and must never become a base for subversive activities or organisations seeking to destabilise our country.

The proposed law will target acts of secession, subversion, terrorist activities as well as activities interfering with HKSAR's internal affairs by foreign or external forces. The vast majority of law-abiding Hong Kong residents, including overseas investors, have nothing to fear.

In recent days, violent protesters have returned to the streets of Hong Kong to wreak havoc yet again. Sadly, those who claim to be acting in the Hong Kong peoples' best interests turn a blind eye to the explosives, petrol bombs, firearms, weapons, attacks on bystanders, wanton vandalism, online trolling and disinformation campaigns used by radical protesters.

The decision by the National People's Congress, the highest organ of State power in China, to enact the national security law will establish and improve the legal framework and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security. The draft Decision and the Explanatory Statement of the NPC stated that, when making the Decision, the NPC will comply with the laws, the "one country, two systems" principle and also endeavour to safeguard the lawful rights and interests of people in Hong Kong.

The legitimate rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents under the law and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, will not be affected. Hong Kong will remain a free, cosmopolitan, open and welcoming city under the rule of law.

Our high degree of autonomy and the cardinal principle of Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong as enshrined in the Basic Law will remain intact. The long-term stability and prosperity of this vibrant international metropolis under the unique and well-tried “one country, two systems” principle will be further assured.

Sincerely,

Winky So  
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