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The Hindu

Email: letters@thehindu.co.in

Dear Editor,

Your editorial “Rising tide: On return of protests in Hong Kong” (May 28) seemed to reflect some mistaken assumptions and misunderstandings.

Every country has a right, and indeed a duty, to protect national security and sovereignty. It is plainly incorrect to suggest that our sovereign, China, does not have the right to legislate, protect national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Until now, Hong Kong has yet to have laws on national security. The relevant legal loophole and risks are obvious. Though Hong Kong has returned to China for years, it has not enacted any laws in respect of Article 23 of the Basic Law. It is necessary for the country to stop any activities of secession, subversion, organising terrorist activities and foreign interference in HKSAR affairs emerging in Hong Kong.

While the HKSAR is delegated under Article 23 to enact laws regarding seven types of activities which endanger national security in the drafting of the Basic Law, the country still has the power to legislate on national security in light of the actual circumstances with a view to establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security. The National People’s Congress is not amending the Basic Law or replacing or repealing Article 23 of the Basic Law, which stipulates that the HKSAR has the constitutional responsibilities and legal obligations to enact the laws on its own to prohibit acts that endanger national security. The HKSAR still has the responsibility to complete legislation for Article 23 of the Basic Law as soon as possible.

The relevant law will not undermine “one country, two systems”. As always, the HKSAR will continue to exercise “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy. The relevant law will not change the fact that the HKSAR enjoys executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. It will not affect the legitimate rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong people.

Yours sincerely,

CT Wong

Director

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore

HKSAR Government