

24 August, 2020

Editor
The Canberra Times
Email: letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

Dear Editor,

I refer to the article "Expats wrong to defend Hong Kong's new law" by Paul Letters on 21 August.

I would like to stress that 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.

The National Security Law does not affect the legitimate rights of Hong Kong residents to exercise freedom of speech, including criticising government policies or policies and decisions made by officials. Neither will freedom of information, academic freedom, policy studies, personal data privacy and general business activities be compromised.

What the National Security Law regulates is the use of Hong Kong by foreign countries or external elements to carry out activities of secession, subversion, infiltration and sabotage. Instead of undermining people's freedom, the Law will restore stability and help ensure the great majority of Hong Kong people could exercise their rights and freedoms, without being intimidated or attacked. The Law will actually remove fear and let Hong Kong people return to a normal, peaceful life.

Yours sincerely,
Raymond Fan
Director
(Representative to Australia and New Zealand)