

27 August, 2020

Editor
The Advertiser
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Dear Editor,

I refer to Rex Jory's article "Chinese communism will claim a significant propaganda victory over those who believe in freedom" (24 August), which incorrectly links the arrests for alleged offences under the National Security Law with a completely unrelated issue of press freedom and freedom of speech in Hong Kong.

In carrying out the operation on 10 August, the Hong Kong Police clearly stated that the individuals concerned were arrested for suspected collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security – a contravention of Article 29 of the National Security Law – and conspiracy to defraud.

I would like to stress that freedom of the press is an important cornerstone of Hong Kong. In fact, 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.

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