

(By email)

September 16, 2020

The Independent

Dear Letters Editor,

Your article “Democracy is under threat – it’s time to form a new coalition of nations to protect our freedoms” on your website on September 14 (<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/democracy-hong-kong-china-europe-united-nations-g7-b435652.html>) claimed that implementation of the National Security law in Hong Kong “marked the end of the ‘one country two systems’ framework, the last protection to democracy that Hong Kong had”.

This is completely untrue. On the contrary, the National Security Law is designed to bolster the “one country, two systems” principle, which will continue to drive Hong Kong’s progress. It has brought law and order – and stability – back to Hong Kong after a long period of violent protests.

The National Security Law seeks to preserve Hong Kong’s core values, including rights and freedoms, the rule of law and judicial independence, while fundamental rights and freedoms remain intact under the Basic Law. It does not affect the legitimate rights and freedoms (including the freedoms of speech, of the press, of publication, of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration) of HKSAR residents.

In the past week, the city has once again topped the ranks of the Fraser Institute’s Economic Freedom of the World 2020 Annual Report. Hong Kong will continue to be an attractive, welcoming and safe place for businesses from around the world.

Democracy is safe in Hong Kong. In fact it is no exaggeration to say that Hong Kong is now far more democratic than it ever was under British rule before 1997.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Winky So
Director-General, London ETO