

October 16, 2020

The Times

Dear Letters Editor,

The opinion piece by Lord Shinkwin “We must fight this shocking attack on Hong Kong rights” posted on your website on 15 October (<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-must-fight-this-shocking-attack-on-hong-kong-rights-mf05f7jtz>) contained untrue and inaccurate information. I am writing to set the record straight.

The arrest that Lord Shinkwin referred to was made based on evidence from investigations and strictly in accordance with Hong Kong law. It was made for offences related to organizing or knowingly taking part in illegal assemblies on three occasions in 2019 and 2020. The opinion piece erroneously claimed that the arrest was linked to protest that was legal at the time of organization.

The allegation of “retroactive application of the law” is also farthest from the truth. There is simply no provision about retrospectivity in the National Security Law, a point which has been repeatedly stressed by officials of Hong Kong, including the Chief Executive in her videoed message to the UN Human Rights Council.

Almost all countries have their own national security law. The National Security Law for Hong Kong seeks to preserve its core values, including rights and freedoms, the rule of law and judicial independence, while fundamental rights and freedoms remain intact under the Basic Law. We do not see how Hong Kong’s national security law should be a cause of concerns for some countries.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Winky So
Director-General, London ETO