

January 13, 2021

The Editor  
The Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

Your editorial “Communist Hong Kong” (January 9, 2021) carried factual inaccuracies and biased comments.

The arrests by Hong Kong’s law enforcement agency on January 6 in relation to so-called “primaries” last July were based on evidence and conducted strictly in accordance with the relevant laws.

To suggest that “campaigning as a pro-democracy candidate is a crime under China’s new national-security law” is incorrect.

The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region fully and faithfully implements the principles of “One Country, Two Systems”, “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy. It targets universally unacceptable acts that undermine sovereignty and national security – secession, subversion, terrorist activities and collusion with foreign countries or external elements to endanger national security.

Those arrested on January 6 are suspected to have violated the offence of subversion. They are suspected to have conspired to obtain 35 or more seats in the Legislative Council with their so-called “35-plus” and “10-step mutual destruction plan”, and conducting so-called “primaries” among themselves in July 2020, with a view to recklessly and blindly vetoing the government budget and public funding applications to force the resignation of the Chief Executive. The “10-step mutual destruction plan” aimed to paralyse the Government and, coupled with massive riots and other measures, bring society to a complete standstill and precipitate a constitutional crisis.

No one is above the law in Hong Kong. We reject any groundless and sweeping suggestions that people with certain political backgrounds should be immune from legal action. This is a clear case of double standards and prejudice against the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is and will remain a safe, open, vibrant and international city underpinned by the strong tradition of the rule of law and judicial independence.

Yours sincerely,  
Matthew Cheung Kin-chung  
Chief Secretary for Administration  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government