

January 20, 2021

Letters Editor  
The Independent

Dear Editor,

The Article “The arrests in Hong Kong mark an end to democracy – unless we act” on January 17 contained some misinformation which I write to set the record straight.

No one is above the law in Hong Kong. The National Security Law, or indeed any law in Hong Kong, applies equally to every person in Hong Kong, irrespective of his political beliefs. Hong Kong prides itself on the rule of law. Law enforcement agencies in Hong Kong are duty-bound to take action against unlawful acts, regardless of the political background of the suspects. Arrests made are based on evidence and are strictly in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

The National Security Law is by no means “draconian”. It targets universally unacceptable acts that undermine sovereignty and national security - secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces to endanger national security. It clearly stipulates that the rights and freedoms enjoyed by residents under the Basic Law and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to Hong Kong shall be protected in accordance with the law.

Taking people who have contravened the law to justice is the duty of every government, and where the offence concerns national security, the interests of the country and every citizen are at stake. This national obligation should be fully respected in the international arena.

Yours sincerely,

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