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Via email
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The Editor
The Independent UK

11th March 2021

Dear Editor,

The facts in your online story headlined "Video shows five officers beating cornered Hong Kong protestor" (March 8), which claims that a video shows "a Hong Kong protestor being beaten by five officers during demonstrations in the city", are wildly inaccurate and require immediate correction.

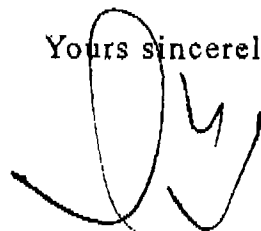
In fact, the 56-year-old man was suspected of threatening a staff member of a bank with a metal rod on March 5. The incident happened at a bank on King Kwong Street in the Happy Valley neighbourhood of Hong Kong Island. Police sped to the scene after receiving a call saying a knife-wielded man dashed into a bank and threatened the staff therein. The suspect fled the scene but was located by the Police in the vicinity. After ignoring repeated verbal warnings and failing to surrender his weapon, the suspect was subdued and arrested for "possession of offensive weapon".

Your video only showed the latter part of the incident and your report demonstrates an astonishing lack of regard for the facts. I reiterate, the suspect was not a protestor and the arrest did not take place during any demonstration.

Hong Kong Police Force are required to follow strict guidelines for the use of force. Any force used must be the minimum necessary for achieving a lawful purpose. Police officers will give a warning prior to the use of force as far as circumstances permit, while the person involved will be given every opportunity, where practicable, to obey police orders before force is used. Once the lawful purpose is achieved, Police will cease using force.

I am appalled by the lack of professionalism and disregard for the facts in this story and request that a full and timely correction is published by your newspaper in order to clarify the facts for your readers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KWOK Ka-chuen', written in a cursive style.

(KWOK Ka-chuen)
Chief Superintendent
Police Public Relations Branch
Hong Kong Police Force

c.c. Information Services Department