

December 23, 2021

The Editor
Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

Frankly speaking, I am sickened by your biased and unsubstantiated editorials on Hong Kong issues and have given up hope that you will ever try to report accurately and fairly on Hong Kong. For the benefit of your readers, however, I am still obliged to correct your inaccuracies and make our stance beyond doubt.

Firstly, describing the Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election as “a sham poll in which democratic candidates were blocked from running” in your editorial, “Democracy boycott in Hong Kong”, is totally incorrect. The fact is a total of 153 candidates from various background and different political affiliations, with some from what is locally described as “democratic camp” or “opposition camp”, such as Nelson Wong Sing-chi, Mandy Tam Heung-man, Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, competed for 90 seats in the 2021 LegCo General Election, in which Tik Chi Yuen, the former vice-chairman of the Democratic Party and now the Chairman of Third Side, has won the seat in social welfare sector of functional constituency. So how could you say they were blocked from running in the election?

It is also totally untrue to claim that ‘all candidates must receive Communist Party’s approval’. In fact, we did point out such a false claim in our previous letter to rebut your editorial of November 30. We regret that you were still determined to mislead your readers.

The 30.2% voter turnout in geographical constituencies, representing more than 1.35 million registered voters (30.2%) casting their votes in the election on December 19, compares well with in the

2021 New York Mayoral election (around 23%) and French regional elections 2021 (about 33%). Following the logic of your argument, would you also suggest that ‘almost nobody came to the election’ in those two elections?

Besides, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, like all other governments in the world, encouraged all eligible civic-minded voters to take part in the election and it is an offence in our law (section 27A of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance) for someone to incite another person not to vote, or to cast invalid vote, by activity in public during election period irrespective of whether the incitement is made in Hong Kong or abroad. Surely it is proper for our law enforcement agency to take legal enforcement action against suspects who have broken our laws? Or are you suggesting your country would do nothing and allow criminals to break the law with impunity?

Your editorial claimed that you “seem to have a better feel for Hong Kong public sentiment than the government does.” I wonder how many times you have visited our city for you to be able to make such a claim. I am stunned by your arrogance which knows no bounds.

Lastly, the White Paper issued by our Central Government on December 20 exposed the hypocrisy peddled by some media and politicians both locally and overseas, in particular the fact that in more than 150 years of colonial rule in Hong Kong, the British Government had consistently refused to introduce democracy until the disingenuous and disruptive efforts by the last Governor. I can understand that foreign countries would be displeased to see that their hypocrisy and ulterior motives being exposed by the White Paper and their attempt to turn Hong Kong into a de facto independent or semi-independent political entity has dismally failed. I would suggest that they should come to terms with the reality that China has successfully

resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong and we will prosper under the “one country, two systems”.

Yours sincerely,

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