

July 14, 2022

The Editor
Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

Regarding your editorial “Hong Kong’s Coming Religious Crackdown” (July 13), I wish to set the record straight.

Any suggestion that religious freedom is under threat in Hong Kong is pure speculation and total distortion of facts. Freedoms of religion, of speech, of assembly and of the press are protected under the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance. Article 4 of the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL) stipulates that such rights and freedoms shall be protected in accordance with the law in safeguarding national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Suspected offences under the NSL, and indeed any legislation of Hong Kong, are taken seriously by the HKSAR Government and no one is above the law in Hong Kong. All law enforcement actions taken by Hong Kong law enforcement agencies are based on evidence, strictly according to the law, for the acts of the persons or entities concerned, and have nothing to do with their background or religion.

The NSL has clearly stipulated four categories of offences that endanger national security. Such offences are similar to those in the national security laws of other jurisdictions. Law-abiding people will not unwittingly violate the law.

Hong Kong is a safe and vibrant cosmopolitan city. With the effective implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, our city will continue to welcome people of all faiths and backgrounds.

Yours sincerely,

Chan Kwok-ki
Chief Secretary for Administration
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region