

November 5, 2022

The Editor
The Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

We dispute and strongly object to the ill-intended and gravely biased editorial “Wall Street’s Hong Kong Kowtow” (November 3), which is nothing more than an insult to the many internationally renowned leaders who came to Hong Kong to join the Global Financial Leaders’ Investment Summit held earlier this month.

Despite the malicious intent of your editorial to demonise an international financial and economic event at all costs, nothing could be further from the truth. Attended by more than 200 international and regional leaders from around 120 global financial institutions, the summit was a resounding success.

Your editorial is a brazen demonstration of disrespect for all these financial leaders who meant business. Contrary to the ideological prejudices that your piece is rife with, participants of the summit were able to exchange insights and see for themselves the vibrancy, vitality and business-friendliness of Hong Kong as an international financial and trading centre. They were also able to meet local staff, reconnect with their long-term clients and build relationships with new ones.

We believe all fair-minded investors and businesspeople would make objective judgments and rational decisions based on Hong Kong’s reality and their interests in the city. They would not be influenced by any skewed media report or political meddling that smears Hong Kong and our Motherland at every turn.

No one is above the law in Hong Kong. We are appalled by the far-fetched analogies you drew in attempts to taint and hamper the law-based administration of the HKSAR Government. Hong Kong is a society governed by the rule of law, where laws must be observed and lawbreakers held accountable after due process.

We particularly take strong exception to your absurd and misleading allegations against the Hong Kong National Security Law, the enactment of which is in line with the international practice of safeguarding national security. All law enforcement actions taken by Hong Kong law enforcement agencies are based on evidence, strictly according to the law, and for the acts of the people or entities concerned, and have absolutely nothing to do with their stance, background or occupation. Article 4 of the Hong Kong National Security Law stipulates that human rights shall be respected and protected in safeguarding national security in the HKSAR, and Article 5 emphasises adherence to the principle of the rule of law.

All prosecutorial decisions by the Department of Justice of the HKSAR Government are based on objective assessment of all admissible evidence and applicable laws. The Judiciary exercises judicial power independently in accordance with the law, and everyone charged with a criminal offence has the right to a fair hearing.

Once again, you ignored the very fact that, following a prolonged period of extreme violence that threatened personal safety and resulted in large-scale destruction of the city's infrastructure, the Hong Kong National Security Law has swiftly and effectively restored stability and security in Hong Kong. The lawful rights and interests of people in the city, including international stakeholders, are better safeguarded than ever before.

The HKSAR Government will continue to uphold the rule of law steadfastly and safeguard national security lawfully and dutifully, without fear, for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. We welcome and encourage investors, businesspeople, talents and tourists from around the world to come and see the real Hong Kong and explore the tremendous opportunities that await.

Yours sincerely,

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