

April 24, 2020

Letter to the Editor
New York Post
By email: letters@nypost.com

I refer to your editorial (“There’s just no end to China’s outrages”, April 20).

The arrests of the individuals in connection with the organization and participation in unauthorized assemblies were in strict accordance with the law and based on evidence from investigations. There are no political considerations behind when it comes to law enforcement. Prosecutions would only be commenced if there is sufficient admissible evidence to support a reasonable prospect of conviction. Currently, legal proceedings are still on-going. Our fiercely independent judiciary will rule on every case without fear or favor.

Besides, it is factually incorrect to state that the Hong Kong’s extradition proposals last year “would allow extradition of the regime’s critics to the mainland”. Under the proposals which have been withdrawn, only crimes of the most serious nature (carrying a sentence of at least 7 years’ jail) and which were crimes in both jurisdictions would have been considered. In addition, any such cases were also subject to judicial appeal at different stages of the process while crimes of a political nature, or relating to freedom of expression, would not be covered.

As a special administrative region of China, Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy and comes directly under the Central People’s Government (CPG) according to Article 12 of the Basic Law. From the perspectives of constitution, governance and operation, recent concerns expressed by the CPG Liaison Office in Hong Kong about the failure of the House Committee of our Legislative Council to elect its Chairman after 15 meetings over the past six months are legitimate and are in full compliance with our constitutional order under "one country, two systems".

Sincerely,
Joanne Chu
Director
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, New York