

April 27, 2020

By email

Letters to the Editor  
The Washington Post  
1150 15th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Letters Editor,

I refer to Maggie Shum's April 23 article about developments in Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong everyone is equal before the law. Regardless of a person's background or political beliefs, they have a duty to abide by the law. Prosecutorial decisions are based on admissible evidence, applicable laws and the Prosecution Code, and are made independently without fear or favor.

Our common law system is internationally recognized. The World Justice Project ranked Hong Kong fifth in the East Asia and Pacific region and 16<sup>th</sup> globally for rule of law. The city is ranked second in Asia and 11th in the world for rule of law by the World Bank.

Hong Kong people's freedoms of speech, press and demonstration are protected by the Basic Law, the Bill of Rights Ordinance and other legislation. Provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong remain in force.

The writer inaccurately claims that our government removed RTHK programs from public channels. Since 1990, free-to-air broadcasters were required to carry programming by RTHK, the sole public service broadcaster. The requirement was made in the public interest as RTHK did not operate TV channels. Today, RTHK operates TV channels with coverage reaching 99 percent of the population. While free-to-air broadcasters are no longer mandated to carry RTHK programming, the decision remains theirs.

The writer gives the impression that people were killed as a result of law enforcement actions last year in response to public order events. The suggestion has no basis.

While our government fights the novel coronavirus, it shall continue to uphold human rights and freedoms.

Eddie Mak, Washington

The writer is the Hong Kong commissioner for the United States.