

Trudy Rubin's article "China uses coronavirus as a cover for further crackdown on Hong Kong freedoms" (April 23) shows a misunderstanding of the basis for the recent arrests of certain individuals for organizing and participating in unauthorized assemblies in Hong Kong. The arrests have everything to do with upholding the rule of law. They were made based on evidence from investigations and in accordance with Hong Kong law. The well-established procedures of our criminal justice system include independent investigations by law enforcement agencies, independent prosecutorial decisions based on objective assessment of evidence and applicable laws and in accordance with the Prosecution Code, and finally open trials by our independent judiciary. Like elsewhere in the world, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is devoting most of its time and energy to combatting COVID-19, keeping its citizens safe, preventing the spread of the virus inside and outside of Hong Kong. At the same time, we must also ensure the smooth functioning of our legal system and uphold the rule of law, our core value in Hong Kong.

Joanne Chu, director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, New York City