

July 7, 2023

The Editor
The Australian

Dear Editor,

I write in response to your editorial “Hong Kong police confirm worst” (July 5), which contains misleading comments on the lawful actions of the Hong Kong Police Force to list persons at large as wanted persons.

The rule of law is the backbone of our society. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has a duty to make every effort to bring to justice people who have absconded overseas and allegedly committed offences under the law, including the Hong Kong National Security Law (HKNSL).

It is a common practice of the Police and other law enforcement agencies to release information of fugitive offenders who have allegedly committed serious offences and are wanted, and appeal to members of the public to assist in bringing fugitive offenders to justice. This is squarely in line with the international practice.

Extraterritoriality is in fact a common feature of national security laws in many countries, including the ones of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Extraterritorial application vested in the HKNSL is in line with the well-recognised international law principle of “protective jurisdiction” and international practice. Criticisms levied against our application of extraterritoriality are tainted with double standards.

Endangering national security is a very serious offence. The HKSAR Government shall prevent, suppress and impose punishment for any act and activity endangering national security in accordance with the HKNSL and other relevant laws.

Yours sincerely,
Trista Lim
Director
(Representative to Australia and New Zealand)
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Sydney
Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region