

Our organization was established in 2012 under the Societies Ordinance, Cap. 151 of the Laws of Hong Kong. Those founding members of our organization shared the aim to serve the people in New Territories West region, especially Tuen Mun district, by organizing different types of activities and co-operating with different government departments. This aim is still rooted in the heart of our organization. We established our registration office in Tuen Mun town, where more than 0.5 million residents live. We do not have a particular group that we aimed to serve, but to the mass general public that is willing to accept our service.

In the past ten years, we organized different activities for the local residents every month, those included local tours to different part of the city or to various cities in Mainland China. We also had classes of different interests. The participants of those activities are from all walks of life, but as ageing population in Hong Kong grow, we recently have more elderly joining our activities.

Our association would like to submit our opinion on 1) the implementation of National Security Law in Hong Kong SAR and 2) the development of “One Country, Two Systems”, and rule of law, judicial independence in Hong Kong SAR. On the first topic, we would like to address how the society is back on the right track after the implementation of National Security Law and our stance related to National Security Law. Regarding the second topic, we prepared to share our views on the success of “One Country, Two Systems” in recent years.

Many viewed the riots in 2019 was a mere expression of dissatisfaction with the performance of HKSAR government. As things turned out, the whole campaign was not simply voicing out their concerns, but instead it was backed by foreign powers and institutions in all means, clearly the continuous riots running over months were targeted at the authority with the aim to destroy our well established constitutional structure and our society as a whole. Unlike what the West criticized on our National Security Law, the truth is that after promulgation of the National Security Law, the rioters have ceased their illegal activities, our society has experienced peaceful lives once again. The ordinary citizens expected our government to provide a stable society, and the National Security Law clearly provided such important element.

It is our position to the National Security Law is the key to minimize the possible risk to endanger our stable and peaceful environment for business development. Anyone who criticizes the National Security Law should first take a close look at the messy conditions in the second half of 2019. Without the National Security Law, we can hardly imagine our society could revive rapidly after the continuous riots and the pandemic. Oversea businesses and multi-nation corporations would only invest in stable political environment, and this led to the success of Hong Kong being an international trade center.

It is also worth mentioning that those so-called illegal arrests were only fantasized by the West. As stated by the Secretary for Justice recently in his mark at a legal forum, after promulgation of the National Security Law in June 2020, only around 30 people were sentenced. That is a very limited portion of the Hong Kong society, not as exaggerated by the West that all of our lives in Hong Kong is endangered by the National Security Laws.

Among those being arrested and charged under the National Security Laws, we witnessed clear evidences obtained by the law enforcement authority at those arrests,

especially the possession of weapons. Even if the suspects being investigated by the police under the power vested by the National Security Laws, they were only detained in accordance with the standard protocols in line with the human rights guaranteed under the Basic Laws and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We emphasized that we have not seen any illegal arrest or detain by the law enforcement authority under the National Security Law.

We must stress that national security is often seen as a key to safeguard a stable society in the West. Many western countries have their own national security laws, and some of the powers converted under those laws were over excessive and have a higher risk of being abuse, we do not understand why the international bodies are so concerned with the application of our National Security Laws, but not reviewing those of their own.

At the ceremony to celebrate 25th anniversary of establishment of HKSAR, President Xi Jinping made it clear that the “One Country, Two Systems” principle was the key to success for Hong Kong in the past 25 years. Despite the fact that it was only promised the application of “One Country, Two Systems” to be run for 50 years, President Xi emphasized that in light of the success of “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong will continue to be a special administrative region and enjoy this unique status as long as it drives Hong Kong to be an international finance hub.

Despite the fact that Hong Kong has substantially amended its election rules for both legislative council and election committee, as well as the upcoming district council, it does not diminish the fundamental element of “One Country, Two Systems”. This is because our basic rights have not been affected by the change of election rules, and that those changes are positive moves that drives Hong Kong society away from political scandals and allows Hong Kong to focus on economics development.

In addition, it is in the Central Government interest to safeguard Hong Kong political development is on the right track in order to provide a stable environment for the society and economy to grow. This rights and interests are embodied in the basic laws and nothing violate the “One Country, Two Systems” principle as alleged by the West.

The year 2022 not only marked the 25th anniversary of establishment of HKSAR, it is also the commencement of the 6th term of HKSAR government. The success of the legislative council election in 2021, the election committee subsector ordinary election in 2021 and the chief executive election in 2022 reflects that rule of law is being endorsed and implemented in Hong Kong.

Furthermore, the number of judicial review cases has reduced substantially in recent years, this also reflects that Hong Kong SAR government is taking the rule of law and procedural fairness in a very serious manner, so that the ordinary citizen would not need to deploy this means to achieve justice.

On the other hand, it is fair to say that our judiciary has not experienced any matters which would affect their independence status in recent years. The decisions to interpret relevant sections of the basic law by the standing committee of NPC were only demonstrated the power vested by basic law in respect of the matter that substantially affected the country as a whole and the interpretation powers were exercised correctly, in which did not and does not affect the independence of our

judiciary.

We can safely state that all level of our courts are able to rely on basic law to guarantee their independence, and our judges can make their judgment purely based on legal analysis without any external factors.

It is worth mentioning that what is endanger the independence of our judiciary is not coming from home, but rather from overseas, especially where United States' Congressmen have constantly used their trade position and those powers vested to United States–China Economic and Security Review Commission to threaten our judges with different kind of sanctions.

In summary, we are of the opinion that “One Country, Two Systems” is the essential principle that drives Hong Kong to success. The endorsement of rule of law and judicial independence are the key that we are able to keep oversea businesses and corporation to trade and set up office in Hong Kong. However, as the West decided to take all kind of actions against our government after 2019, our society and ordinary citizens have both suffered the most by lies and prejudice. Therefore, our association must take proper action to voice out the truth in the general public, and pledge the international organization to fairly judge the situation in Hong Kong.

Submitted by
New Territories West Yau Oi Cooperation Society
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