

SB condemns unfounded remarks and smears by international and local organisations on police law enforcement actions

A Security Bureau (SB) spokesman today (June 5) strongly opposed and condemned the fact-twisting and unfounded remarks by international and local organisations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Hong Kong Journalists Association, to smear the lawful enforcement actions of the Police under the guise of the freedoms of speech, of the press and of assembly.

The spokesman stressed that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government steadfastly safeguards the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong people as protected under the law. Since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, human rights in the city have always been robustly guaranteed constitutionally by both the Constitution and the Basic Law. The Hong Kong National Security Law clearly stipulates that human rights shall be respected and protected in safeguarding national security in the HKSAR, and that the rights and freedoms, including the freedoms of speech, of the press, of publication, of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration, that Hong Kong residents enjoy under the Basic Law and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to Hong Kong shall be protected in accordance with the law. Nonetheless, such rights and freedoms are not absolute. The ICCPR also expressly states that some of them may be subject to restrictions as prescribed by law that are necessary for protection of national security, public safety, public order or the rights and freedoms of others, etc.

Hong Kong is a society underpinned by the rule of law. Article 25 of the Basic Law provides that all Hong Kong residents shall be equal before the law. All law enforcement actions taken by law enforcement agencies are based on evidence, strictly according to the law and for the acts of the people or organisations concerned, and have nothing to do with their political stance or background. It would be totally contrary to the rule of law for someone to suggest that certain group of people could enjoy privileges and break the law without getting arrested or bearing legal responsibilities due to their capacity. Everyone, including journalists, should abide by the law.

Any attempt to undermine HKSAR's prosperity and stability by slandering the rule of law and freedom in the HKSAR will only be futile. The HKSAR Government law enforcement agencies will continue to enforce the laws without fear or favour to safeguard national security and social order.