



From: [REDACTED]
To:
Date: 08/06/2016 12:26
Subject: Re: (Legislative Council) Panel on Security : Special meeting on 11 June 2016

Hello Ky Yeung,

Below is what I plan to use my time to say.

The list of those countries who recognize the Convention Against Torture includes every developed and civilized nation on the planet, including China and Hong Kong. The list of those who do not recognize the Convention Against Torture is populated by countries which are internationally recognized as not being a part of the global community, such as North Korea, Myanmar, and Iran. Why would some suggest that Hong Kong join this list? Hong Kong is known as a world city. We are modern in every sense of the word. An evolved and civilized society is recognized by its treatment of those who are most vulnerable. To be civilized means that the strong protect the weak, that those who control the resources ensure they are available to all, and that the majority are inclusive of the minority. To be civilized means that all have access to dignity and justice regardless of ethnicity or nationality.

In the history of Hong Kong, literally hundreds of thousands of men, women and children came here either as immigrants seeking economic opportunity or as refugees seeking a safe and peaceful place to live. It is a statistically safe bet that the majority of us in this room have a family history that includes arriving in Hong Kong as an immigrant or a refugee. I would ask that those of you who are now in positions of influence and power remember this as you discuss issues that involve the Convention Against Torture, immigration, or asylum seekers. I would ask that you use the positions that you have been given to treat those who are in desperate need of hope as you would have your own families treated if the situation was reversed.

Thank you,

Thomas Franz
CEO, The Vine Community Services, Ltd.
[REDACTED]