



比利时卢森堡中资企业协会

ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE ENTERPRISES IN BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG

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De Standaard,

We are writing to express our grave concerns over the inappropriate posting a satire drawing by Lectrr for 'Cartoon of the day' on 23th January 2020 on your official website. This drawing disrespectfully fiddled with China's national flag.It is an insult of China and seriously hurts the feelings of the Chinese people.

Recently, the sudden outbreak of new coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei has already claimed 171 precious lives in China, touching the hearts of millions of the Chinese people. Every Chinese share the saddest feeling. The Chinese government and people are fighting together with all-out efforts to prevent and control the contagious disease in a timely manner. All Chinese people are united in solidarity to fight this serious battle against the epidemic. The international community has as well demonstrated a great sympathy and support.

However, your website published such a satire drawing. This misbehavior has crossed the bottom line of civilized society and the ethical boundary of free speech, and offended human conscience. The satire drawing is both inappropriate and offensive to us and others in diverse communities throughout the country. The implications go beyond the Belgium Chinese community by advocating a culture of intolerance and perpetuating xenophobic rhetoric. We do understand the Freedom of speech, but we know clearly freedom is not absolute, borders and restrictions should be applied. We do not accept any racial discrimination, gender discrimination, and discrimination against any person. Freedom of speech should not be at the cost of hurting other countries and people, and certainly should not be a pretext to insult China and the Chinese people. When others encounter misfortune, we cannot discriminate against the patients, but demonstrate the sympathy and empathy. All Chinese people are fighting hard against the virus as one unity because we know the force of unity can guide us to conquer any difficulty. The more emergencies arise, the more need for calm, humanity and unity. Given the spread of your media throughout the country, you are aware that what was published on your media can influence the Belgium or European society's perception of new coronavirus, which may cause the unnecessary panic about the disease and worries about public health and safety. The "satire drawing" also gives rise to isolation and discrimination which violate the journalism's code of conduct.

As China-invested enterprises in Belgium, we are aiming to serve as a bridge for

economic cooperation, actively promoting cultural exchanges and strengthening the friendship between China and Belgium. The misconduct of your newspaper and the drawer deeply hurt our hearts. We express our strong indignation and severely condemn this selfish and ruthless behavior. We demand that the newspaper and the drawer immediately reproach themselves for the mistake and publicly apologize to the Chinese people.

the Association of Chinese Enterprises in Belgium and Luxembourg