

your hand". That is what this story has done, and I stand by the story. Just because a story provokes debate, does not mean it should be censored.

If a story lifts the lid on an unpalatable issue, then the writer or publisher of that story should not be attacked.

Some of the attacks on me have been personally abusive, particularly on the websites of some of the very people making complaints to the Press Council about unfairness, lack of balance, and bigotry.

Problems with Asian immigration are an ongoing issue for New Zealanders, and this country's neighbours. For instance, When reporting on last year's riots in Tonga, the *Dominion Post* quoted Professor Ron Crocombe, a New Zealander who is about to publish a book on Chinese involvement in the Pacific, as saying the Chinese had acquired more than 72 per cent of Tongan business in a decade. "It all happened that fast." Their numbers, Crocombe alleged, were not large but they were in key sectors, including business and "other more sinister activities. Organised crime is now a major problem in the South Pacific and Chinese are major players in it," he said.

This week, in the sentencing of the killer of Tam Yam Ah, gangland enforcer, the *Herald* reported that Detective Senior Sergeant Mark Benefield warned Asian criminals not to expect their crimes to go unsolved in the belief that corruption can be paid off. "That is the message I would like to get across to the Asian community – that police will investigate crime to its fullest degree," Mr Benefield said.

I suspect some of my critics can not separate an article written by me from the fact that I was an MP for the Act Party (ironically which took an open-door approach to Asian immigration and had its own Asian Chapter), or that I have written on controversial crime topics in the past, particularly child abuse and sex abuse of children.

However, this is not a problem in other countries – the United Kingdom, for instance. Advocacy journalism is encouraged, so long as it is backed up by evidence, as my article clearly is. I didn't make up statements such as drug pushing being the crime of choice for Asian International students; or that the prerequisites for the manufacture of P (methamphetamine) are being smuggled in from China; or that Asian immigrants are turning up at hospitals with false passports to illegally claim publicly funded healthcare. In fact, where serious allegations were made, such as that by John Sowter, head of the drug squad, that the majority of major drug busts in Auckland involve Asians, I went back to Sowter to check that he stood by that quote.

These are serious issues which New Zealanders need to know about if they are to be involved in the democratic process, that is, amend or adjust legislation or policies if they so wish that to happen. Not one of the complainants to the Press