

## SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2014

### PHILIPPINES VS. CHINA

#### **1 March 2014: Phl asks neighbors to join case vs China**

The Philippines yesterday called on Malaysia, Vietnam and other claimants to join its legal challenge to China's massive territorial claim in the South China Sea. Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza said Malaysia, Vietnam and two other governments could either take part in the Philippine case or file their own complaints against China.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/03/01/1295729/phl-asks-neighbors-join-case-vs-china>

#### **28 February 2014: UNCLOS explained: Why China's claims in South China Sea are invalid**

With a little over a month before the Philippines submits its written arguments to the international Permanent Court of Arbitration, Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza publicly spoke for the first time about the basis of the Philippines' case against China's claim to nearly the entire South China/West Philippine Sea.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/99689/unclos-explained-why-chinas-claims-in-south-china-sea-are-invalid#ixzz2uiABKph6>

### ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

#### **28 February 2014: M'sia, P'pines agree on peaceful settlement of disputes in West P'pine and South China Seas**

At a joint press conference with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today, Aquino said as members of Asean, both countries believed their potential to prosper could only be fully realised in the international context where the rule of law was upheld.

<http://www.nst.com.my/latest/m-sia-p-pines-agree-on-peaceful-settlement-of-disputes-in-west-p-pine-and-south-china-seas-1.495110#ixzz2ui7WWPem>

#### **27 February 2014: China slams Philippine move over Huangyan Islands**

China on Thursday slammed a Philippine move aimed at claiming the Huangyan Islands in the South China Sea, saying it was groundless and made no sense. According to media reports, the Philippine defense ministry is to place the Huangyan Islands under the jurisdiction of its western command, and the country's armed forces will "act when the time comes."

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/845227.shtml>

#### **27 February 2014: Beijing blames Philippines for latest incident in South China Sea**

China on Wednesday accused the Philippines of "deliberate provocations" over an incident in disputed waters in the South China Sea that drew a protest from Manila about what it called Chinese ships' use of a water cannon on Filipino fishermen.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/asia/story/beijing-blames-philippines-latest-incident-south-china-sea-20140226>

#### **26 February 2014: Philippines protests over South China Sea water cannon incident**

The Philippines protested on Tuesday against the Chinese coast guard vessel's use of a water cannon on Filipino fishermen near the disputed waters in late January, according to Reuters.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/25/us-philippines-southchinasea-idUSBREA1O09P20140225>

### **26 February 2014: China's assertiveness hardens Malaysian stance in sea dispute**

Two Chinese naval exercises in less than a year around the James Shoal have shocked Malaysia and led to a significant shift in its approach to China's claims to the disputed South China Sea, senior diplomats told Reuter.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/26/uk-malaysia-china-maritime-insight-idUKBREA1P1Z020140226>

### **21 February 2014: Malaysia: Chinese ships were just passing through**

The Malaysian armed forces chief General Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin on Thursday confirmed a reported incursion of three Chinese naval ships last month in the South China

Sea <http://english.astroawani.com/news/show/chinese-ships-were-just-passing-through-armed-forces-chief-30493?cp>

### **21 February 2014: Filipino military chief: China claims to islands off Philippine coast are 'of course absolute nonsense'**

The Philippines military chief vowed Thursday to defend the country's fishermen against any Chinese "terror or intimidation" in the South China Sea, the latest sign of sharpening tensions in what is a potential global flash point.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765648072/Filipino-military-chief-China-claims-are-nonsense.html>

### **19 February 2014: China: No plans for SEA air zone**

Chu-Chia Lin, deputy minister of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), told an international group of reporters here that China's assurance came after Taipei asked Beijing not to establish an ADIZ over the South China Sea.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/02/19/1292002/china-no-plans-sea-air-zone>

### **10 February 2014: China to Expand Tourism in Paracels**

By November 2013, the Coconut Princess had made 12 trips and taken more than 1,700 tourists to watch the sunrise and swim among the reefs and sandy shoals, according to cruise operator Hainan Strait Shipping Co.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-02/09/c\\_133101658.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-02/09/c_133101658.htm)

### **9 February 2014: China slams comparison with Nazi**

"It is inconceivable and unreasonable to place the China-Philippines South China Sea disputes in the same category with the WWII history. The Chinese side is shocked at and dissatisfied (disappointed) with the remarks from the Philippine side," Hong said at a press conference in Beijing Friday, a transcript of which the Chinese Embassy in Manila sent to local reporters on Saturday.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/98706/china-slams-comparison-with-nazi#ixzz2snKzLpEX>

### **5 February 2014: Philippine Leader Sounds Alarm on China**

President Benigno S. Aquino III called on Tuesday for nations around the world to do more to support the Philippines in resisting China's assertive claims to the seas near his country, drawing a comparison to the West's failure to support Czechoslovakia against Hitler's demands for Czech land in 1938.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/05/world/asia/philippine-leader-urges-international-help-in-resisting-chinas-sea-claims.html? r=0>

**3 February 2014: China tells Japan to stop ‘rumors’ about new defense zone**

China does not feel threatened by countries in Southeast Asia and is optimistic about the situation in the disputed South China Sea, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, warning Japan not to “spread rumors” it plans a new air defense identification zone.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2014/02/03/2003582677>

**1 February 2014: Beijing eyeing South China Sea air defense zone – Japanese report**

Working level officials in the Chinese airforce have drafted proposals for the new zone, which could set the Paracel islands at its core and spread over much of the sea, the Asahi Shimbun said, citing unnamed sources, including from the Chinese government. The draft was submitted to senior Chinese military officials by May last year, the respected daily said.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/346401/news/world/beijing-eyeing-south-china-sea-air-defense-zone-japanese-report>

**1 February 2014: Malaysian Admiral Plays Down Talk of Chinese Naval Incursion**

The commander, Admiral Abdul Aziz Jaafar, has said that Chinese naval ships did not encroach on what he calls Malaysian waters, despite the Xinhua article.

<http://sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/31/malaysian-admiral-plays-down-talk-of-chinese-naval-incursion/? php=true& type=blogs& r=0>

**ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

**28 February 2014: Indonesia to boost military in South China Sea**

The Indonesian National Defense Forces (TNI) says Jakarta will increase its presence around the Natuna waters in the South China Sea as a preemptive measure to avert instability in the area.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/02/28/352655/jakarta-to-boost-army-in-south-china-sea/>

**27 February 2014: ASEAN to meet with China in Singapore on COC**

According to *Reuters*, ASEAN officials say that they will meet with Chinese representatives in Singapore beginning March 18 to try and make some progress on talks to establish a “code of conduct” in the South China Sea.

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/02/why-china-isnt-interested-in-a-south-china-sea-code-of-conduct/>

**26 February 2014: Indonesia hopes China will be patient over South China Sea**

Indonesia hopes that China will be patient over the South China Sea issue to maintain stability, peace and mutual welfare in the region.

<http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/92865/indonesia-hopes-china-will-be-patient-over-south-china-sea>

**17 February 2014: US, ASEAN: Respect international law in South China Sea disputes**

United States secretary of state John Kerry and Asean secretary-general Le Luong Minh emphasised on Sunday the need for respect for international law in South China Sea disputes, after China urged the US not to take sides in China's territorial rows in the region.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/se-asia/story/us-asean-respect-international-law-south-china-sea-disputes-20140217>

**7 February 2014: Palace cites developments in position to defend West PHL Sea**

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr., in a Palace briefing, said that one of these developments was the advance of certain efforts through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). "The voices of the members of ASEAN have been heard and they have said that they would want to flesh out the document on the Code of Conduct on the Law of the Sea," Coloma said.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/80274/palace-cites-developments-in-position-to-defend-west-phl-sea>

**MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

**25 February 2014: Kerry ups ante in struggle to crack South China Sea rules**

Only last week, US Secretary of State John Kerry urged China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to work out rules to ease tensions after a fresh Chinese campaign of assertiveness in the region.

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/kerry-ups-ante-in-struggle-to-crack-south-china-sea-rules\\_913942.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/kerry-ups-ante-in-struggle-to-crack-south-china-sea-rules_913942.html)

**24 February 2014: US envoy warns against altering status quo in South China Sea**

Defying China's position against Washington's involvement in the disputes, US Ambassador Philip Goldberg maintained that it is in America's national interest to ensure free access to the resource-rich waters and that conflicts are resolved peacefully even though it is not a party to the disputes.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/349907/news/nation/us-envoy-warns-against-altering-status-quo-in-south-china-sea>

**19 February 2014: US admiral says China's 9-dash line not valid**

"I don't understand (its) foundation. It's almost like I woke up one day and somebody said, 'so what is that, that's the nine-dash line...I (ask) what's the nine-dash line and that's about all that it is, a nine-dash line,'" said Adm. Jonathan Greenert, the US Chief of Naval Operations, in a forum last week at the National Defense College of the Philippines.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/99181/us-admiral-says-chinas-9-dash-line-not-valid#ixzz2tlaoeMCa>

**19 February 2014: Kerry: South China Sea Code of Conduct to ensure regional peace**

"The longer the process takes, the longer tensions will simmer and the greater the chance of a miscalculation by somebody that could trigger a conflict. That is in nobody's interest," Kerry said

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/99155/kerry-south-china-sea-code-of-conduct-to-ensure-regional-peace#ixzz2tUY64t8>

**10 February 2014: U.S., China trade accusations over South China Sea disputes**

China rejected U.S. allegations that it is using vague territorial claims to gradually assert control in the disputed South China Sea, and in turn accused Washington of exaggerating tensions in the region. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei urged the U.S. to take a "rational and fair

attitude," and reiterated China's position that its claims are based on history and international law. In a statement Saturday, Hong said that some U.S. officials' remarks were not constructive, and "playing up tensions" was not conducive to maintaining peace and stability.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/02/09/us-china-trade-accusations-over-south-china-sea-disputes/>

### **9 February 2014: India calls for maintaining code of conduct in South China Sea**

"The freedom of navigation in the area should be in line with international maritime guidelines. Second, we would like to have an amicable situation and are working towards it," India's Air Marshal P K Roy told media men during a function in Portblair, capital city of India's Andaman And Nicobar Island state. "The third and last is that till these solutions are arrived at, we need to make some sort of code of conduct so that the situation does not escalate anymore," he added.

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2360081&language=en>

### **8 February 2014: China says US "irresponsible" over South China Sea defense zone**

The Chinese government said on Friday that some US officials are "extremely irresponsible" to accuse China over a so-called plan to set up an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the South China Sea, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. "Some US diplomats have made groundless accusations against China without verifying the claim," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei was quoted as telling at a press briefing in Beijing.

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2359952&language=en>

### **6 February 2014: US presses Beijing on South China Sea claims**

Danny Russel, the US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said that maritime claims under international law needed to be based on land features. "Any Chinese claim to maritime rights not based on claimed land features would be inconsistent with international law," Russel told a congressional committee. "China could highlight its respect for international law by clarifying or adjusting its claim to bring it into accordance with international law of the sea," he said. Russel supported the Philippines' right to take its case to a United Nations tribunal - a move last year that was denounced by China - as part of efforts to find a "peaceful, non-coercive" solution.

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/us-presses-beijing-on/983080.html>