

SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – JUNE 2014

PHILIPPINES V. CHINA

18 June 2014: Philippines seeks quick ruling on South China Sea dispute

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said that the Philippines would petition the Arbitral to issue an earlier ruling after China said it would not get involved in the case.

<http://www.arabnews.com/news/588776>

5 June 2014: Tribunal seeks Beijing counterargument on S. China Sea row by Dec. 15

The Arbitral Tribunal has given the latter until Dec. 15 to file its formal counterargument, according to a statement issued in the Netherlands on Tuesday.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140604/tribunal-seeks-beijing-counterargument-s-china-sea-row>

ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

28 June 2014: Philippines hits China over '10-dash line' map

Charles Jose said the publication of the new map "shows China's unreasonably expansive claim that is clearly contrary to international law," particularly UNCLOS.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/61597-philippines-hits-china-10-dash-line-map>

27 June 2014: Vietnam blasts China's new vertical map

Vietnam criticized a new map published in China which has been vertically extended to highlight Chinese claims, saying the map violates international laws.

<http://thanhniennews.com/politics/vietnam-blasts-chinas-new-vertical-map-27830.html>

27 June 2014: China accuses Philippines of stirring tensions by backing Japan

China accused the Philippines of creating tension and urged Manila to show "sincerity" in upholding stability after President Benigno Aquino welcomed Japan's more assertive military policy.

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/news/139523/china-accuses-philippines-of-stirring-tensions-by-backing-japan>

26 June 2014: China Says Second Oil Rig Starts Drilling in South China Sea

China said one of its oil rigs has arrived in its drilling location in the South China Sea, more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) off the coast of Vietnam.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-06-26/china-says-second-oil-rig-started-drilling-in-south-china-sea.html>

25 June 2014: New Chinese map gives greater play to South China Sea claims

China unveiled a new official map of the country giving greater play to its claims on the South China Sea, making the disputed waters and its numerous islets and reefs more clearly seem like national territory.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/us-china-diplomacy-map-idUSKBN0F000I20140625>

25 June 2014: Vietnam Offers Aid to Foreign Companies Hit by Riots

Vietnam offered around \$12 million in tax refunds as well as advance insurance payments to foreign companies hit by last month's anti-China riots.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/vietnam-offers-aid-to-foreign-companies-hit-by-riots-1403701443?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304557404579646091049748408.html>

24 June 2014: Vietnam, China Trade Accusations of Vessel-Ramming Near Oil Rig

Vietnam and China traded accusations that each had rammed a vessel owned by the other near a Chinese oil rig that has become a flash point in waters they both claim in the South China Sea.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/vietnam-china-trade-accusations-of-vessel-ramming-near-oil-rig-in-south-china-sea-1403608970>

<http://www.rappler.com/world/regions/asia-pacific/61534-china-blames-vietnam-ramming-incident>

<http://english.thesaigontimes.vn/35247/Vietnam-rebuffs-China%E2%80%99s-ship-ramming-accusations.html>

24 June 2014: Philippines and US to conduct CARAT 2014 near South China Sea

The week-long exercises is held about 80nm away from two or three Chinese coast guard vessels stationed on patrol off the disputed Scarborough Shoal, in the South China Sea.

<http://www.naval-technology.com/news/newsphilippines-us-to-conduct-carat-2014-near-south-china-sea-4300586>

22 June 2014: China Sending 4 Rigs to South China Sea Amid Tensions

China is sending four oil rigs into the South China Sea in a sign that Beijing its stepping up its exploration for oil and gas in the tense region, less than two months after it positioned a giant drilling platform in waters claimed by Vietnam.

<http://www.marinelink.com/news/tensions-sending-china371488.aspx>

20 June 2014: CNOOC Signed PSC with Eni

CNOOC announced that it has signed production sharing contract (PSC) with Eni China B.V. (Eni) for the Block 50/34 in South China Sea.

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cnooc-signed-psc-with-eni-2014-06-20?reflink=MW_news_stmp

19 June 2014: The Philippines' Military Modernizes

The Philippines is engaged in a concerted effort to modernize its military into a force capable of projecting a posture of credible external deterrence.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/tensions-rise-the-south-china-sea-rise-the-philippines-10703>

18 June 2014: Philippines to continue patrolling South China Sea

"The Philippine Coast Guard will continue conducting periodic patrols along with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources," said Presidential Communication Operations Office head Herminio Coloma Jr.

<http://gulfnews.com/news/world/philippines/philippines-to-continue-patrolling-south-china-sea-1.1348387>

18 June 2014: China, Vietnam Fail to Break Deadlocks

Chinese diplomat insisted that there was no dispute over the Paracel Islands. The Chinese Foreign Ministry made no reference to the possibility of negotiations, a basic tenet of China in matters to do with the South China Sea.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/19/world/asia/china-vietnam-meet-on-territorial-dispute.html?emc=edit_tnt_20140618&nli=15975&ntemail0=y&r=1

17 June 2014: Taiwan sends equipment to build pier on South China Sea island

Heavy machinery from Taiwan meant for use in building a pier has landed on Taiping Island, in a show of sovereignty over the largest of the Spratly Islands in the disputed South China Sea, a lawmaker from the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) said Tuesday.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201406170032.aspx>

17 June 2014: China building islands to expand footprint in South China Sea

China has been moving sand onto reefs and shoals in the Spratly archipelago, in what foreign officials say is a new effort to expand the Chinese footprint in the South China Sea. The officials say the islands will be able to support large buildings, human habitation and surveillance equipment, including radar.

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-06-17/news/50651278_1_south-china-sea-nansha-islands-spratlys

17 June 2014: Philippines against South China Sea construction

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said he will propose that ASEAN call for such a moratorium.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/philippines-against-south-china-sea-constructions/2014/06/16/6fc6f2b4-f50b-11e3-8ac4-8c205d7d440f_story.html

17 June 2014: South China Sea dispute spurs Philippine naval upgrade

"This is the frontline of our territorial defence operations in the Kalayaan island group," President Benigno Aquino declared.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/south-china-sea-dispute-spurs-philippine-naval-upgrade-20140616#sthash.vmCjdT8f.dpuf>

16 June 2014: China building school on island in South China Sea

China is building a school on a remote island in the South China Sea to serve the 40-odd children of military personnel and others living there as part of its campaign to strengthen claims.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1533249/china-building-school-island-south-china-sea>

14 June 2014: Philippines, Vietnam can share disputed sea – envoy

The Philippines and Vietnam can share marine resources in the disputed waters, the Vietnamese ambassador told Rappler as tensions rise between Hanoi and Beijing.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/60511-vietnam-philippines-joint-exploration-south-china-sea>

13 June 2014: PH files new protest vs China’s reclamation project in McKennan reef

The Department of Foreign Affairs has filed a new protest against China’s reclamation in the McKennan reef (Hughes reef). The Philippines has also filed a protest against China about the reclamation on Mabini but China has rejected the protest. A total of five reefs are now undergoing, or believed to be undergoing, reclamation: Mabini, Gaven, Cuarteron, Malvar and Mckennen.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/106369/ph-files-new-protest-vs-chinas-reclamation-project-in-mckennan-reef#ixzz34axP0rxs>

13 June 2014: China Coast Guard vessel heads for S. China Sea training

A China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel started its maiden voyage on Thursday for a three-day training mission in the South China Sea, the State Oceanic Administration said on Friday.

<http://www.ecns.cn/2014/06-13/118998.shtml>

11 June 2014: China reclamation violates Asean code, says DND

China’s land reclamation in disputed waters in the South China Sea shows it has disregarded its 2002 agreement with Southeast Asian nations to keep conditions in the sea unchanged until a final code of conduct is reached, a Department of National Defense (DND) official said.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/106120/china-reclamation-violates-asean-code-says-dnd#ixzz34KBy4A3U>

11 June 2014: Vietnam urges China to withdraw oil rig from South China Sea

Vietnam’s UN ambassador urged China on Tuesday to withdraw its oil rig and more than 100 ships from the South China Sea to create “an environment” for negotiations on the disputed waters.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1529827/vietnam-urges-china-withdraw-oil-drilling-rig-south-china-sea>

10 June 2014: China, Vietnam Take Sea Dispute to UN Chief

China and Vietnam, which are involved in a tense standoff in the South China Sea, are pleading their case to U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/china-vietnam-take-sea-dispute-to-un-chief/1933217.html>

9 June 2014: PH Justice Carpio debunks China’s historical claim of South China Sea

Using China’s very own ancient maps, Justice Antonio T. Carpio debunked the Asian superpower's ownership claims of almost the whole of South China Sea based on “historical facts.”

<https://ph.news.yahoo.com/blogs/the-inbox/ph-justice-carpio-debunks-china-historical-claims-south-140906288.html>

9 June 2014: Philippines slams China’s moves in disputed sea

The “provocative” and “unilateral” actions of China are an infringement of the rights of the Philippines and other countries under a UN convention, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

<http://www.gulf-times.com/asean-philippines/188/details/395569/philippines-slams-china%E2%80%99s-moves-in-disputed-sea>

9 June 2014: Vietnam says China still harassing boats

Vietnam accused China of continuing to ram its boats in disputed waters of the South China Sea and aired video Thursday of a Chinese vessel plowing into one of its fishing boats before it sank on May 26.

<http://www.standard.net/World/2014/06/05/Vietnam-says-China-still-harassing-boats.html>

8 June 2014: Beijing issues report on South China Sea standoff

The Chinese FM published a report concerning the standoff with Vietnam off the Paracel Islands, which started over Beijing's deployment of an oil rig to the disputed region claimed by both nations.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20140610000106>

8 June 2014: China accuses Vietnam of ramming its ships in disputed waters

China has accused Vietnam of ramming its ships more than 1,000 times in a disputed part of the South China Sea, and said while it wants good relations with its southern neighbour, it would not abandon principles to achieve that.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/china-accuses-vietnam-of-ramming-its-ships-in-disputed-waters/article19070788/>

8 June 2014: Manila investigates claims of Chinese reclamation on disputed Spratlys reefs in South China Sea

Photographs allegedly taken by the Philippine military showing Chinese ships engaged in land reclamation off a reef were published by the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, a major Manila daily yesterday.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1527699/manila-investigates-claims-chinese-reclamation-disputed-spratlys-reefs>

8 June 2014: Filipino, Vietnamese troops hold first Spratlys games

The games were hosted by Vietnam on one of the islands it controls in the Spratlys, a powder keg area of competing regional claims, Philippine Navy spokesman Lieutenant Commander Gregory Fabric said.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/59983-philippines-vietnam-spratlys-games>

7 June 2014: China plans artificial island in disputed Spratlys chain in South China Sea

China is looking to expand its biggest installation in the Spratly Islands into a fully formed artificial island, complete with airstrip and sea port, to better project its military strength in the South China Sea, a Chinese scholar and a Chinese navy expert have said.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1527059/china-plans-artificial-island-disputed-spratlys-chain-south-china-sea>

6 June 2014: Vietnam airs video of Chinese ship sinking fishing boat in South China Sea

Footage shows large Chinese vessel ramming wooden boat near oil rig in disputed waters.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1526701/vietnam-airs-video-chinese-ship-sinking-fishing-boat-south-china-sea>

2 June 2014: Vietnam: 1958 letter gives no legal basis to China's island claim

The Paracel and the Spratly archipelagos (which lay below the 17th parallel) remained under the administration of the US-backed Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) after being handed off by France in 1956 under the accords, Tran Duy Hai, deputy head of Vietnam's National Border Committee, told an international press conference in Hanoi on May 23.

<http://thanhniennews.com/politics/late-vietnam-pms-letter-gives-no-legal-basis-to-chinas-island-claim-26821.html>

ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

28 June 2014: Little Hope for a Code of Conduct in South China Sea

Indonesia has called for a special Asean meeting on the South China Sea in an attempt to retain and reinvigorate unity of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and facilitate agreement on a code of conduct. But even if such a meeting is convened, it is unlikely to make significant progress.

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1541782/little-hope-code-conduct-south-china-sea>

26 June 2014: Indonesian presidential candidates differ on South China Sea

Jakarta Governor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, the candidate of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), indicated on Sunday, June 22, that if he was elected, a slight step back from this policy would ensue. "This is another country's problem with another country. It is better if we can play a role, though we also need to check if it would sour our ties with China or whether we can find a resolution to the conflict," he said.

<http://www.rappler.com/world/regions/asia-pacific/indonesia/61594-indonesian-presidential-candidates-south-china-sea>

25 June 2014: Cambodian PM meets Vietnamese envoy, talks on South China Sea

Hun Sen said Cambodia and ASEAN always called on all parties concerned in the dispute to continue negotiations peacefully based on international laws and agreed documents.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/0625/c90777-8746697.html>

25 June 2014: Singapore: Might not right in South China Sea disputes

Singapore's prime minister said international law should determine how territorial disputes in the South China Sea are resolved, rather than the notion that "might is right."

<http://www.philstar.com/world/2014/06/25/1338846/singapore-might-not-right-south-china-sea-disputes>

24 June 2014: China, ASEAN officials meet in Indonesia

China and ASEAN are holding two days of talks on policy in the South China Sea. Senior officials from the joint working group are meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

<http://www.ecns.cn/2014/06-24/120670.shtml>

10 June 2014: PH weighs proposed ASEAN meet on South China Sea

The Philippines confirmed on Monday, June 9, that Indonesia has proposed a special meeting among foreign ministers of ASEAN to discuss rising tensions in the disputed South China Sea.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/60133-philippines-asean-meeting-south-china-sea>

MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

27 June 2014: US Ambassador: 'No basis in law for China's 10-dash line'

Beijing's expansion of its claim over the South China Sea with a new "10-dash line" has no basis in international law, US Ambassador Philip Goldberg said on Thursday.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/06/28/1339914/no-basis-law-chinas-10-dash-line>

27 June 2014: Philippines, U.S. begin naval exercises in S. China Sea

About 1,400 troops from the U.S. and Philippine armed forces began Thursday a series of naval exercises in the SCS, a move expected to stoke anger from China that lays claim to almost the entire sea.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140626/philippines-us-begin-naval-exercises-s-china-sea>

26 June 2014: Biden discusses South China Sea with Singapore PM

"The two leaders discussed mutual concerns over a pattern of destabilising behavior in the South China Sea and reiterated their mutual interest in international law, freedom of navigation, and the peaceful resolution of maritime and territorial disputes," the White House said in a statement.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/biden-discusses-south-china-sea-with-singapore-pm-114062600260_1.html

20 June 2014: Obama urges China, neighbors to avoid escalating maritime dispute

"It is important for us to be able to resolve disputes like maritime disputes in accordance with international law, and encourage all parties concerned to maintain a legal framework for resolving issues, as opposed to possible escalation that could have an impact on navigation and commerce."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/20/us-china-southchinasea-obama-idUSKBN0EV1SS20140620>

20 June 2014: Aquino to update Japan PM Shinzo Abe on Chinese case

President Benigno Aquino III would update Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the Philippine case questioning China's claim over the South China Sea when the two meet next week in Japan.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/106847/aquino-to-update-japan-pm-shinzo-abe-on-chinese-case#ixzz35loytGRy>

15 June 2014: US: China 'occupying' South China Sea areas, breaking vows

The reported Chinese reclamation work and large scale construction of outposts are an affront to the DOC that China agreed to follow, a top official of the US Department of State said.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/06/14/1334758/us-china-occupying-south-china-sea-areas-breaking-vows>

13 June 2014: Australia calls for territorial disputes to be decided by international law and without the use of force

Australia will persist with calls for tensions to be resolved in accordance with international law and without the use of coercion or force to alter the status quo.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-06-12/australia-japan-relationship/5519126>

12 June 2014: US proposes South China Sea provocation freeze

"The claimant states themselves could identify the kind of behavior that they each find provocative when others do it, and offer to put a voluntary freeze on those sorts of actions on the condition that all the other claimants would agree to do so similarly," Russel, an assistant secretary of state, told reporters on a conference call.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/365302/news/world/us-proposes-south-china-sea-provocation-freeze>

4 June 2014: Japan, EU share concern over S. China Sea tension

Japan and the European Union shared concern Wednesday about the recent tension in the South China Sea and agreed to support Ukraine under President-elect Petro Poroshenko, a Japanese official said.

<http://www.globalpost.com/node/6166734>

3 June 2014: Obama Pushes Law of the Sea to Help Settle S. China Sea Claims

U.S. President Barack Obama says a U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea would help ease tensions in the South China Sea if it is ratified by U.S. lawmakers.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-pushing-un-law-of-the-sea-to-help-settle-south-china-sea-claims/1928052.html>

2 June 2014: Chinese General Says U.S. Foreign Policy Has 'Erectile Dysfunction' Problems

For the Chinese language audience, the general used language saltier — and perhaps more provocative — to describe how he feels about U.S. power.

<http://stream.wsj.com/story/south-china-sea/SS-2-35607/SS-2-545105/>

1 June 2014: US's Hagel accuses China of 'destabilising' acts in South China Sea

US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel accused China on Saturday of "destabilising actions" in the South China Sea and warned that Washington will not remain passive if the international order is threatened.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Regional/2014/05/31/USs-Hagel-accuses-China-of-destabilising-acts-in-South-China-Sea/>