

SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – AUGUST 2014

PHILIPPINES V. CHINA

23 August 2014: Jardeleza heeded advice of top China defender?

International law professor Stefan Talmon, one of China's leading defenders in the South China Sea dispute, also likely influenced then Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza in a decision that could have jeopardized the Philippines' case, a Supreme Court (SC) justice said.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/67007-jardeleza-talmon-itu-aba-philippines-china>

ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

29 August 2014: China, Vietnam say they're committed to resolving sea dispute

The statement followed talks Wednesday in Beijing between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Vietnamese special envoy Le Hong Anh to resolve tensions dating from the rig's deployment in May.

<http://asiancorrespondent.com/126169/china-vietnam-say-theyre-committed-to-resolving-sea-dispute/>

28 August 2014: Aquino urges China to help ease tension in disputed seas

The President revealed that there are continuing reclamation efforts by China to build islands on the rocks and other land features in the disputed territories in the West Philippine Sea, the Philippine term for that part of the South China Sea within its claimed exclusive economic zone.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/110124/aquino-urges-china-to-help-ease-tension-in-disputed-seas#ixzz3Bm3AWLb0>

26 August 2014: First Oil Flows at CNOOC's Wenchang 13-6 Field in South China Sea

CNOOC Limited announced that it has commenced production at the company-operated Wenchang 13-6 oil field in the Western South China Sea, offshore China.

https://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/134696/First_Oil_Flows_at_CNOOCs_Wenchang_136_Field_in_South_China_Sea

24 August 2014: China's military holds drill close to Vietnam: Report

The drill performed by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) took place in the waters near Beibu Gulf, which is known as the Gulf of Tonkin in Vietnam, a report by PLA Daily website said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/China/Chinas-military-holds-drill-close-to-Vietnam-Report/articleshow/40857861.cms>

21 August 2014: New Map Shows China's True Expanse, General Says

General Luo said the new vertical map showed that China's territory is much more expansive than what most Chinese understand it to be.

http://sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/21/new-map-shows-chinas-true-expanse-general-says/?_php=true&_type=blogs&partner=rss&emc=rss&r=0

21 August 2014: Vietnam renews lease of Indian oil blocks in South China Sea

Vietnam has renewed India's lease of two oil blocks in the South China Sea for another year, on the eve of foreign minister Sushma Swaraj's first visit to Hanoi next week.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Eye-on-Dragon-Vietnam-renews-lease-of-Indian-oil-blocks-in-South-China-Sea/articleshow/40538262.cms>

20 August 2014: DFA hits harassment of PH fishers by Chinese

The Department of Foreign Affairs will include incidents of Chinese harassment of Filipino fishermen exercising their right to fish in Philippine seas, in its new diplomatic protest to be filed this week against China's "illegitimate sovereignty patrols" in Philippine waters.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/109659/dfa-hits-harassment-of-ph-fishers-by-chinese#ixzz3AuffjyKX>

18 August 2014: Manila protests over China patrols in sea

The Philippines said yesterday it would protest to China about what it called Beijing's increasing patrols in a disputed area of the South China Sea believed to hold vast oil and gas resources.

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/asia/296324/manila-protests-over-china-patrols-in-sea>

18 August 2014: CNOOC Gets Delivery of FPSO Vessel Way Ahead of Schedule

CNOOC has taken the delivery of a floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel from Dailjan Shipbuilding Industry Corp. Notably, the FPSO arrived two months before the scheduled 18 months.

<http://www.zacks.com/stock/news/144182/cnooc-gets-delivery-of-fps0-vessel-way-ahead-of-schedule>

16 August 2014: China builds artificial island in disputed waters of South China Sea

According to news from many different sources, China has undergone construction in the Johnson South Reef, which is located in the disputed waters of the much-debated South China Sea.

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/170391/china-builds-artificial-island-in-disputed-waters-of-south-china-sea.html>

14 August 2014: China ships still in disputed seas

" They are there in Ayungin Shoal, they are also here in Scarborough...And then they're also at Mischief Reef," Newly-appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang said.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/08/14/14/china-ships-still-disputed-seas-says-afp-chief>

10 August 2014: China, Philippines Argue Over South China Sea Plan

China and the Philippines traded barbs over recent maritime tensions at a weekend gathering of regional foreign ministers, as Manila appeared to win muted support from Southeast Asian neighbors for its proposed freeze on provocative acts in the disputed South China Sea.

[http://online.wsj.com/articles/china-philippines-argue-over-south-china-sea-plan-](http://online.wsj.com/articles/china-philippines-argue-over-south-china-sea-plan-1407684143?tesla=y&mg=reno64-)

[1407684143?tesla=y&mg=reno64-](http://online.wsj.com/articles/china-philippines-argue-over-south-china-sea-plan-1407684143?tesla=y&mg=reno64-)

[wsj&url=http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304266204580083493410980432.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304266204580083493410980432.html)

8 August 2014: China to build lighthouses in South China Sea, news agency says

The five locations for the lighthouses include Drummond Island, North Reef and Antelope Reef, the report said.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/08/08/asia-pacific/china-build-lighthouses-south-china-sea-news-agency-says/>

6 August 2014: Taiwan's Ma urges peaceful resolution to East, South China sea disputes

Citing the Taiwan-Japan fisheries pact signed in April last year, Ma said he would like to see "the achievement of peace in the East China Sea to become a framework of reference for other similarly situated countries or regions to consider," particularly those in the South China Sea.

[http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140805/taiwans-ma-urges-](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140805/taiwans-ma-urges-peaceful-resolution-east-south-china-)

[peaceful-resolution-east-south-china-](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140805/taiwans-ma-urges-peaceful-resolution-east-south-china-)

5 August 2014: Philippines Gives Hefty Jail Terms to 12 Chinese Fishermen

A court in the Philippines has given long jail sentences to 12 Chinese fishermen for fishing illegally in the South China Sea. The Chinese fishermen were arrested in April 2013 after their boat ran aground at the Tubbataha Reef in the western Philippines.

[http://www.voanews.com/content/philippines-gives-hefty-jail-terms-12-chinese-](http://www.voanews.com/content/philippines-gives-hefty-jail-terms-12-chinese-fishermen/1971744.html)

[fishermen/1971744.html](http://www.voanews.com/content/philippines-gives-hefty-jail-terms-12-chinese-fishermen/1971744.html)

4 August 2014: China can build whatever it wants on the South China Sea isles, say officials

China can build whatever it wants on its islands in the South China Sea, a senior Chinese official said.

<http://malaysiandigest.com/world/511634-china-can-build-what-it-wants-on-s-china-sea-isles-says-official.html>

4 August 2014: China Expands Offshore Oil Fleet for Contested Waters

China is accelerating the expansion of its offshore oil fleet—and adding coast guard vessels to protect it—as it ventures farther into the sea for energy resources.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/china-expands-offshore-oil-fleet-for-contested-waters-1406941177>

1 August 2014: China to Exploit Combustible Ice in South China Sea in 2017

New plans are being worked out by Chinese authorities to exploit so-called 'combustible ice' in the South China Sea in 2017.

<http://english.cri.cn/12394/2014/07/31/2702s838399.htm>

1 August 2014: CNOOC South China Sea Panyu project starts producing

China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) launched production at its Panyu 0-2/5/8 project in the South China Sea.

<http://petroglobalnews.com/2014/07/cnooc-south-china-sea-panyu-project-starts-producing/>

ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**27 August 2014: Avert escalation of South China Sea disputes, says Thai official**

Permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and acting Foreign Minister stressed the need to strengthen norms and rules to facilitate the peaceful resolution of disputes, such as the efforts towards the early conclusion of COC. He suggested enhancing cooperation in win-win areas, such as environmental research, and search and rescue when addressing the Regional Conference on "The Future of Security in the Asia-Pacific: Emerging Challenges, Promoting Conflict Management and Enhancing Cooperation in Maritime Areas" here today.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1151164>

25 August 2014: Remote, gas-rich islands on Indonesia's South China Sea frontline

With maritime tensions rising between China and the Philippines and Vietnam, Moeldoko later vowed to send more troops to Natuna "to anticipate any instability in the South China Sea and serve as an early warning system for Indonesia".

<http://news.yahoo.com/remote-gas-rich-islands-indonesias-south-china-sea-215101509.html>

15 August 2014: ARF security forum calls for self-restraint, denuclearization

The ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum, in the statement, called on "all parties" involved in disputes in the South China Sea to avoid "further complications" by exercising self-restraint.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140815/arf-security-forum-calls-self-restraint-denuclearizati>

14 August 2014: ASEAN, China to talk on SCS disputes

"The foreign ministers agreed to intensify talks with China on measures and mechanisms to ensure and further enhance dialogue on the South China Sea issue," Lynn told reporters during a media briefing at the ASEAN Secretariat in South Jakarta.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/08/15/asean-china-talk-scs-disputes.html>

12 August 2014: Indonesia prepared to mediate in South China Sea dispute

Mr Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said: "Solutions through diplomacy are desirable. If necessary, Indonesia is prepared to serve as an intermediary." "We reject solutions through military power," he added.

<http://www.todayonline.com/world/asia/indonesia-prepared-mediate-south-china-sea-dispute>

11 August 2014: China to Work with ASEAN on S.China Sea Issue: FM

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has issued a new statement, rebuffing a call from US authorities when it comes to issues in the South China Sea. And at the same time, Wang Yi says China is committed to working with ASEAN to solve disputes in the South China Sea.

<http://english.cri.cn/12394/2014/08/11/3861s839886.htm>

10 August 2014: ASEAN urges stepped-up talks as South China Sea tensions grow

"We urged all parties concerned to exercise self-restraint and avoid actions that would complicate the situation and undermine peace, stability and security in the South China Sea," said ASEAN in a communique, following a meeting this weekend in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw.

<http://www.todayonline.com/world/asia/asean-urges-stepped-talks-south-china-sea-tensions-grow>

10 August 2014: China Thwarts U.S. Bid to Reduce South China Sea Tensions

China's rejection of U.S. and Philippine proposals to regulate countries' behavior in the SCS signaled tensions are likely to persist in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-10/china-thwarts-u-s-effort-at-easing-tensions-in-south-china-sea.html>

10 August 2014: China Rejects Push at Asean to Curb South China Sea Activity

China won't budge from its stance on defense and maritime rights, Wang said in a statement after meeting with counterparts from Asean.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-09/south-china-sea-tension-seen-dominating-asean-ministers-meeting.html>

10 August 2014: ASEAN concerned over South China Sea

Southeast Asian foreign ministers say they remain seriously concerned over recent developments which have increased tensions in the South China Sea. This was expressed in a joint communique issued on Sunday (Aug 10) on the final day of meetings in Myanmar.

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/asean-concerned-over/1306148.html>

8 August 2014: ASEAN, China should exercise restraint in South China Sea activities: Shanmugam

During the meetings on Friday, ASEAN foreign ministers were unable to come to a conclusion on what actions are deemed to be provocative. Mr Shanmugam said: "I think it's difficult to talk about it in vacuum, freeze all activities, and the question is what activities, and if it's disputed how do you define disputed, undisputed.ugam

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/asean-china-should/1304244.html>

6 August 2014: Philippines: China sea action plan getting support

The Philippines said it had won support from Vietnam, Indonesia and Brunei for a plan to ease tensions in the South China Sea which it intends to present at a regional meeting this week. The plan, to be presented to an ASEAN meeting in Myanmar this week, was raised during Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario's recent visits to Brunei, Vietnam and Indonesia, department spokesman Charles Jose said.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Regional/2014/08/05/Philippines-China-sea-action-plan-getting-support/>

MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**28 August 2014: China Defense Ministry Tells US To Stop 'Close-in' Surveillance**

China's military on Thursday told the United States to end air and naval surveillance near its borders, saying it was damaging relations between the Pacific powers and could lead to "undesirable accidents."

<http://www.defensenews.com/article/20140828/DEFREG03/308280035/China-Defense-Ministry-Tells-US-Stop-Close-Surveillance>

27 August 2014: Sushma Swaraj in Hanoi, India examining Vietnam's South China Sea oil blocks offer

India is "looking at the feasibility" of exploring the five oil and gas blocks, which were offered last year to OVL, the overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corp, said an official source here. These five are in addition to the two blocks offered earlier to India, the source added.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Sushma-Swaraj-in-Hanoi-India-examining-Vietnams-South-China-Sea-oil-blocks-offer/articleshow/40870356.cms>

21 August 2014: Pentagon says Chinese Jet Carried Out 'Aggressive' and 'Dangerous' Intercept of Navy Intelligence Jet

Su-27 flew within 20 feet of P-8 anti-submarine warfare jet in South China Sea.

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/chinese-jet-threatened-u-s-intelligence-aircraft/>

16 August 2014: American general says US could boost Vietnam's navy

American general says there will be talks 'in the near term' on lifting arms sales ban.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1575076/american-general-says-us-could-boost-vietnams-navy>

14 August 2014: China Accuses US of Worsening SCS Dispute

According to the Chinese state newspaper People's Daily, the U.S. is encouraging its Asian neighbors such as the Philippines and Vietnam to make bolder ownership.

<http://www.chinatopix.com/articles/6676/20140814/china-accuses-u-s-of-heating-up-south-china-sea-dispute.htm>

14 August 2014: Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1st visit to Vietnam since 1971 amid sea rifts with China

U.S. Gen. Martin Dempsey on Thursday became the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to visit Vietnam since 1971, seeking to boost military ties between the former foes at a time when Hanoi is embroiled in territorial disputes with China.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/08/14/chairman-joint-chiefs-staff-on-1st-visit-to-vietnam-since-171-amid-sea-rifts/>

11 August 2014: U.S. to monitor South China Sea for de-escalation after China rebuff

The United States will monitor the South China Sea to see whether "de-escalatory steps" are being taken, a U.S. State Department official said on Monday, a day after China resisted pressure to rein in actions in the disputed waters.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/11/us-australia-usa-kerry-idUSKBN0GB0BP20140811>

11 August 2014: India backs freedom of navigation, access to resources in South China Sea

"India opposes the use or threat of use of force and supports freedom of navigation and access to resources in accordance with principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. We hope that progress will be made with respect to implementation of Guidelines to the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and the adoption of a Code of Conduct on the basis of consensus," External Affairs Minister said.

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/39999459.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

10 August 2014: John Kerry: Maritime claims must be derived from land features

Under international law, maritime claims in the South China Sea must be derived from land features. And as we and others have pointed out, all claims need to be in compliance with UNCLOS –whether China's nine-dash line claim or others. Our concern is that the lack of clarity with respect to South China Sea claims has actually created uncertainty. And this uncertainty limits the prospect for a mutually agreeable resolution or equitable joint development arrangements. But let me be clear – we believe the obligation to clarify claims in keeping with international law applies to all claimants, not just China.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/08/230471.htm>

9 August 2014: China dismisses US call for South China Sea 'freeze'

China rejects U.S. involvement in the dispute and has already dismissed the proposal for a freeze. China accuses the United States of emboldening claimants such as the Philippines and Vietnam with its military "pivot" back to Asia.

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/world/142202/paris-synagogue-attack-reports-proved-false>

9 August 2014: McCain: Time to ease arms sales ban on Vietnam

McCain told reporters in Hanoi on Friday that he hopes the easing could begin as early as next month. The sales would be limited to arms with defensive capabilities.

<http://www.cortezjournal.com/article/20140808/API/308089839/McCain:-Time-to-ease-arms-sales-ban-on-Vietnam>

9 August 2014: ASEAN Regional Forum meeting at Myanmar gives hope to India

Delhi, which has made clear that it will continue its presence in the oil blocks offered to it by Vietnam in the SCS region despite Beijing's pressure, would receive further boost by Philippines TAP at ARF on Aug 9-10. Besides all ten ASEAN countries, India, China, USA, Russia, Australia, Japan, South Korea EU, Pakistan and Bangladesh are among 27 members of the ARF that focuses on security in the region.

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/39912711.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

8 August 2014: South China Sea rows cloud Asean talks

The South China Sea issue will spill over from the Asean Ministerial Meeting to the subsequent Asean Regional Forum (ARF), an annual security dialogue among the Asean foreign ministers and key partners including China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the European Union.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/south-china-sea/story/south-china-sea-rows-cloud-asean-talks-20140808#sthash.cnO7FOLL.dpuf>

7 August 2014: Beijing asks Seoul to stop providing weapons to Manila

China has recently requested that South Korea stop providing weapons systems to the Philippines due to Beijing's territorial dispute with Manila in the South China Sea, according to a South Korean government source cited by Seoul-based newspaper Weekly Dong-A.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20140806000119>

7 August 2014: US: China Sea claims must be based on land features

“And what that means, in part, is that territorial claims must be based on land features. It’s not possible under UNCLOS merely to assert sovereignty over the seas. As the saying goes, land dominates water,” he said.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/08/07/1354733/us-china-sea-claims-must-be-based-land-features>

6 August 2014: US to press for South China Sea freeze despite China rejection

US Secretary of State John Kerry, at a meeting with Southeast Asian nations this weekend, will press for a voluntary freeze on actions aggravating territorial disputes in the South China Sea, in spite of Beijing's rejection of the idea.

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/us-to-press-for-south-china-sea-freeze-despite-china-rejection-20140805-100gva.html#ixzz39bQS8Slq>

5 August 2014: INS Shivalik Makes Port Call in Vietnam

INS Shivalik, a guided missile stealth frigate, reached Hai Phong, as part of its deployment in South China Sea and North Western Pacific region. India has invested heavily in a couple of oil blocks in the region which is sovereign Vietnamese territory, but China has staked its claimed over the waters.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Braving-China-INS-Shivalik-Makes-Port-Call-in-Vietnam/2014/08/06/article2366017.ece>

4 August 2014: Japan to Give 6 Maritime Vessels to Vietnam

Japan has agreed to provide the Vietnamese Coast Guard with six maritime vessels in order to strengthen and enhance Vietnam's maritime enforcement and surveillance capabilities, particularly in the South China Sea.

<http://www.chinatopix.com/articles/5635/20140804/japan-to-give-6-maritime-vessels-to-vietnam.htm>