

SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATES No. 64
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ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

26 July 2018: Cayetano: Sea row not about being confrontational

"They just want to show that they are brave. This is not about bravery. It's not about confrontational. It's about producing results," Cayetano said.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/07/26/1836982/cayetano-critics-sea-row-not-about-being-confrontational#xpehLbA7PXUqQmEF.99>

26 July 2018: Malaysia can't go to war with China, Dr M says

"We cannot go to war with them. They are more powerful, and we cannot fight against them, (so) how do we benefit from their wealth and their power? That's what we are looking at now," he said.

<https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/436062>

25 July 2018: Govt not deploying military war fleet in South China Sea: Saifuddin

The government will not resort to knee-jerk retaliatory actions including deploying military war fleet in the South China Sea, in light of disputes over China's recent actions there.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/2018/07/25/govt-not-deploying-military-war-fleet-south-china-sea-saifuddin>

25 July 2018: Malaysia to be 'firm' in South China Sea row after PM Mahathir Mohamad said warships create tension

Saifuddin said that Mahathir was "sending a signal that we want to be more firm, more serious" in handling the maritime dispute.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2156769/malaysia-be-firm-south-china-sea-row-after-pm-mahathir>

24 July 2018: Good neighborliness serves fundamental interests of China, the Philippines: FM

"Cooperation between the two countries over the recent two years has shown that good neighborliness is the only choice serving the interests of the two countries and the two peoples," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-07/24/c_137345769.htm

23 July 2018: Duterte: PH will not waver in its commitment to defend West PH Sea

"Our improved relationship in China does not mean that we will waver to defend our interest in the West Philippine Sea," Duterte said.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1013407/duterte-ph-will-not-waver-in-its-commitment-to-defend-west-ph-sea>

22 July 2018: China military develops robotic submarines to launch a new era of sea power

Unmanned AI subs could challenge the advantage Western naval powers have in strategic waters like the South China Sea.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/2156361/china-developing-unmanned-ai-submarines-launch-new-era-sea-power>

18 July 2018: China's underwater drone for deep sea-science

A Chinese autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) undertook a 100-mile trial for 42 hours under South China's sea.

<http://www.softwaretestingnews.co.uk/chinas-underwater-drone-for-deep-sea-science/>

18 July 2018: Philippines' Duterte praises China amid South China Sea expansion

"We have promised to deal with the problem from the President himself, President Xi of the People's Republic of China, that we will discuss this at some other time, as China has to deal with individually bilateral relations and issues."

<https://www.upi.com/Philippines-Duterte-praises-China-amid-South-China-Sea-expansion/6471531932927/>

18 July 2018: Philippines' legal fees in China case still unpaid

"We still have a problem because the past administration did not pay what he was charging, so they might sue us, but we're trying to handle it", Cayetano said.

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/207612-philippines-legal-fees-south-china-sea-case-still-unpaid>

17 July 2018: Duterte confident China will be 'fair' when resolving maritime disputes

"I am sure that in the end, China will be fair and the equity will be distributed," Duterte said. "In the days to come, we would realise that China, after all, is really a good neighbour."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2155709/duterte-confident-china-will-be-fair-when-resolving>

17 July 2018: Palace denies government inaction on South China Sea dispute

"The government of President Duterte is not guilty of inaction," Roque told radio station dzRH.

"Whenever China does something that violates our sovereignty, we file protests but we do it quietly."

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/07/17/1834213/palace-denies-government-inaction-south-china-sea-dispute#682kjkCzfJbDbxMv.99>

12 July 2018: Robredo warns: Philippines losing arbitral ruling advantage in South China Sea

Robredo lamented the fact that the Philippines started to lose the advantage it gained through the arbitral award after Manila had chosen to set it aside while it pursued better relations with Beijing.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/07/12/1832881/robredo-warns-philippines-losing-arbitral-ruling-advantage-south-china-sea>

10 July 2018: China 'Quietly' Conducts Electronic Warfare Tests in South China Sea

Weeks after delivering military equipment to the South China Sea's disputed Spratly Islands, China has begun to conduct tests on its tech-jamming weaponry, it was revealed Thursday.

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201807101066209620-south-china-sea-electronic-warfare-tests/>

10 July 2018: China fires back at NZ, calls remarks on South China Sea and Pacific politics wrong

China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China had "lodged stern representations with New Zealand on the wrong remarks it has made on China".

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/105387818/china-fires-back-at-nz-calls-remarks-on-south-china-sea-and-pacific-politics-wrong>

ASEAN AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

27 July 2018: ASEAN and China Set to Agree on Single Draft South China Sea Code of Conduct

According to the annotated draft of the Joint Communiqué of the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the ministers "noted with satisfaction that ASEAN Member States and China had agreed on a Single Draft COC [Code of Conduct] Negotiating Text" at the 15th ASEAN-China SOM DOC Meeting in Changsha, China on 27 June 2018".

<https://thediplomat.com/2018/07/asean-and-china-set-to-agree-on-single-draft-south-china-sea-code-of-conduct/>

26 July 2018: South China Sea code must have sharp teeth: Malaysia

Malaysia hopes the Code of Conduct (CoC) for the South China Sea has sharp teeth to resolve multiple claims over its waters, Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah said in Parliament yesterday.

<http://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/south-china-sea-code-must-have-sharp-teeth>

25 July 2018: Asean to discuss code of conduct for South China Sea with Beijing

Asean ministers will discuss a Code of Conduct (COC) for the South China Sea amid concerns of China's increasing militarisation in the area, Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/asean-to-discuss-code-of-conduct-for-south-china-sea-with-beijing-next-week>

12 July 2018: Indonesia seeks peace in South China Sea

Amid rising tensions in the disputed South China Sea, claimed in most part by China, efforts to seek peace have become part of Indonesia's defense diplomacy, Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu said on Wednesday.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2018/07/12/indonesia-seeks-peace-south-china-sea.html>

OTHER STATES AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

25 July 2018: US, Australia reaffirm right to pass through South China Sea

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne stressed that militarization of the contested waterway is contrary to the region's goal of peaceful development.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/07/25/1836652/us-australia-reaffirm-right-pass-through-south-china-sea#hc4uZUb2Lt8oZCpT.99>

21 July 2018: South China Sea: UK to send aircraft carrier to South China Sea

Britain plans to send its flagship aircraft carrier in an effort to conduct freedom of navigation patrols in the South China Sea region in response to concerns regarding freedom of navigation in the area.

<https://sputniknews.com/military/201807211066564484-us-australia-supercarrier/>

20 July 2018: India, ASEAN focus on maritime security

Ministers and experts from India and ASEAN countries have vowed to work together on maritime security.

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20180720_36/

14 July 2018: Pentagon says China spying on military exercises

A Chinese spy ship is currently spying on a major US-led military exercise off the coast of Hawaii, the same exercise it was disinvited from due to US opposition to Beijing's militarization of features in the South China Sea.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/07/13/politics/us-military-china-spy-ship/index.html>

9 July 2018: US, Vietnam to Cooperate on Freedom of Navigation in Disputed South China Sea

"Both sides welcomed cooperation to uphold the freedom of navigation and overflight, with Vietnamese leaders welcoming a strong U.S. role in ensuring stability in the South China Sea," said State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert after Pompeo met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-vietnam-to-cooperate-on-freedom-of-navigation-in-disputed-south-china-sea/4475002.html>

9 July 2018: Philippines, US kick off naval drills in South China Sea

The US Navy's fast transport ship USNS Millinocket, diving and salvage ship USNS Salvor and a P-8 Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft will be deployed along with the Philippine Navy's BRP Ramon Alcaraz and BRP Tarlac in the South China Sea for at-sea evolutions.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/07/09/1832007/philippines-us-kick-naval-drills-south-china-sea#Wwpr1vTkoTrMMTZP.99>

9 July 2018: Pompeo, Vietnam Leaders Express Concern About Militarization of S China Sea

"They affirmed their shared interest in upholding peace and security in the South China Sea, and their shared concerns over militarization and reclamation of features that runs counter to international law," the statement said.

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201807091066195090-us-vietnam-south-china-sea/>

9 July 2018: UK Admiral defends Royal Navy deployments to South China Sea

Admiral Lord Alan West said it was vital Britain patrolled the region as trillions of pounds of trade passes through it.

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/defence/admiral-defends-royal-navy-deployments-to-south-china-sea-1-8559896>

8 July 2018: China's military build-up lost trust of neighbors: Australian defense head

Head of Australia's armed forces, Mark Binskin said that China's military build-up in the SCS has lost its neighbor's trust and undermined China's regional leadership credentials.

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3477062>

6 July 2018: New Zealand New defence policy strategy explicit in pointing finger at China threats

The Government is placing growing emphasis on the erosion of the global rules-based order, and has singled out threats posed by China and Russia in its new defence strategy.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/105284330/new-defence-policy-strategy-explicit-in-pointing-finger-at-threats>