

SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS No.107
June 2022

ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

29 June 2022: Taiwan rebuffs Philippines complaint about South China Sea live fire drills

Taiwan on Wednesday rebuffed a complaint from the Philippines about live fire drills around a Taiwan-controlled island deep in the South China Sea, saying it had the right to do so and always gives issues a warning of its exercises.

<https://whbl.com/2022/06/29/taiwan-rebuffs-philippines-complaint-about-south-china-sea-live-fire-drills/>

29 June 2022: Philippines condemns Taiwan's military firing in the South China Sea

The Philippines has condemned Taiwan's military firing in the area of one of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, the territorial affiliation of which they dispute along with China and Vietnam

<https://news.am/eng/news/709540.html>

27 June 2022: China: Joint Exploration in South China Sea the “right way”

China has expressed its readiness to continue its joint energy exploration and development with the Philippines and the Marcos Administration as it believes it is the right way to manage maritime differences. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in his briefing with local and foreign media that the joint offshore oil and gas development is the “right way for China and the Philippines to manage maritime differences and achieve win-win results without prejudice on either side's maritime positions and claims.”

<https://powerphilippines.com/china-joint-exploration-in-south-china-sea-the-right-way/>

24 June 2022: South China Sea: Philippines, China abandon joint energy exploration talks

The Philippines' outgoing foreign minister said on Thursday that talks over joint energy exploration between his country and China in the South China Sea had been terminated, citing constitutional constraints and issues of sovereignty.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3182841/south-china-sea-philippines-china-abandon-joint-energy>

23 June 2022: Việt Nam denounces China's military drill, asserts sovereignty over island chains in South China Sea

Việt Nam on Thursday denounced China's illegal military exercise in the Hoàng Sa (Paracel) archipelago as a serious violation of its sovereignty over the South China Sea Island chain. The spokesperson for the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lê Thị Thu Hằng made the remarks during a press briefing in Hà Nội, in response to requests for a reaction to the announcement from China's Hainan Province's Department for Ocean Affairs about a June 19 drill in the waters off of Phú Lâm (Woody) Island, part of Hoàng Sa, which Việt Nam claims as its own.

https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/578130593/vi-t-nam-denounces-china-s-military-drill-asserts-sovereignty-over-island-chains-in-south-china-sea

17 June 2022: U.S. Support for the Philippines in the South China Sea

The United States supports the Philippines in calling on the PRC to end its provocative actions and to respect international law in the South China Sea. We share the Philippines' concerns

regarding the PRC's provocative actions interfering with Philippine sovereign rights within the Philippine exclusive economic zone near Second Thomas Shoal and massing vessels near Whitsun Reef. These actions are part of a broader trend of PRC provocations against South China Sea claimants and other states lawfully operating in the region.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-support-for-the-philippines-in-the-south-china-sea/>

13 June 2022: China insists it has sovereign rights over Taiwan Strait

China said on Monday it has sovereign and administrative rights to the Taiwan Strait, denying US claims that the channel consists of international waters. Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the strait fell within China's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and domestic law. "China enjoys sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the Taiwan Strait, while respecting the legitimate rights of other countries in the relevant maritime areas," Wang said in Beijing.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3181554/china-insists-it-has-full-sovereign-rights-over-taiwan-strait>

13 June 2022: Chinese research ship Tansuo-2 wraps up South China Sea mission

Chinese scientific research ship Tansuo-2 has returned to port after completing its 2022 sea trial of the in-situ deep-sea scientific experiment station.

<https://en.tempo.co/read/1601282/prabowo-meets-singapore-pm-discussing-territorial-disputes-in-south-china-sea>

10 June 2022: China urges the U.S. to stop undermining South China Sea's stability

The defense chiefs of China and the United States held face-to-face talks in Singapore on June 10. In terms of the South China Sea issue, China urged the U.S. to stop undermining the South China Sea's peace and stability. "The U.S. should take more practical actions to safeguard regional stability and stop stirring up disputes, troubles and confrontations," Chinese Ministry of National Defense spokesperson Wu Qian quoted defense minister Wei Fenghe as saying during a meeting with his U.S. counterpart Lloyd Austin.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-06-10/China-urges-U-S-to-stop-undermining-South-China-Sea-s-stability-1aL0wsxZeO4/index.html>

9 June 2022: Philippines protests new Chinese 'swarming' in South China Sea

The Philippines said Thursday it had filed a new diplomatic protest against Beijing over the alleged return of a massive Chinese fleet operating "illegally" around Whitsun Reef, within Manila's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea. The Department of Foreign Affairs made the announcement hours after U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman met in Manila with President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as well as Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. during a visit that she said was part of "preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific."

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/swarming-ships-06092022133243.html>

8 June 2022: Filipino fishermen, boat owner 'compensated' for South China Sea ramming incident

Filipino fishermen whose boat sank in 2019 after a Chinese trawler rammed into it in disputed South China Sea waters have received six million Philippine pesos (U.S. \$113,421) in compensation, the Department of Justice said Wednesday. However, a fishers' association criticized the settlement for the 22 fishermen and the owner as too little and coming too late.

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/filipino-fishermen-compensated-for-2019-south-china-sea-incident-06082022144300.html>

8 June 2022: Deep dive for Chinese underwater lab in mission to bottom of South China Sea

China has put an unmanned deepwater station through its paces in a major test at the bottom of the South China Sea last month, state broadcaster CCTV reported on Tuesday. The test included connecting a laboratory to the base station – a first for the country – and assessing the operations of a deep-sea glider and virtual mooring buoy for communication.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3180780/deep-dive-chinese-underwater-lab-mission-bottom-south-china-sea>

7 June 2022: Australia military plane in South China Sea threatens sovereignty, China says

China said on Tuesday that its military has identified Australian military aircraft and warned them to leave after Australia said fighter aircraft intercepted one of its military surveillance planes in the South China Sea. Tan Kefei, spokesman at the Chinese defence ministry, said Australian military aircraft seriously threatened China's sovereignty and security and the countermeasures taken by the Chinese military were reasonable and lawful.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-says-australia-military-plane-s-china-sea-threatens-sovereignty-2022-06-07/>

5 June 2022: PLA aircraft deal with Canadian, Australian provocative close-in recon in East and South China Seas

Warplanes of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) recently dealt with close-in reconnaissance and provocative activities by surveillance planes from Canada and Australia on China in the East China Sea and South China Sea respectively, Chinese sources and analysts said on Sunday. By accusing the Chinese warplanes of threatening flight safety, the two members of the Five Eyes complained first while being the ones who are guilty in the first place, trying to throw mud at China without reflecting on their own behaviors, experts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202206/1267316.shtml>

3 June 2022: Pinoys urged to fish in South China Sea despite China ban

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) commandant Adm. Artemio Abu is urging Filipino fishermen to fish in the South China Sea, specifically in the West Philippine Sea, despite China's imposition of a fishing ban in the area. Abu said the fishing ban is not applicable to Filipino fishermen because the West Philippine Sea, which China is claiming, is part of Philippine territory. "The Coast Guard is encouraging our countrymen to fish in the area which is ours," Abu said in a press briefing on Wednesday, adding the PCG, the Philippine Navy, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources are there to ensure the safety of Filipino fishermen.

<https://malaya.com.ph/news/news/pinoys-urged-to-fish-in-south-china-sea-despite-china-ban/>

02 June 2022: Philippine tycoon Razon to buy majority of South China Sea gas field

Philippines ports and gaming tycoon Enrique Razon is acquiring a majority stake in a South China Sea gas field from a close ally of outgoing president Rodrigo Duterte, a move seen benefitting his oil exploration franchise on the Reed Bank. Razon's Prime Infra Holdings said in a statement today it will buy a controlling stake in the Malampaya gas-to-power project from Dennis Uy's Udenna for an undisclosed amount, the latest in a string of corporate deals by Razon, Philippines' second richest man.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/business/2022/06/02/philippine-tycoon-razon-to-buy-majority-of-south-china-sea-gas-field/>

01 June 2022: China won't accept Philippines accusation on fishing ban

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that the fishing ban in the South China Sea is a normal measure and will not accept groundless accusations after the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Philippines filed a diplomatic protest over China's so-called unilateral imposition of the ban.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202206/1267156.shtml>

31 May 2022: Philippines complains of Chinese fishing ban and 'harassment' at sea

The Philippines on Tuesday said it had filed a diplomatic protest with China for unilaterally declaring a South China Sea fishing ban, and complained also of harassment and violations of its jurisdiction by Beijing's coast guard. The foreign ministry in a statement accused the Chinese vessels of disrupting a joint marine scientific research mission as well as energy exploration activities at two sites in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/philippines-complains-chinese-fishing-ban-harassment-sea-2022-05-31/>

OTHER STATES AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

27 June 2022: USS Benfold enters South China Sea; Beijing slams Taiwan provocation by U.S.

China has now claimed that in a fresh provocation over Taiwan, the United States sent USS Benfold in the South China Sea. China alleged that the incident took place a day after U.S. P-8A anti-submarine aircraft flew over the Taiwan Straits on Friday.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/videos/uss-benfold-enters-south-china-sea-beijing-slams-taiwan-provocation-by-us-101656326350799.html>

24 June 2022: RAAF sent second jet into South China Sea hours after Chinese air force's 'dangerous' interception

A second Australian military aircraft was dispatched over contested waters in the South China Sea last month, just hours after the Chinese air force conducted a "dangerous interception" of another RAAF plane.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-23/defence-raaf-chinese-jet-interception-second-plane/101173656>

20 June 2022: US rejects China's claims over Strait

US President Joe Biden's administration has decided to reject a vague new assertion by China that the Taiwan Strait is not "international waters" and is increasingly concerned the stance could result in more frequent challenges at sea for Taiwan, people familiar with the matter said.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2022/06/20/2003780184>

13 June 2022: Prabowo Meets Singapore PM Discussing Territorial Disputes in South China Sea

Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto met with Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore on Saturday, June 11, 2022. They discussed a number of issues including the territorial dispute in the South China Sea. It was said that Lee respected Indonesia for not interfering in the conflict. Indonesia's maritime territory is not included in China's claim of sovereignty. "PM Lee Hsien Loong expressed his appreciation and said that Singapore respects Indonesia's neutral position as a non-claimant state in the South China Sea issue," said Prabowo in the ministry's official statement, Sunday, June 12, 2022.

<https://en.tempo.co/read/1601282/prabowo-meets-singapore-pm-discussing-territorial-disputes-in-south-china-sea>

11 June 2022: Japan, US, Australia oppose China's claims in South China Sea

The defense chiefs of Japan, the United States and Australia have met on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, an Asian security forum meeting in Singapore. In a joint statement, Japanese Defense Minister Kishi Nobuo, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Australia's Minister of Defence Richard Marles expressed concerns about the increasingly severe security environment in the East China Sea.

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20220611_16/

11 June 2022: US defence secretary chides China over 'provocative' behaviour

United States Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has reiterated that the US will stand by its allies and partners in the Asia Pacific as he accused China of "provocative and destabilising" military activity around Taiwan, and an increasingly "coercive and aggressive" approach to its wide-ranging maritime claims in the Asia Pacific. In a nearly hour-long address to the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Austin stressed that the US was committed to the "rules-based international order" and would work in partnership to maintain peace and stability in the region.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/11/us-defence-secretary-chides-china-over-taiwan-south-china-sea>

7 June 2022: Indian Naval Warship Satpura on A Deployment to South China Sea

INS Satpura, a Shivalik-class stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, is on a deployment to the South China Sea and western Pacific. The warship visited Manila, the capital of the Philippines, from 3 to 6 June to improve interoperability between the Indian Navy and the Philippines Navy, the Ministry of Defence has said in a statement. "During the visit, the Commanding Officer, Captain Saket Khanna called on Commodore Roy Vincent Trinidad, Deputy Commander of the Philippines Fleet," the Defence Ministry statement says.

<https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/indian-naval-warship-satpura-on-a-deployment-to-south-china-sea>

5 June 2022: Australia says China threatened plane over South China Sea

Australia on Sunday said a Chinese fighter jet carried out dangerous maneuvers threatening the safety of one of its maritime surveillance planes over the South China Sea and forcing it to return to the base. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government expressed concern to China over the May 26 incident, which the Defense Ministry said took place in international airspace where a Chinese J-16 intercepted a P-8A Poseidon surveillance aircraft on routine patrol.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/australia-china-threatened-plane-south-china-sea-85191824>

3 June 2022: United States extends support to Philippines in criticising China's fishing ban in South China Sea

The United States on Thursday extended support to the Philippines in opposing China's unilateral seasonal ban on fishing in the disputed South China Sea, reported AFP. The US State Department cited a 2016 ruling by a court in The Hague to criticise China's move. Notably, the court had rejected Beijing's claims as well as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, ratified by China. "The PRC's unilateral fishing moratorium in the South China Sea is inconsistent with the 2016 Arbitral Tribunal ruling and international law," State Department spokesman Ned Price wrote on Twitter.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/world/united-states-extends-support-to-philippines-in-criticising-chinas-fishing-ban-in-south-china-sea-article-91972785>

1 June 2022: World's largest naval exercises to include all 4 Quad nations and 5 South China Sea countries

The 2022 edition of the world's largest naval war games, the Rim of the Pacific exercises, will feature key US partners from around the globe, including India, Japan and Australia -- who have joined Washington in the Quad group -- and five nations bordering on the South China Sea, one of the world's most turbulent areas for military tensions. In total, the exercises, based in Honolulu and San Diego, will see military units from 26 countries participating from June 29 to August 4. They'll employ 38 surface ships, four submarines and 170 aircraft in the exercises, the US Navy's 3rd Fleet said in a statement on Tuesday. Around 25,000 personnel will participate, including ground troops from nine countries.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/05/31/politics/rimpac-navy-exercises-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>