

**The situation on the area with China's illegal drilling rig HD981  
within Vietnam's waters**

Presented by Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff of Viet Nam Maritime Police Ngo  
Ngoc Thu at the Press Briefing by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**I. On China**

1. Forty ships of different types protected the oil drilling rig HD 981 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. Until now, at 12:00 on May 07, 2014, China has mobilized 73 vessels at peak time, including seven naval ships: Anti-missile ship 534 Jianghu II and Fast attack Missile crafts 753, thirty-three Haikan coast guard ships, Haijian marine surveillance ships, fishery enforcement, transportation ships and fishing boats. Besides, dozens of aircraft groups operate above the area everyday. A group of Chinese armed fishery boats and military vessels entered the area of 50-60 nautical miles far from Ly Son island.

**2. China's acts on field**

When Vietnamese law enforcement vessels approached and intervened with the illegal intrusion of the oil rig HD 981, Chinese vessels, with the support of aircrafts, conducted aggressive actions such as head-on collision into Vietnamese vessels or using high-pressure water cannons to damage Vietnamese vessels and on-board equipment and injure personnel. At 8.10 on May 03, at coordinate 15 ° 31'N and 111° 02'E, ten nautical miles from the oil rig HD 981, Coast Guard Ship Haikan No. 44044 collided into the right side of the CSB 4033 Ship. As a result, the latter had its right side cracked 3 m in length and 1 m in width. The right engine and other equipment on board were completely damaged. (Please take a look at the image shown on the screen.)

At 8.30 on May 4, Ship Haikan No. 44103 collided into the left side of the CSB 2012 Ship. Since CSB 2012 sped up to avoid it, the crack was only 1m2 at the tail to the right; some equipment on board was damaged.

Chinese vessels not only collided with Vietnamese coast guard ships, but also hit and pumped water at dozens of ships of Vietnam Fishery Surveillance Force (VFSF) and other Vietnamese law enforcement agencies. Consequently, equipment on board was damaged and some sailors were injured.

At 12:00 today, Haikan ship No. 3411 conducted a collision into CSB 8003. China deployed aircraft No. 8321 into the airspace above CSB 8003 in order to put pressure on Vietnamese vessels.

All Chinese vessels equipped with weapons removed covers on guns and cannons so that they are ready to be used at any moment, causing enormous tension on field.

## **II. On Vietnamese law-enforcement forces**

They arrived promptly on site to exercise their right to examine and prevent the illegal intrusion of China's oil rig and the escort ships in Vietnamese waters. They gave signals requesting the oil rig and Chinese ships to withdraw from Vietnamese waters. During the process of law enforcement at sea, the Vietnamese competent forces have exercised restraint against aggressive and unreasonable actions committed by Chinese vessels. The Vietnamese law enforcement forces will persevere with safeguarding our sovereignty, sovereignty rights and jurisdiction over the Hoang Sa Archipelago and our Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf.

## **III. Analysis and assessment**

The illegal intrusion of oil rig HD 981 and Chinese ships at the Vietnamese waters

- The aggressive and unreasonable acts committed by Chinese vessels against Vietnamese vessels violated the sovereignty rights and jurisdiction of Vietnam over the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf of Vietnam. They seriously violated the Vietnamese laws and international laws and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea between ASEAN countries and China.
- The intruded area is situated on the international navigation route, crossing the Vietnamese Exclusive Economic Zone. Thus, the intrusion seriously threatens the maritime safety and security, negatively affecting countries in the region and the world at large.
- China's illegal act has negatively affected bilateral relations and high-level agreements between Vietnam and China, undermining the trust between the two countries and of the international community./.