

**The Vietnamese Community in Switzerland
The Switzerland Vietnam Friendship Association
Postfach 8164 , CH-8036 Zürich**

To:

**The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Bern, Switzerland
The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Zurich, Switzerland
The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations
Office and Other International Organization in Geneva, Switzerland**

Letter of Protest

Zürich, 20 May 2014

1. History clearly proves that any country wishing for prosperity and power through plunder and invasion is doomed to irreversible failure with a high price to pay for.

For centuries, European colonial system had spread the Earth, but it could not last forever against the legitimate burning desire for independence, sovereignty and integrity of peoples around the world.

Much earlier in history, the brutal rule stretching from Asia to Europe based on bloody invasion failed to prevent, if not precipitate, the bitter final fate of disintegration of the Mongol empire. This lets alone the ignominious defeats of the Mongol – Yuan dynasty in its attempts to invade the land and seas in East Asia belonging to the ancestors of Vietnamese, Indonesian and Japanese peoples. These defeats contributed to the Yuan dynasty's own downfall, paving the way to the liberation of Han people from Mongol rule.

2. *We, the civilised peoples of modern era*, together acknowledge and make it a law that the respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each and every country in the world is the foundation for peace, stability, security and shared prosperity.

Being a permanent member of the UN Security Council with veto power, the People's Republic of China should have been particularly responsible for maintaining peace and international security.

3. Regrettably, however, Chinese government's recent actions in Vietnam's East Sea (a.k.a. South China Sea) are illegal and irresponsible, by lodging China's Haiyang 981 oil rig deep into of Vietnam's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf without Vietnam's agreement, deploying naval ships to the area to support the illegally-placed oil rig, and attacking Vietnam's Coast Guards and fishermen while they are inside Vietnam's EEZ and legally carrying out their functions and activities, all this constitutes an extremely serious violation Vietnam's sovereignty rights and jurisdiction, the UNCLOS 1982 and the DOC 2002, *inter alia*, and, therefore, representing a threat to peace and stability of the region.

Using force, and without respect for international law and other sovereign country's legitimate interests, Chinese Government is now going down the road of plunder and invasion

for its selfish prosperity. As taught by history, it is no question that this strategy is a fatal mistake made by the Chinese Government.

These illegal, unilateral and provocative actions will surely further push countries having legitimate interests in South China Sea away from, and into opposition to, China. They are not only claimants such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Taiwan, but also beneficiaries of free and safe sea lanes of communication, and of a peaceful, stable and prosperous region of East Asia, such as the US, Japan, Australia, Korea, if not all members of the international community.

With all respect for the Chinese glorious civilization, and sentiments towards the Chinese people, the international community these days is in unity, urging the Chinese government to abandon its savage strategy of plunder and invasion, and to pursue diplomacy instead, which is the only way to solve the disputes in our East Sea.

Joining the voice of the international community, we, who represent the Vietnamese Community in Switzerland and Switzerland- Vietnam Friendship Association, officially oppose to and protest against the unlawful acts of the Government of the People's Republic of China over Vietnam's East Sea.

We demand most vehemently the Government of the People's Republic of China to:

- 1. Withdraw, immediately and unconditionally, the Haiyang 981 oil rig and all the escorting ships out of the EEZ and continental shelf of Viet Nam; and commit not ever to violate Vietnam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as recognised by international law;**
- 2. Comply in full with the UNCLOS 1982 and strictly implement the DOC 2002, to both of which China is a party or signatory.**
- 3. Resort only to diplomacy in addressing all disputes in the Viet Nam's East Sea .**

With kind regards and greetings,

Dung Trümpy-Nguyen
Representative of Vietnamese Community in Switzerland



Anjuska Weil
President of Switzerland-Vietnam Friendship Association

