

China Coast Guard uses Water Cannons against Philippine Vessels

August 6, 2023: The Philippines on Sunday condemned China Coast Guard latest string of incidents in the disputed waters, **the third incident this year** where they used water cannons against its vessels heading for a resupply mission of its men in the West Philippine Sea.



China Coast Guard blocks Philippine Vessel in South China Seas

(<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/08/china-coast-guard-uses-water-cannons-against-philippine-vessels/>)

The Tweet (given on the next page in Appendix 1) by Commodore Jay Tarriela, a spokesperson of the **Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)** points out the aggressiveness of China in West Philippine Sea (called as South China Sea by China).

PCG vessels were carrying supplies to the military garrison, stationed in Ayungin Shoal, also known as Second Thomas Shoal (called as Renai Reef by China), in the Spratly Islands chain (called as Nansha Islands by China). Some China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels blocked the path of the Philippine Naval vessels and attacked them with water cannon.

Beijing has claims over the entire 1.3 million square mile South China Sea and most of the islands, including the Spratlys, an archipelago consisting of 100 small islands and reefs. Some of the islands and reefs in the Spratlys are claimed by the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also.

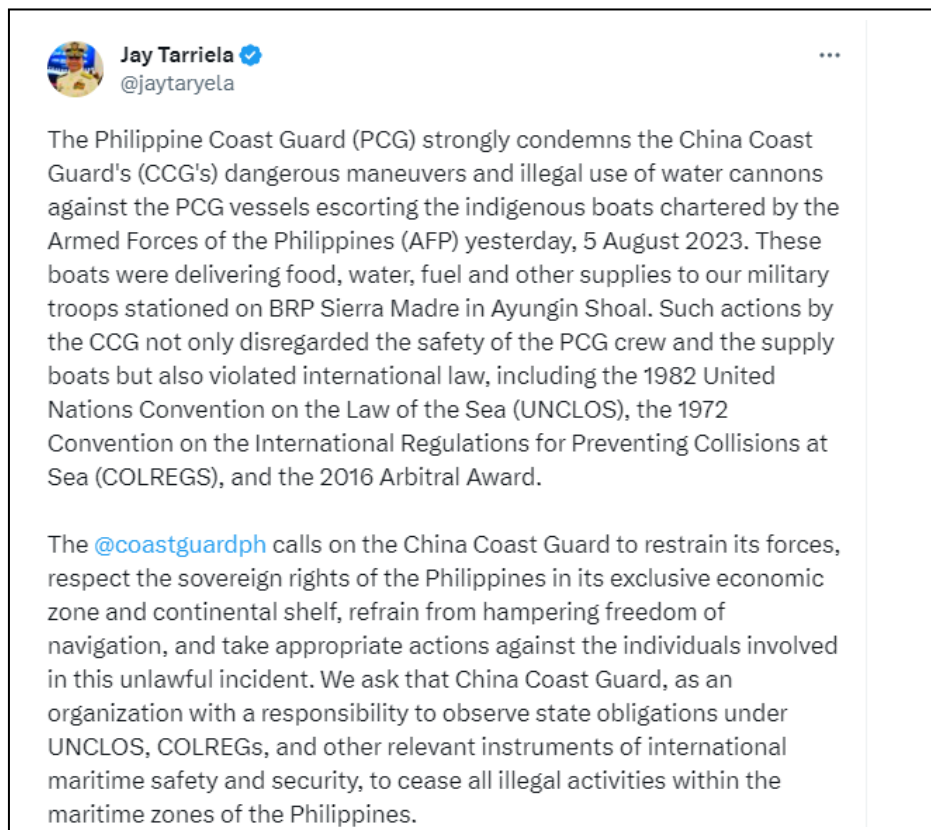
Gan Yu, a spokesman of CCG, re-iterated China's territorial claims on the Ayungin Shoal and the West Philippine Sea. Gan Yu said that CCG "implemented

the necessary controls in accordance with the law and prevented the Philippine vessels carrying the illegal construction materials”. The spokesman urged the Philippine side to “immediately stop its infringing activities in that maritime area”.

The US State Department voiced US support for the Philippines and called on China to respect the freedom of navigation. “(China) has no lawful claim to the maritime area around Second Thomas Shoal,” it said in a statement published on 5th August 2023.

Philippines has been wavering between its attempts “to garner the support of USA and others” and “to placate China” so that China accepts the judgement of the International Court of Justice, which found Philippine’s claims on the islands and seas (claimed by China also) to be just.

----APPENDIX 1: Tweet by Philippine’s Spokesman ----



Note: Similar trespasses by Chinese vessels in the waters within Philippine’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) were reported by Asia News on March 31, 2023 at <https://asianews.network/china-big-brother-ships-confronted-by-philippine-coast-guard/>