

# ► Philippine personnel pointing guns at CCG cannot be justified: analyst Manila's provocations on Ren'ai Jiao 'dangerous'

By GT staff reporters

The provocative behavior of Philippine personnel pointing guns at the China Coast Guard (CCG) captured in on-site videos cannot be justified, regardless of any post-event explanations provided by Philippine military leadership, Chinese experts said.

Experts also said that the recent provocations by the Philippines against China's Ren'ai Jiao (also known as Ren'ai Reef) are a deliberate attempt to influence China's decision-making and mislead the international community.

According to CGTN on Sunday, the Philippines conducted

an air drop to supply the illegally grounded warship at Ren'ai Jiao on May 19.

When the CCG responded in accordance with the law and regulations, they found that at least two individuals on the grounded Philippine military vessel were pointing guns in the CCG's direction, per footage released by CGTN.

However, Philippine military officials "denied" this on Tuesday, claiming that their troops only "held on to their weapons" after the CCG boats "came very close," and they did not "point their guns at them," Reuters reported.

The Philippine military chief also claimed that the CCG



"seized one of four food packs dropped by a plane for Filipino navy personnel," according to ABC News.

"Inspecting the airdropped supplies from the Philippines is a normal part of the Chinese law enforcement officers' maritime law enforcement duties, as well as a necessary measure to uphold the status quo of Ren'ai Jiao as an uninhabited island reef, in compliance with the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea," Yang Xiao, deputy director of the Institute of Maritime

Strategy Studies at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times.

Regarding the Philippine personnel pointing guns at the CCG, Yang stated that regardless of any post-event explanations provided by the Philippine military leadership, this provocative behavior captured in on-site videos cannot be justified.

A source close to the matter told the Global Times that the Philippines' claims that the "CCG seized their airdropped supplies" are aimed at diverting pressure from public opinion over the "Philippine personnel pointing guns at CCG" and

misleading the international community.

According to the on-site video released by the Xinhua News Agency on Tuesday, personnel from the illegally grounded Philippine navy transport ship damaged Chinese fishermen's nets in Ren'ai Jiao and the surrounding territorial sea.

Chen Xiangmiao, director of the World Navy Research Center at the same institute, told the Global Times on Wednesday that the recent provocations by the Philippines have shown a noticeable level of aggression, with the intention of influencing China's decision-making and increasing international pressure on China.

## ► Medical mission



**Chinese military doctors of the 22nd peacekeeping mission to Lebanon introduce the usage of Chinese medicines to local doctors on June 4, 2024. The medical staff conducted a free clinic service, providing local residents with examinations, diagnosis and health consultations. They also distributed more than 10 common medications to patients. Photo: VCG**

## Contradictory remarks show voter responses determine US' attitude toward Gaza war: experts

By GT staff reporters

Amid multiple parties attempting to restart talks on a Gaza truce, US President Joe Biden, in an interview with Time magazine published on Tuesday, suggested that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is prolonging the war to stay in power, but sought to walk back his suggestion later on the day when asked by reporters in Washington.

The contradictory remarks by the US leader must have come out of domestic political considerations, Chinese analysts said. The focus for the Biden administration right now is not how the war is going to go, but how domestic voters are going to respond, they said.

Asked whether Netanyahu was prolonging the war in Gaza in an effort to hold on to office, Biden said that he believed "there is every reason for people to draw that conclusion," in an interview with Time magazine that was conducted on May 28 but published Tuesday.

However, on Tuesday in Washington, Biden sought to walk back his suggestion that Netanyahu may be prolonging the war in Gaza due to his own political considerations, saying he did not think the Israeli leader was doing so, the New York Times reported.

Biden does not want to lose Arab American voters who usually call for a permanent ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence in Gaza, but at the same time, he is unwilling to displease voters who support Netanyahu, Zhu Weilie, director of the Middle East Studies Institute of the Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

In this context, analysts appear to be pessimistic toward a permanent ceasefire in Gaza in the near future, although multiple parties in the international community are working toward it.

An Egyptian security delegation is set to meet with Qatari and US counterparts in Doha on Wednesday in attempt to revive Gaza truce negotiations, Egyptian State TV and the state-affiliated Al-Qahera News TV channel reported on Tuesday, citing sources.

## US urged to earnestly abide by the one-China principle

By Liu Xin

China on Wednesday urged the US to fully recognize the dangerous ambition of "Taiwan independence" separatists, earnestly abide by the one-China principle, honor the commitment of not supporting "Taiwan independence," stop arming Taiwan and stop sending any wrong signal to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces in any form, after US President Joe Biden claimed that he does not rule out the possibility of using military force to "defend" Taiwan island.

Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and the Taiwan question is purely China's internal affair that brooks no external interference, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a press conference on Wednesday.

We urge the US to fully recognize the inherent nature and dangerous ambition of "Taiwan independence" separatists, earnestly abide by the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués, honor the commitment of not supporting "Taiwan independence," stop arming Taiwan and stop sending any wrong signal to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces in any form, Mao said.

On Tuesday, Time Magazine published an interview with Biden in which the US president said he "doesn't rule out" sending troops to "defend" Taiwan island if the Chinese mainland attacks, noting that this "would depend on the circumstances."

Biden's remarks expose the US' arrogance and indicate that some people in the US still needs to correct their distorted perceptions. Despite

election pressures, certain tough expressions to assert the so-called tough stance irresponsibly impact China-US relations, Diao Daming, a professor at the Renmin University of China in Beijing, told the Global Times.

China-US relations are crucial to both countries and the world. To advance bilateral relations, it is essential to establish the red line and correct the fundamental issues in China-US relations, beginning with correcting perceptions about China and establishing a solid foundation for dialogue, the expert said.

The recent collusion between separatist forces on Taiwan island and US politicians and arms contractors has raised concerns.

