

**To the Honourable President
and members of the Senate in Parliament assembled**

The petition of the undersigned shows:

(a) that the People's Republic of China has heightened the risks of war in South East Asia by its latest unilateral and provocative installation in mid 2014, of its oil rigs including the *Haiyang Shiyou 981* within Vietnam's Exclusive Economic Zone, as part of China's unsubstantiated 9 dash line claim of more than 90% of Bien Dong (East Sea) aka the South China Sea (SCS by China); and

(b) that Australia's national interests as a trading nation are at serious risks because the PRC's aggressive policy and practices are threatening peace and stability of the region.

Your petitioners ask that the Senate:

(1) reaffirm that Australia has legitimate interests in the Bien Dong/SCS disputes, as a regional power and a trading nation;

(2) declare that any unilateral action to change the status quo, including on air navigation, by any claimant in the Bien Dong/SCS disputes is unacceptable;

(3) ask the PRC as an emerging major power in the Asia-Pacific region, to stop its current policy of hegemony;

(4) request all claimants to settle their disputes through peaceful negotiations in accordance with international laws including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and

(5) support the negotiations between the PRC and ASEAN for a binding Code of Conduct (COC) to replace the non-binding 2002 Declaration of Conduct (DOC).

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