
14 NATIONS AND THE EU REAFFIRM 2016 RULING INVALIDATING CHINA'S CLAIMS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

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Jim Gomez

The United States, the United Kingdom and a dozen other Western and Asian countries reasserted on Sunday that Chinas expansive claims in the South China Sea are illegal based on a 2016 arbitration ruling.

A joint statement issued by the 14 nations said they rejected destabilizing actions in the disputed waters that threaten regional stability. The 27-nation European Union released a separate statement, reaffirming the ruling as a landmark decision in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The statements commemorated a July 12, 2016, arbitration ruling by a tribunal established in The Hague under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, saying the landmark decision is is final and legally binding.

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