



FILIPINOS IN INDIA COMMUNITY
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DEAR SIR/MADAM;

The Filipinos In India Community (FIC) is adding its voice to the rest of the Philippine nation and the International Community in calling for a peaceful end to ongoing tensions with China over conflicting claims of the Scarborough Shoal located in Western Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Scarborough Shoal or known to the Chinese as HuangYan Dao (黄岩岛) and Panatag Shoal/Bajo De Masinloc to the Philippines is a ring-shaped coral reef or group of rocks and not an island like some people think.

The shoal is 874km from the nearest Chinese coast and only 229km from the Philippines. This is within 200 nautical miles (370km) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Philippine Continental Shelf.

The question of who owns the rocks is governed by the principles of public international law such as United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**).

As both China and Philippines claim the Shoal, it's just but rightful to bring the issue to a third party- **The International Court**. Philippine's Invitation to bring the issue to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (**ITLOS**), has been rejected by China. ITLOS is an International Court to settle dispute.

The Philippines exercises **FULL SOVEREIGNTY** and **JURISDICTION** over the rocks of Bajo de Masinloc, and sovereign rights over the waters and continental shelf where the said rocks features Bajo de Masinloc are situated.

The Philippines is hoping for a peaceful, non-war negotiation with China.

We, the FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN INDIA (FIC), join the Filipino Communities all over the World in protest over the encroachment of China on the Philippine jurisdiction.

Mabuhay Pilipinas! (Long Live Philippines!)

Sincerely yours,

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