

# **Danish Vietnamese Association**

## **Friendship, Culture and Development**

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## **Criticism of the Danish government's silence on the conflict in the South China Sea**

Danish Vietnamese Association urges the government to live up to its own objectives in foreign policy of peaceful solutions.

It is with great surprise that we have noted that Denmark and the Danish government remains passive and silent in the very serious differences that have arisen between China and several of its neighbours on the division of territorial waters.

Our surprise is not diminished by the fact that peaceful solutions to international conflicts is the basis Danish foreign policy is based on: "A key challenge for Danish foreign policy is to create an international community where the democratic rule of law principles, rules and where the relations between states follow legal procedures, which states resolve territorial and other disputes peacefully." (Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Recently, China has unilaterally decided to set up an oilrig in an area that lies in disputed territorial waters, as the Vietnamese government believes belong to Vietnam.

China has taken unilateral military action without negotiating the issue under UN conventions and international law. The United States has called this act of provocation. Vietnam has appealed to China to respect international conventions and contribute to a peaceful solution.

DVF supports the international efforts to persuade China to contribute to a peaceful solution within the framework of international law and UN conventions.

We must simultaneously send a strong call to the Danish Government to do the same.

*Sincerely,*

Danish Vietnamese Association

*Adopted at the board meeting Sunday, June 15, 2014*

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