

# US enters China claimed waterway

## Washington

**A**US aircraft carrier strike group is patrolling in the South China Sea, said the US Navy, days after Beijing told Washington not to challenge its sovereignty in the waterway.

China asserts ownership of almost all of the resource-rich waters despite rival claims from several Southeast Asian countries. It has rapidly built reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes.

The USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier group was engaging in "routine operations in the South China Sea," the navy said in a statement on its website.

It noted that the ships and aircraft had recently

conducted exercises off Hawaii and Guam to "maintain and improve their readiness and develop cohesion as a strike group."

"We are looking forward to demonstrating those capabilities while building upon existing strong relationships with our allies, partners and friends in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region," strike group commander Rear Admiral James Kilby said in the statement.

China's foreign ministry said ships and aircraft were allowed to operate in the area according to international law.

But Beijing "firmly opposes any country's attempt to undermine China's sovereignty and security in

the name of the freedom of navigation and overflight," spokesman Geng Shuang told journalists Wednesday, responding to reports that the Vinson was headed to the South China Sea.

"We also urge the US to refrain from challenging China's sovereignty and security and to respect regional countries' efforts to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea," he said.

Washington says it does not take sides in the territorial disputes but has several times sent warships and planes to assert freedom of navigation in the Sea, sparking protests from Beijing. - (AFP)

# Shooting of teen heads to Supreme Court

## Washington

**S**ergio Hernandez died at 15, shot dead by policeman Jesus Mesa. His would have been a story of American violence both tragic and banal if the victim had not been in Mexico and the shooter in the US.

The thorny legal question raised by the cross-border homicide heads to the US Supreme Court tomorrow.

At issue is whether the teen's family has the constitutional right to sue Mesa, a Border Patrol agent, in US courts.

The shooting occurred June 7, 2010. Hernandez was playing around with three friends in the dry riverbed of the Rio Grande that separates the Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez from its Texan neighbor El Paso.

The four friends were racing



Maria Guadalupe Guereca, cries while remembering her murdered son Sergio Hernandez

up the concrete embankment to touch the barbed-wire fence on the US side, and racing back down.

Their game bothered Mesa, who was patrolling the area. He shot Hernandez in the head, and he died just 60 feet from the border on Mexican soil.

The Border Patrol agent explained that Hernandez and his friends had refused to obey his order and had thrown rocks at him.

According to the family of the victim, the teen was shot while unarmed and presented no danger.

## #PollToday



Do you think it's tough to get a job in Bahrain?

Yes  No  Can't Say



We continue to hear news of violent clashes in Democratic Republic of Congo. I strongly feel the pain of the victims, especially the children ripped from their families and schools to be used as soldiers

Pope Francis

## Rest in sight

Turning 93, Mugabe rules out retirement



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, who turns 93, has no plans to give up power, saying he has no "acceptable" successor.

France blames cyberattacks on Moscow

Suspected Russian cyberattacks on the French presidential campaign are "unacceptable", said France's foreign minister, adding it was clear that pro-Europe candidate was being targeted.

Four dead as 'worse storm in years' buffets California

A devastating storm billed by forecasters as the worst to hit California in years pounded the southern half of the state, wreaking devastation that claimed four lives, authorities said.

One dead, 27 hurt in Belgium train derailment

One person died and 27 others were injured -- three of them seriously -- when a train derailed yesterday shortly after leaving a station east of Brussels, officials said.

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## Malaysia seeks N Korean fugitives in Kim killing

### Kuala Lumpur

**M**alaysian police said yesterday they believe five North Koreans were involved in the murder of the half-brother of leader Kim Jong-Un, with four having fled the country on the day of the killing.

Seoul said the announcement proved Pyongyang was behind the murder of Kim Jong-Nam, who died after being squirted in the face with an unidentified liquid at Kuala Lumpur Airport.

Four North Korean men were being sought over the killing, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Noor Rashid Ibrahim told reporters, in addition to their compatriot Ri Jong Chol who was arrested earlier.

Suspects Ri Ji Hyon, O



Noor Rashid Ibrahim

Jong Gil, Ri Jae Nam and Hong Song Sac, aged between 33 and 57, entered Malaysia in February or late January, the police chief said.

Three more North Koreans were wanted for questioning, he said.

Officers have already arrested one North Korean, an Indonesian woman and her Malaysian boyfriend, as well as a Vietnamese woman.

## Anti-coal protest sparks rare Thai junta climbdown

### Bangkok

**T**hailand's military government yesterday shelved plans to build a coal-fired power station in a popular beach region, a rare success for demonstrators in a country where the right to protest has been severely curbed.

Hundreds of protesters had gathered outside government offices in Bangkok since Friday to demonstrate against the junta's decision to approve an 800-megawatt coal plant on the coast of Krabi, a southern region renowned for its tropical beaches and steep limestone

hills.

Three protest leaders were detained on Saturday and held in a barracks prison but released on Sunday in a deal struck with authorities.

In a statement, government spokesman Lieutenant General Sansern Kaewkamnerd said the government had ordered a new environmental impact assessment to decide whether the plant should be built, reversing the cabinet's decision.

Protesters said they would end demonstration in response to the announcement.

## Pilgrims drown during Sri Lanka church fest

### Colombo

**A**t least 11 people including a child and five women drowned when an overcrowded boat carrying Christian pilgrims capsized in rough seas off Sri Lanka's southwest coast yesterday, police said.

The victims had set off in a parade of fishing boats from the tourist resort of Beruwala but halfway into their journey their craft overturned in choppy seas, police said.

"Other fishing boats and volunteers have been able to rescue 32 people, but we still do not have a count on the number of people on board,"



A man looks on after seeing the bodies of his family

said a police officer in the area.

He said searches by navy boats as well as aircraft were hampered by heavy winds and rain.

The boat parade came amid a warning from the meteorological department of winds up to 50 miles an hour.