

China urges U.S. to stop provocative actions

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Beijing: China on Saturday urged the United States to stop provocative actions following the flight of two B-52 bombers over the area near China's Nansha islands.

"China takes the incident seriously and has lodged solemn representation with the United States," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said in a press release.

Two U.S. bombers flew into the airspace near an island and reef of the Nansha Islands early on Dec. 10. Pentagon said the flight might have strayed off course due to weather and an investigation had been launched.

Hong said Chinese Defense Ministry responded to the incident early on Saturday. The Chinese military kept strict surveillance and remained on high alert for U.S. bombers' flight on Dec.10, and warned and expelled the bombers, he said.

According to Hong, the United States said it would investigate the incident.

It must be stressed that China has always respected and safeguarded every country's flight and navigation freedom around the world in line with international laws, Hong said.

"But we never allow anyone to infringe upon China's sovereignty and undermine China's security interests with the excuse of flight and navigation freedom," the spokesperson said.

"We once again urge the United States to seriously reflect upon and correct its mistakes, take effective measures to prevent similar dangerous and provocative actions, and stop any move that may undermine China's sovereignty and security interests and affect the peace and stability of South China Sea," Hong said.

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