# Confrontation Between Philippines and China in South China Sea Injures Navy Personnel



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**Location and Context**
A confrontation occurred between Chinese and Philippine forces at Second Thomas Shoal, known locally as Ayungin Shoal, in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. The incident took place on June 17, 2024, highlighting the ongoing territorial disputes in the region.

**Incident Details**
Philippine officials reported that eight navy personnel were injured during the clash, with one losing a thumb. Two rubber boats carrying supplies to the Philippine military outpost on the BRP Sierra Madre were intercepted by Chinese coast guard vessels. The Chinese personnel used knives and machetes to damage and confiscate equipment, including eight M4 rifles.

**Points of View**
The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs denounced China's actions as "illegal and aggressive," while the Chinese foreign ministry blamed the Philippines for trespassing and engaging in unprofessional maneuvers.

**Reactions and Aftermath**
The Philippines demanded that China return the seized equipment and pay for the damages. The United States reiterated its defense obligation to the Philippines under their mutual defense treaty, condemning China's actions. The incident adds to the tensions in the South China Sea, involving multiple countries with competing territorial claims.