# China's Ministry of State Security Cracks Down on Unauthorized Drone Use in Sensitive Areas



China's Ministry of State Security has escalated its efforts against unauthorized drone use in sensitive areas. In a recent directive, the ministry urged the public to report any suspicious drone activities and reminded drone operators to avoid leaking sensitive national information. Several incidents have highlighted the severity of the issue.

In November 2021, a military technology enthusiast, identified as Luo, used a high-definition camera-equipped drone to photograph a new type of warship. Luo shared the images on military forums and was subsequently sentenced to one year in prison, followed by one year of probation, for "illegally obtaining state secrets."

Another case involved Liu, an employee of an aerial survey agency, who used a drone without proper clearance to gather data from a confidential area. Liu was detained, though specific legal proceedings were not detailed.

Additionally, two company employees, Li and Zhang, faced criminal charges after they shared drone-collected data from a restricted military area via WeChat and cloud services.

New regulations, effective from the beginning of the year, mandate that UAV operators must secure licenses and obtain special permissions before flying drones in restricted airspaces, such as near airports, national borders, and protected facilities. Civilian drones engaged in surveying and mapping also require certification, and foreign-operated drones are prohibited from certain activities within China.

These measures aim to safeguard China's national security by curbing unauthorized access and potential leaks of sensitive information.