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## 70 activists target consulate

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Protesters picketed the Japanese Consulate-General in Central after hearing Japanese coastguard ships had surrounded the Diaoyu Tai.

At least 20 police were deployed to prevent the protesters forcing their way inside.

About 70 people from the 123 Democratic Alliance, the Action Committee for Defending the Diaoyu Islands, the Democratic Party and the Associa-

tion for Democracy and People's Livelihood joined the protest.

Legislator and action committee member Lau Chin-shek said the Japanese action had inflamed the situation.

"They are sending a clear message they are prepared to infringe the sovereignty of China," Mr Lau said. "It is an indication of the restoration of Japanese militarism."

A consulate official denied coastguards arrested two Hong Kongers at the Diaoyu Islands.