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MAXI J1659-152 has likely returned back into quiescence

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MAXI J1659-152 has likely returned back into quiescence

ATel #3506; *Y. J. Yang, R. Wijnands (University of Amsterdam)*

on 22 Jul 2011; 23:06 UT

Credential Certification: Rudy Wijnands (rudy@space.mit.edu)

Subjects: Optical, Ultra-Violet, X-ray, Binary, Black Hole, Transient

Referred to by ATel #: [3517](#), [3524](#)

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We report our most recent Swift observations of the black hole candidate MAXI J1659-152. After the observed re-brightening in May (ATels #[3298](#), #[3339](#), #[3379](#)), the source steadily decreased in luminosity.

Our recent three observations taken on 07-15 (~1.3 ks), 07-17 (~0.9 ks), and 07-19 (~1.2 ks) show that the source intensity has dropped significantly, indicating that the source might be quiescent again. However we can not exclude the possibility that the source might re-flare again like what it did earlier. We added three observations together and obtained ~6 source counts (0.3-10 keV, background subtracted). Using small number statistics described in Gehrels 1986 (ApJ, 303:336-346), we obtained a flux upper limit (0.5-10 keV) of $3.0e-13$ ergs cm⁻² s⁻¹ (assuming a NH of $3e21$ cm⁻² and a power law model with photon index 2). The luminosity upper limit is $1.8e33$ ergs/s (assuming a distance of 7 kpc, Kuulkers et al. 2011) or $0.9-6.3e32$ ergs/s (assuming $d=1.6-4.2$ kpc, ATel #[3358](#)).

The source was not detected in all UV/optical bands during all three observations. The obtained upper limits from the last observation are: $b > 19.34$; $m2 > 19.41$; $u > 18.99$; $v > 18.32$; $w1 > 19.20$ and $w2 > 19.81$.

We thank the Swift team for their prompt scheduling of these observations.

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