Interactive comment on “Exploring the atmospheric chemistry of nitrous acid (HONO) at a rural site in Southern China” by X. Li et al.

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The authors discuss in the introduction the possibility of HONO formation from excited NO2 with H2O, as reported by Li et al (2008).

Even though the authors exclude themselves this reaction as a major source of the observed HONO, we would point out our recent work showing clearly, that the observed OH radicals in the work of Li et al originate from a process involving at least 2 photons:

Therefore this reaction is of no importance for the atmosphere.

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