# US Approves $360 Million Arms Sale to Taiwan Amid Rising Tensions with China



The United States has approved a $360 million arms sale to Taiwan, a move anticipated to increase tensions with China. Announced on June 18, 2024, the sale includes 291 Altius 600M armed drones, 720 Switchblade missiles, and related missile equipment. This package aims to bolster Taiwan's defense and modernize its military capabilities.

The Biden administration justifies the sale as supporting U.S. national security interests by aiding Taiwan in maintaining a credible defense. This announcement comes amid escalated military activities by China around Taiwan, including significant exercises and frequent warplane flights.

Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te has described China's goal as annexing the island, which Beijing considers a part of its territory under the One China policy. The U.S. continues to support Taiwan's defense under the Taiwan Relations Act, necessitating the provision of defensive weaponry to the island.

China has criticized such arms deals, with Chinese Defense Minister Adm. Dong Jun condemning external interference at the Shangri-La Dialogue defense summit in Singapore earlier this month. Despite Beijing's objections, Taiwan expressed gratitude to the U.S. and committed to strengthening its defense capabilities.