# Protesters Rally Against Controversial Legislative Bill in Taiwan



Thousands of protesters gathered outside Taiwan's legislature in Taipei on May 21, 2024, opposing a proposed bill introduced by the Kuomintang (KMT) and Taiwan People’s Party (TPP). The legislation seeks to increase parliamentary scrutiny on the newly inaugurated administration of President Lai Ching-te, who took office on May 20.

Demonstrators, many of whom were young people, protested the bill that would penalize government officials for “contempt of parliament” if they provide false statements or refuse to supply requested documents. Critics argue the vague language of the bill could lead to abuses of power and undermine national security by forcing the disclosure of sensitive information.

The bill mandates that the president deliver an annual address to parliament on key policy issues. DPP supporters allege that the bill’s expedited passage lacks adequate discussion and transparency, while the opposition claims the reforms aim to enhance governmental accountability and fight corruption.

The assembly, consisting of around 30,000 participants, persisted into the night despite heavy rain. Protests outside the Legislative Yuan echoed sentiments from 2014’s Sunflower Movement, which famously opposed a trade deal with China.

Amid rising tensions, the legislature was marked by chaotic scenes, including an earlier physical altercation among lawmakers. President Lai and Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim, both from the DPP, express concerns about the bill's implications for democracy and security, while the KMT and TPP advocate for the reforms. Discussions on the bill are set to continue in the coming days.