# China Conducts Large-Scale Military Exercises Around Taiwan Amid Political Tensions



**China Conducts Extensive Military Drills Around Taiwan**

**Beijing, May 23, 2024** – China has initiated its largest military exercises in over a year around Taiwan, described as “punishment” for newly inaugurated Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te, who Beijing labels a "separatist." The exercises, which began Thursday morning without prior notice, will continue for two days and involve air and sea operations across multiple areas surrounding Taiwan.

The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) is conducting drills that include simulating an invasion, battlefield control, precision strikes on key targets, and joint operations. These exercises feature dozens of fighter jets carrying live missiles, naval ships, and missile forces. According to the PLA’s Eastern Theatre Command, the operations extend to the waters and airspace near Taiwan, involving locations like Kinmen, Matsu, Wuqiu, and Dongyin.

The drills come just three days after Lai Ching-te took office, urging Beijing in his inauguration speech to "accept the reality" of Taiwan and cease military threats. Lai emphasized that only Taiwan's people have the right to decide their future and reiterated offers for peace talks, which have been previously rebuffed by Beijing.

In response, Taiwan’s defense ministry condemned the exercises as irrational provocations that undermine regional stability. The ministry stated that it has dispatched naval and air forces to safeguard Taiwan’s sovereignty.

The drills are seen as a significant escalation following similar exercises in 2022 and 2023, demonstrating Beijing's aggressive stance towards Taiwan's newly elected administration.