

CCMP Statement on Pelosi's Visit to Taiwan

August 9, 2022



The Climate Crisis and Militarism Project of Veterans For Peace denounces House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's provocative trip to Taiwan. We call on the White House and State Department to apologize to China for unnecessarily escalating tension in the Asia-Pacific. In this region, the US maintains over 200 military bases, stations tens of thousands of troops, and conducts hundreds of military exercises to prepare for war against China.

Pelosi insisted on leading a congressional delegation to Taiwan on August 2nd as part of her swing through East Asia, including Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea. See her [press release](#) on the trip.

The Pentagon had warned Pelosi not to visit Taiwan, and President Biden had half-heartedly objected to the trip – while facilitating it with military transport, warships and fighter jet escort.

Certainly, Pelosi never held an open town hall meeting with constituents to see if they supported this trip. In fact, she has not held a town hall free of charge since January 2006. Her district includes most of San Francisco, which has a 21% population of Chinese Americans. One prominent leader of the Chinese American community, retired Judge Julie Tang, told the San Francisco Standard "...we are so disappointed that what she's doing is totally against the welfare and the well-being of the community - in particular Chinese Americans."

While Pelosi claimed she was visiting Taiwan to support human rights and democracy, Taiwan is no model of democracy: until 1992 it never held a democratic presidential election; the government now has shut down dissenting media including TV stations.

Consequences of Pelosi's trip came quick and hard to the region. The Chinese military has been conducting days of live-fire air and sea military drills around Taiwan, focusing on simulating a real attack and demonstrating their ability to blockade Taiwan. Sixty-six Chinese aircraft and 14 warships have been involved in the exercises including missile strikes into the ocean. Meanwhile, the Taiwanese military is responding with air recon patrols, live-fire drills, and attack helicopters, and the Pentagon has sent the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan into the waters near Taiwan.

All this military activity with its huge greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and risk of war resulted from Pelosi's reckless trip.

Moreover, the Chinese government has suspended climate talks with the US at a time when global cooperation around climate is desperately needed. Climate Envoy John Kerry barked on Twitter at the Chinese government:

Special Presidential Envoy John Kerry

@ClimateEnvoy Aug 5

“From day one, the United States has made clear that our climate engagement with the PRC should remain separate from the other tough issues our two countries face.”

Disrespect from the US affects the Chinese government’s negotiations and decisions, including on “climate engagement.” A more modest and regretful communication from Kerry would have helped. The US government must stop acting unilaterally and without regard for the perspectives of other nations. Reckless posturing and increased military maneuvers subvert collective efforts to thwart climate catastrophe.

Price tags of Pelosi’s jaunt to Taiwan:

- Security, presence of US military in the region: estimated \$90 million.
- GHG emissions: Millions of metric tons.
- Damage to international climate negotiations: Incalculable.
- Increased danger of war: Incalculable

We hope that a formal apology from the US government will lead to a resumption of urgently needed climate cooperation between the US and China.

Resources:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/aug/07/nancy-pelosi-taiwan-china-visit-military>
- <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/china-keeps-up-pressure-on-taiwan-with-fourth-day-of-live-fire-drills-01659904541>
- <https://apnews.com/article/taiwan-beijing-antony-blinken-nancy-pelosi-philippines-77cc1b2e8193a582cd04f0a38489b6a5>
- <https://www.newsweek.com/nancy-pelosis-taiwan-trip-sparks-protest-her-hometown-1730047>
- <https://sfstandard.com/politics/nancy-pelosi-trip-taiwan-china-war-activists/>
- <https://peacepivot.org/an-american-war-over-taiwan-island/>
- Robert Ross, Senior advisor, Institute for American Studies, on Pelosi’s Trip to Taiwan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7c84vXxRBj4>