

# China Vows to Defend Sovereignty Over Taiwan as Trump Unveils Security Strategy



Guo Jiakun, China's Foreign Office spokesperson, speaks to journalists.

BEIJING (Reuters) - China on Monday pledged to defend its sovereignty and warned against “external interference” after the U.S. unveiled a new security strategy aimed at building up military power to deter conflict with Beijing over Taiwan.

Washington laid out its approach to one of the world’s most sensitive diplomatic issues in its official National Security Strategy released on Friday.

The document came as Beijing last week deployed a large number of naval and coast guard vessels across East Asian waters in its largest show of maritime force to date.

Taiwan is the first red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations and China brooks no external interference, Guo Jiakun, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, told reporters in Beijing when asked about the document.

“The U.S. side should ... handle the Taiwan question with the utmost prudence, and stop indulging and supporting ‘Taiwan independence’ separatist forces in seeking independence by force or resisting reunification by force,” he said.

Guo added that China was willing to work with Washington to promote stable ties while safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests.

A Chinese carrier strike group launched intense air operations near Japan over the weekend as the East Asian neighbors traded diplomatic barbs in an escalating dispute, further straining ties.

The encounters in waters close to Japan’s southwest island chain come after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi warned last month that Tokyo could respond to any Chinese military action against Taiwan that also threatened Japan’s security.

On the weekend, China’s Liaoning aircraft carrier conducted about 100 take-offs and landings as it sailed east into the Pacific Ocean past the Okinawa Islands, Japan’s Self-Defense Forces said on Monday.

## Japaneses Rally Against Takaichi’s Erroneous Remarks Regarding China’s Taiwan



Participants hold signs read “Remove Yokosuka Base” and “Remove Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier”.

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japanese citizens and social groups have held rallies in Yokosuka City, demanding that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi retract her erroneous remarks regarding China’s Taiwan region, and opposing her plans to expand the military.

At a Diet meeting on Nov 7, Takaichi claimed that the Chinese mainland’s “use of force on Taiwan” could constitute a “survival-threatening situation” for Japan and implied the possibility of armed intervention in the Taiwan

Straits, which has immediately sparked strong criticism from home and abroad.

Nearly 100 Japanese citizens gathered in front of a station in downtown Yokosuka to condemn Takaichi’s erroneous remarks.

“As I just said, Takaichi’s remarks constitute interference in China’s internal affairs. Taiwan is an inseparable part of China’s territory, which is a well-established fact,” said Harada Akihiro, convener of the rally.

“Takaichi’s remarks are in nature advocating for the exercise of the right

to collective self-defense, which must absolutely not be allowed,” said a participant.

Participants in the rally also held signs that read “Remove Yokosuka Base” and “Remove Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier” in protest against the presence of the U.S. naval base in the area.

On the same day, another group of Japanese citizens and social groups rallied in the city to express their concerns and opposition to the government’s military buildup and expansion plans.

“I am deeply disturbed by the various statements made by the Takaichi Cabinet regarding the ‘Three Non-Nuclear Principles.’ Anyway, I hope Japan will adhere to the principles,” said a participant of the rally.

“Japan’s military spending continues to increase while social security contributions are being cut. I oppose this stance, as we are not paying taxes to fund military expansion,” said another participant.

The Three Non-Nuclear Principles -- not possessing, not producing, and not allowing the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japanese territory -- were first declared in the Diet, Japan’s parliament, by then Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato in 1967 and have been viewed as a national credo.

## Thailand Launches Airstrikes on Cambodia as Trump’s Peace Agreement Hangs in Balance

BANGKOK (AP) - Thailand launched airstrikes against Cambodia on Monday as a new wave of fighting erupted between the southeast Asian neighbors, leaving a peace plan presided over by U.S. President Donald Trump just two months ago in danger of collapse.

Both sides accused the other of launching strikes along their disputed border in the early morning hours, after weeks of simmering tension and the earlier suspension of progress on the ceasefire agreement by Thailand.

The two nations have repeatedly fought brief border skirmishes in recent decades, with a deadly five-day conflict in July leaving dozens dead and displacing about 200,000 on both sides of the frontier.

Thailand’s Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said the country “never wished to see violence,” but would “not allow the violation of its sovereignty.”

Additional military action would be decided “according to the conditions of the situation,” he said, in apparent reference to further aggression from Cambodia.

Thailand’s foreign ministry spokesperson Nikorndej Balankura said later Monday that military action would continue until Thailand’s sovereignty and territorial integrity “are not being

compromised.”

“Thailand’s position, including military action, will remain unchanged until Cambodia changes its stance and pursue path of peace,” he said.

Cambodia’s defense ministry condemned the Thai strikes, insisting it remained committed to implementing the previous ceasefire.

Thailand’s army said Monday’s airstrikes targeted Cambodian military infrastructure, and were retaliation for an attack earlier on Monday that killed a Thai soldier and injured seven people.

“The target was at Cambodia’s arms supporting positions in the area of Chong An Ma Pass,” said army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Winthai Suvarere, who accused Cambodia of using “artilleries and mortar launchers to attack the Thai side at Anupong Base.”

Cambodia began targeting the Thai border at around 3 a.m. local time, mobilizing heavy weapons and repositioning combat units, Thai military officials claimed. The Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) called them “activities that could escalate military operations and pose a threat to the Thai border area.”

But Cambodia’s Ministry of National Defense denied the Thai allegations, calling it “false information”

in a statement.

The Cambodian army accused Thailand of launching “an attack” on its forces at around 5.04 a.m. local time. “It should be noted that this attack occurred after the Thai forces engaged in numerous provocative actions for many days,” it said.

The defense ministry said it “did not retaliate at all.”

Spokesperson Maly Socheata later accused Thai forces of burning homes, causing injuries and “prompting people to flee” from border villages in the northern provinces of Oddar Meanchey and in Preah Vihear.

At least four Cambodian civilians have been killed and several others injured in the two provinces, Cambodian Minister of Information Neth Pheaktra said in a Facebook post Monday. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced, he added.

Thailand began evacuating civilians from affected border towns on Sunday, with about 70% already moved, according to its army. Nearly 400,000 people have evacuated to temporary shelters, Nikorndej said.

Following the flare-up earlier this year, which was the most serious fighting in years, an initial ceasefire between the two sides was agreed on July 28 after Trump held calls with their respective leaders.-

## EU Chief Says Europe Cannot Accept U.S. ‘Threat to Interfere’



European Union council president Antonio Costa on Monday rejected any attempt by the United States to meddle in Europe’s politics.

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - European Council president Antonio Costa on Monday rejected any attempt by the United States to meddle in Europe’s politics, after Washington published a new security strategy sharply criticizing the continent’s policies.

“What we cannot accept is the threat to interfere in European politics,” Costa told a conference in Brussels.

The new U.S. National Security Strategy, released last week, saw President Donald Trump lambast Europe as an over-regulated, censorious continent lacking in “self-confidence” and facing “civilizational erasure” due to immigration.

The strategy made clear that the United States under Trump would aggressively pursue similar objectives in Europe, in line with the agendas of far-right parties.

It said the administration would be “cultivating resistance to Europe’s current trajectory within European nations.”

“The United States cannot replace European citizens in choosing which parties are good and which are bad,”

Costa said.

“The United States cannot replace Europe in what’s its vision is of freedom of expression.”

Costa, who as council president chairs summits of the bloc’s 27 national leaders, said that there were long-standing differences with the Trump administration on issues such as climate change, but the new strategy “goes beyond that.”

“This strategy continues to talk about Europe as an ally. That’s fine, but if we are allies, we must act as allies,” he said.

“The United States remains an important ally, the United States remains an important economic partner, but Europe must be sovereign.”

Costa said that the fact Russia had welcomed Washington’s new outlook as “largely consistent” with its own vision was a worrying sign.

He said that the approach to the war in Ukraine laid out in the strategy did not support seeking the “just and durable” peace as Europe has long advocated.

“It is only for the end of confrontations and stable relations with Russia,” he said.

## Farmers Escalate Nationwide Protests Across Greece With Road, Port Blockades



Farmers overturn a police vehicle during clashes with officers blocking their march to Chania’s airport on Crete, Greece, Monday, Dec. 8, 2025, amid protests over delayed EU farm subsidies.

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Enraged farmers protesting delays in the payment of subsidies swarmed onto the apron area of the international airport on the southern Greek island of Crete on Monday, managing to evade riot police who used tear gas and stun grenades to keep them back.

Images from local media showed dozens of farmers standing on the apron at the Nikos Kazantzakis international airport in Heraklion, the main town in Crete, forcing the airport to suspend all flights.

Clashes also broke out near the airport of Crete’s second-largest city, Chania, with riot police using tear gas to disperse protesting farmers who pelted them with rocks and overturned a police patrol car, local media reported. Two people were reportedly injured in Chania.

The clashes in Crete are the latest escalation in farmer protests over delays in the payment of European Union-backed agricultural subsidies in the wake of a scandal which revealed fraudulent subsidy claims.

Irate farmers have deployed thousands of tractors and other agricultural vehicles at border crossings and key points along highways across the country, periodically stopping traffic and threatening to completely blockade roads, as well as ports and airports.

On Friday, riot police fired tear gas at protesting farmers attempting to block the main access road to the international airport outside the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki.

Police have been enforcing traffic diversions in several parts of northern and central Greece to skirt the blockades, while farmer roadblocks at the country’s northern borders with Bulgaria, Turkey and North Macedonia have already hampered truck traffic, causing long backup lines of freight vehicles.

The payment delays have come as authorities review all requests following revelations of widespread fraudulent claims for EU farm subsidies. Protesters have argued that the delays amount to collective punishment, leaving honest farmers in debt and unable to plant their fields for next season. Greece’s farming sector has also been hit this year by an outbreak of goat and sheep pox that led to a mass cull of livestock.

Michalis Chrisochoidis, the minister for public order, said last week that the government remained open to talks with protest leaders, but warned that it wouldn’t tolerate the shutdown of major transit points.

Protests by farmers are common in Greece, and similar blockades in the past have sometimes severed all road traffic between the north and south of the country for weeks.

The subsidy scandal prompted the resignation of five senior government officials in June, and the phased shutdown of a state agency that handled agricultural subsidies. Dozens of people have been arrested for allegedly filing false claims, in response to an investigation led by the European Public Prosecutor’s Office.

## News in Brief

**LONDON/KYIV (Reuters) - The leaders of France, Germany and Britain staged a strong show of support for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in London on Monday at what they described as a “crucial time” for Kyiv, under U.S. pressure to agree a proposed peace deal with Russia. At a hastily arranged meeting, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Zelensky said they wanted to come up with firm plans in case of a peace deal.**

\*\*\*

**BRUSSELS (AFP) - EU countries on Monday approved a significant tightening of Europe’s immigration policy, including endorsing the concept of setting up “return hubs” for migrants outside the 27-nation bloc. Fearful of far-right parties making gains at the ballot box, governments across Europe are scrambling to take a tougher stance. Interior ministers meeting in Brussels will vote for the first time on a series of measures presented this year by the bloc’s executive to more strictly regulate the arrival and return of migrants.**

\*\*\*

**WASHINGTON (TASS) – U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed disappointment with Vladimir Zelensky, who has not yet read the draft peace proposal prepared by the U.S. administration to resolve the conflict in Ukraine. “I have to say I’m a little bit disappointed that Zelensky has not yet read the proposal,” he told reporters at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He added that he was not sure whether Zelensky was fine with the agreement Washington had proposed, adding that someone will have to explain why Zelensky had not yet reviewed the details of the deal.**

\*\*\*

**PARIS (AFP) - A water leak in late November damaged several hundred works in the Louvre’s Egyptian department, the Paris museum told AFP on Sunday, weeks after a brazen jewel theft raised concerns over its infrastructure. “Between 300 and 400 works” were affected by the leak discovered on November 26, said the museum’s deputy administrator Francis Steinbock, describing them as “Egyptology journals” and “scientific documentation” used by researchers. The damaged items date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and are “extremely useful” but are “by no means unique”, Steinbock added.**

\*\*\*

**UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United Nations on Monday hit out at global “apathy” over widespread suffering as it launched its 2026 appeal for humanitarian assistance, which is limited in scope as aid operations confront major funding cuts. “This is a time of brutality, impunity and indifference,” UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher told reporters, condemning “the ferocity and the intensity of the killing, the complete disregard for international law, horrific levels of sexual violence” he had seen on the ground in 2025. “This is a time when the rules are in retreat, when the scaffolding of coexistence is under sustained attack, when our survival antennae have been numbed by distraction and corroded by apathy,” he said.**

\*\*\*

**SYDNEY (Reuters) - An Australian firefighter was killed overnight after he was struck by a tree while trying to control a bushfire that had destroyed homes and burnt large swathes of bushland north of Sydney, authorities said on Monday. Emergency crews rushed to bushland near the rural town of Bulahdelah, 200 kilometers north of Sydney, after reports that a tree had fallen on a man. The 59-year-old suffered a cardiac arrest and died at the scene, officials said. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the “terrible news is a somber reminder” of the dangers faced by emergency services personnel as they work to protect homes and families.**