
**CHINA LAUNCHES MAJOR MILITARY DRILLS AROUND TAIWAN IN WARNING AGAINST
'EXTERNAL FORCES'**

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Islamuddin Sajid and Riyaz ul Khaliq

China launched joint military drills Monday around Taiwan in a stern warning against "Taiwan independence separatist forces" and "external interference," according to state-run media.

The Eastern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) dispatched fighter jets, bombers and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in coordination with long-range rocket forces to conduct drills code-named "Justice Mission 2025" in the Taiwan Strait and areas to the north, southwest, southeast and east of Taiwan Island, Xinhua news agency reported, citing Shi Yi, a spokesperson for the theater command.

The exercises are focused on striking mobile ground targets and aim to test the PLAs ability to conduct precise attacks on key objectives under joint operational conditions, Shi said.

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