Nancy Pelosi: Why I’m leading a congressional delegation to Taiwan

Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, is speaker of the House of Representatives.

Some 43 years ago, the United States Congress overwhelmingly passed — and President Jimmy Carter signed into law — the Taiwan Relations Act, one of the most important pillars of U.S. foreign policy in the Asia Pacific.

The Taiwan Relations Act set out America’s commitment to a democratic Taiwan, providing the framework for an economic and diplomatic relationship that would quickly flourish into a key partnership. It fostered a deep friendship rooted in shared interests and values: self-determination and self-government, democracy and freedom, human dignity and human rights.

And it made a solemn vow by the United States to support the defense of Taiwan: “to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means … a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States.”

Today, America must remember that vow. We must stand by Taiwan, which is an island of resilience. Taiwan is a leader in governance: currently, in addressing the covid-19 pandemic and championing environmental conservation and climate action. It is a leader in peace, security and economic dynamism: with an entrepreneurial spirit, culture of innovation and technological prowess that are envies of the world.

Yet, disturbingly, this vibrant, robust democracy — named one of the freest in the world by Freedom House and proudly led by a woman, President Tsai Ing-wen — is under threat.

In recent years, Beijing has dramatically intensified tensions with Taiwan. The People’s Republic of China (PRC) has ramped up patrols of bombers, fighter jets and surveillance aircraft near and even over Taiwan’s air defense zone, leading the U.S. Defense Department to conclude that China’s army is “likely preparing for a contingency to unify Taiwan with the PRC by force.”

The PRC has also taken the fight into cyberspace, launching scores of attacks on Taiwan government agencies each day. At the same time, Beijing is squeezing Taiwan economically, pressuring global corporations to cut ties with the island, intimidating countries that cooperate with Taiwan, and clamping down on tourism from the PRC.

In the face of the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) accelerating aggression, our congressional delegation’s visit should be seen as an unequivocal statement that America stands with Taiwan, our democratic partner, as it defends itself and its freedom.

Our visit — one of several congressional delegations to the island — in no way contradicts the long-standing one-China policy, guided by the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the U.S.-China Joint Communiques and the Six Assurances. The United States continues to oppose unilateral efforts to change the status quo.

Our visit is part of our broader trip to the Pacific — including Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan — focused on mutual security, economic partnership and democratic governance. Our discussions with our Taiwanese partners will focus on reaffirming our support for the island and promoting our shared interests, including advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific region. America’s solidarity with Taiwan is more important today than ever — not only to the 23 million people of the island but also to millions of others oppressed and menaced by the PRC.

Thirty years ago, I traveled in a bipartisan congressional delegation to China, where, in Tiananmen Square, we unfurled a black-and-white banner that read, “To those who died for democracy in China.” Uniformed police pursued us as we left the square. Since then, Beijing’s abysmal human rights record and disregard for the rule of law continue, as President Xi Jinping tightens his grip on power.

The CCP’s brutal crackdown against Hong Kong’s political freedoms and human rights — even arresting Catholic Cardinal Joseph Zen — cast the promises of “one-country, two-systems” into the dustbin. In Tibet, the CCP has long led a campaign to erase the Tibetan people’s language, culture, religion and identity. In Xinjiang, Beijing is perpetrating genocide against Muslim Uyghurs and other minorities. And throughout the mainland, the CCP continues to target and arrest activists, religious-freedom leaders and others who dare to defy the regime.

We cannot stand by as the CCP proceeds to threaten Taiwan — and democracy itself.

Indeed, we take this trip at a time when the world faces a choice between autocracy and democracy. As Russia wages its premeditated, illegal war against Ukraine, killing thousands of innocents — even children — it is essential that America and our allies make clear that we never give in to autocrats.

When I led a congressional delegation to Kyiv in April — the highest-level U.S. visit to the besieged nation — I conveyed to President Volodymyr Zelensky that we admired his people’s defense of democracy for Ukraine and for democracy worldwide.

By traveling to Taiwan, we honor our commitment to democracy: reaffirming that the freedoms of Taiwan — and all democracies — must be respected.

南希-佩洛西。我为什么要率领一个国会代表团去台湾？

来自加利福尼亚的民主党人南希-佩洛西是众议院议长。

大约43年前，美国国会以压倒性优势通过了《台湾关系法》，并由吉米-卡特总统签署成为法律，这是美国在亚太地区外交政策的最重要支柱之一。

台湾关系法》规定了美国对一个民主的台湾的承诺，为一种经济和外交关系提供了框架，这种关系将迅速发展成为一种重要的伙伴关系。它促进了植根于共同利益和价值观的深厚友谊：自决和自治、民主和自由、人类尊严和人权。

它使美国庄严宣誓支持台湾的防御。"认为任何以和平手段以外的方式决定台湾未来的努力......都是对西太平洋地区和平与安全的威胁，是美国的严重关切"。

今天，美国必须记住这个誓言。我们必须站在台湾一边，它是一个有弹性的岛屿。台湾在治理方面是一个领导者：目前，在解决covid-19大流行病和倡导环境保护和气候行动方面。它是和平、安全和经济活力的领导者：它的创业精神、创新文化和技术实力令世界羡慕。

然而，令人不安的是，这个充满活力、健全的民主国家--被自由之家评为世界上最自由的国家之一，并由一位女性总统蔡英文自豪地领导--正受到威胁。

近年来，北京急剧加剧了与台湾的紧张关系。中华人民共和国（PRC）加强了轰炸机、战斗机和侦察机在台湾防空区附近甚至上空的巡逻，导致美国国防部得出结论，中国军队 "很可能在为以武力统一台湾的应急措施做准备"。

中国还将斗争带入网络空间，每天对台湾政府机构发起数十次攻击。同时，北京在经济上挤压台湾，迫使全球企业切断与该岛的联系，恐吓与台湾合作的国家，并压制来自中国的旅游业。

面对中国共产党的加速侵略，我们的国会代表团的访问应被视为一个明确的声明，即美国与我们的民主伙伴台湾站在一起，因为它正在捍卫自己和它的自由。

我们的访问--几个国会代表团对该岛的访问之一--绝不违背在1979年《台湾关系法》、美中联合公报和六项保证指导下的长期的一个中国政策。美国继续反对改变现状的单边努力。

我们的访问是我们更广泛的太平洋之行的一部分--包括新加坡、马来西亚、韩国和日本--重点是相互安全、经济伙伴关系和民主治理。我们与台湾伙伴的讨论将集中在重申我们对该岛的支持和促进我们的共同利益，包括推进一个自由和开放的印度-太平洋地区。美国对台湾的声援今天比以往任何时候都更重要--不仅对该岛的2300万人民，而且对受到中华人民共和国压迫和威胁的数百万其他人。

30年前，我参加了一个两党组成的国会代表团前往中国，在天安门广场，我们展开了一条黑白横幅，上面写着："献给那些为中国民主而牺牲的人。"当我们离开广场时，穿制服的警察追赶我们。自那时起，北京糟糕的人权记录和对法治的漠视继续存在，习近平主席加紧了对权力的控制。

中共对香港的政治自由和人权进行了残酷的镇压--甚至逮捕了天主教的陈日君枢机主教--将 "一国两制 "的承诺扔进了垃圾堆。在西藏，中国共产党长期以来一直领导着一场抹杀西藏人民的语言、文化、宗教和身份的运动。在新疆，北京正在对维吾尔族穆斯林和其他少数民族实施种族灭绝。在整个大陆，中共继续针对并逮捕活动家、宗教自由领袖和其他敢于反抗政权的人。

我们不能坐视中共继续威胁台湾--以及民主本身。

事实上，我们此行是在世界面临专制与民主的选择时进行的。在俄罗斯对乌克兰发动有预谋的非法战争，杀害数以千计的无辜者--甚至是儿童--的时候，美国和我们的盟友必须明确表示，我们永远不会向专制者屈服。

当我在4月率领一个国会代表团前往基辅时--这是美国对这个被围困的国家的最高级别访问--我向沃洛基米尔-泽伦斯基总统转达，我们钦佩他的人民为乌克兰和全世界的民主所做的辩护。

通过前往台湾，我们履行了对民主的承诺：重申台湾--以及所有民主国家的自由必须得到尊重。