



Hustling in Lagos to 'survive in hell'

## 'We have nothing': Iraqi protesters voice anger, hope

# ASEAN urge restraint after Pelosi visit

## 'Those who play with fire will not come to a good end'

### Pelosi's visit: A serious violation in int'l relations

In disregard of China's strong opposition and serious representations, Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi visited China's Taiwan region. This move seriously violates the one-China principle, maliciously infringes on China's sovereignty and blatantly engages in political provocations, which has aroused strong indignation among the Chinese people. The Chinese people will never accept such moves, and all peace-loving countries that stood up for justice in the world will also sniff at such unwarranted provocation.

There is but one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. This has been clearly recognized by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 of 1971. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, 181 countries have established diplomatic relations with China on the basis of the one-China principle. The one-China principle is a universal consensus of the international community and a basic norm in international relations, the political foundation for China's relations with other countries, the core of China's core interests, and a red line and bottom line that cannot be crossed.

The Taiwan question is the most important and most sensitive issue at the very heart of China-US relations. The Taiwan Strait is facing a new round of tensions and severe challenges, and the fundamental cause is the repeated moves by the Taiwan authorities and the United States to change the status quo. The Taiwan authorities have kept seeking US support for their independence agenda. They refuse to recognize the 1992 Consensus, go all out to push forward "de-sinicization", and promote "incremental independence". The US has made solemn commitments on the Taiwan question, but in fact, it has been stepping up its official exchanges with Taiwan, and emboldening "Taiwan independence" separatist activities, attempting to use Taiwan to contain China, which seriously undermines peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. These moves, like playing with fire, are extremely dangerous. Those who play with fire will perish by it. The US side's act in bad faith on the Taiwan question is despicable and will only further bankrupt the United States' national credibility. The US has shown the world what a bully it is. This will only make people of all countries see more clearly that the United States is the biggest destroyer of peace today.

The position of the Chinese government and people on the Taiwan question is consistent, and resolutely safeguarding China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity is the firm will of the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people. China must be reunified, and will surely be reunified. This is an irresistible historical trend. Any attempt to obstruct China's complete reunification and great national rejuvenation is doomed to fail. The Chinese government and the Chinese people have taken and will continue to take resolute and forceful measures to firmly safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests.

Kuwait is the first Gulf Arab country to establish diplomatic relations with China. Since 1971, the Kuwaiti government has clearly adhered to the one-China principle, which has been highly appreciated by the Chinese government and people. We believe that with the support of friendly and just countries, including Kuwait, the one-China principle will surely be upheld, international relations norms such as non-interference in internal affairs will surely be proclaimed, and justice will eventually prevail over power politics.

(Zhang Jianwei, Ambassador of China to Kuwait)

PHNOM PENH: Southeast Asian nations Wednesday urged restraint over Taiwan after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island prompted an enraged China to vow "punishment". Pelosi's dramatic trip to Taipei, defying stark threats by China, overshadowed a meeting of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers in Phnom Penh, which had been expected to focus on the bloody crisis engulfing Myanmar.

ASEAN spokesman Kung Phoak, Cambodia's deputy foreign minister, said ministers at the closed-door talks-meeting face to face for the first time since the pandemic-had expressed concern over "growing tension in the Taiwan Strait."

"We hope that all sides will try their best to deescalate the tension there, avoid actions that may contribute to the escalation of tension and engage in dialogue," Kung Phoak told reporters. Malaysia and Thailand echoed the calls for calm, with Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah urging all sides to tread "very carefully".

Thai foreign ministry spokesman Taneek Sangrat said the kingdom called for "utmost restraint" and warned against "any actions that would aggravate tensions". Attention will now turn to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his American counterpart Antony Blinken who will join ASEAN and other ministers for regional security talks on Thursday and Friday.

On Wednesday Wang slammed the trip by Pelosi-the highest-profile elected US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years-as a violation of Chinese sovereignty. "Those who play with fire will not come to a good end, and those who offend China will be punished," he warned in an interview in Phnom Penh with Chinese state media.

China considers self-governing Taiwan a part of its territory to one day be reclaimed, by force if necessary. The 10-member ASEAN bloc is split between countries with close ties to China, such as Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, and others that are warier of Beijing and its growing international assertiveness. But no ASEAN country formally recognises Taiwan and none have shown an appetite for backing Taipei against the communist giant.



PHNOM PENH: Thailand's Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai (L) shakes hands with Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen (2R) in front of Vietnam's Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son (C) and Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi (R) after the opening ceremony for the 55th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers Meeting in Phnom Penh. —AFP

### Myanmar execution warning

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, opening the meeting as chair of ASEAN, condemned Myanmar for executing four prisoners last month in defiance of widespread international pleas for clemency. Myanmar was plunged into violent turmoil when the military seized power last year, ousting Aun San Suu Kyi's civilian government. The death toll from the subsequent junta crackdown has passed 2,100, according to local monitors.

ASEAN, long derided as a toothless talking shop that gives political cover to repressive regimes, has spearheaded thus far fruitless efforts to restore peace and voiced anger at the hangings. Hun Sen said the bloc was "disappointed and disturbed" by the executions and warned that further use of capital punishment would mean a "rethink" of the five-point

peace plan agreed to last year with Myanmar.

The plan calls for an immediate end to violence and dialogue between the junta and coup opponents. Malaysia, which has been leading a push to get tough on Myanmar, is demanding concrete progress on the framework ahead of an ASEAN summit later this year. Foreign Minister Saifuddin said last month's executions were "like a slap". "They are making a mockery of the five-point consensus, there is no respect to the ASEAN leaders, there is no respect to the ASEAN chair," he told reporters. Myanmar itself was not represented at the meeting after the other members said they would not accept a junta minister and the generals refused to send another official instead. In a highly visible snub to the regime, a place was set for the Myanmar delegation at the negotiating table, complete with flag, and the chair left empty. —AFP

## UK boy's parents appeal to keep his life support

LONDON: The parents of a 12-year-old UK boy on Wednesday appealed to European judges to maintain his life support, in another high-profile medical ethics case for Britain. Archie Battersbee was due to have his life support at the Royal London Hospital ended at 11:00 am (1000 GMT) on Wednesday.

But his parents are seeking a last-ditch ruling from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) to keep him alive. "As directed by the courts, we will work with the family to prepare for the withdrawal of treatment, but we will make no changes to Archie's care until the outstanding legal issues are resolved," said Alistair Chesser, chief medical officer for the hospital's governing trust. Archie's mother Hollie Dance found her son unconscious at home in April with signs he had placed a ligature over his head, possibly after taking part in an online asphyxiation challenge. His parents want to take Archie abroad for treatment.

"If this country can't treat him or is not willing to treat him, where's the harm in allowing him to go to another country?" Dance told reporters outside the hospital. "I will continue to fight right until the bitter end. Is that the way forward in this country then, we're allowed to execute children because they've got disabilities? What next?" she added. The Strasbourg-based ECHR told AFP that a decision was expected later Wednesday. UK courts ruled that ending life-preserving treatment for Archie was in his best interests as doctors believe he is brain-stem dead. He is currently being kept alive through a series of medical interventions, including ventilation and drug treatments.

Archie had been due to have his life support ended Monday afternoon after his parents failed in a domestic legal bid to halt the move. But the Court of Appeal granted them a hearing on Monday after the government urged judges to consider his parents' application to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The UN committee had asked for treatment to continue while it considered the case. The appeal judges ruled that the UN request was not enforceable and refused permission to appeal to the Supreme Court, but granted a delay until Tuesday.

Instead, his parents filed an application directly with the Supreme Court to consider the UN application. Tuesday's deadline came and went as the top court looked at the case. The Supreme Court judges said they had "great sympathy" with Archie's parents, but rejected their appeal saying there was "no prospect of any meaningful recovery".

The hospital's planned withdrawal of treatment was again extended after the ECHR bid was filed. The case is the latest in a series that have pitted parents against Britain's court and healthcare systems.

After a highly-charged battle between the hospital and his parents, 23-month-old Alfie Evans died in April 2018 when doctors in Liverpool, in northwestern England, withdrew life support. His parents, who had the support of Pope Francis, wanted to take him to a clinic in Rome but lost a final court appeal just days before he died. —AFP

## Obituary

It is with deep sorry we inform you of the passing of our beloved **Victor D'Souza** on 1 Aug 22.



He has touched the life of his family and friends in many beautiful ways. We will cherish his memories forever. May his soul Rest In Peace.

Contact +919916601161




Worldwide Partner

Transfer to Visa cards via  
**Al Muzaini Exchange with ZERO FEES**  
for the chance to  
**WIN TWO VIP TICKETS TO  
FIFA WORLD CUP 2022™**  
Courtesy of Visa



المزيني  
Al Muzaini

18 888 18