



North Korean troops launch missiles during a target strike exercise at an undisclosed location recently

# Korea to have more tests

**SOUTH KOREA**  
Seoul

North Korea leader Kim Jong-Un has promised more missile flights over Japan, insisting his nuclear-armed nation's provocative launch was a mere "curtain-raiser", in the face of UN condemnation and US warnings of severe repercussions.

The Hwasong-12 intermediate-range missile that Pyongyang unleashed on Tuesday represented a major escalation of tensions over its weapons programmes.

In recent weeks, it has threatened to send a salvo of missiles towards the US territory of Guam, while president Donald Trump has warned of raining "fire and fury" on the North.

After the latest launch, Trump said that "all options" were on the table, reviving his implied threat of pre-emptive US military action just days after congratulating himself that Kim appeared to be "starting to respect us".

The UN Security Council – which has already imposed seven sets of sanctions on Pyongyang – said in a unanimous statement the North's "outrageous" actions "are not just a threat to the region, but to all UN member states".

Both the North's key ally China and Russia, which also has ties to it, backed the US-drafted declaration, but it will not immediately lead to new or tightened sanctions.

The *Rodong Simmun* newspaper, mouthpiece of the North's ruling party,

*North Korea says the launch was a mere curtain raiser for what is to come*

yesterday carried more than 20 pictures of the launch near Pyongyang. One showed Kim smiling broadly at a desk with a map of the Northwest Pacific, surrounded by aides. Another showed him gazing upwards as the missile rose into the air.

South Korea's military said on Tuesday that it had travelled around 2,700 kilometres (1,700 miles) and reached a maximum altitude of 550 kilometres.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) cited Kim as saying "more ballistic rocket launching drills with the Pacific as a target in the future" were necessary.

Tuesday's launch was a "meaningful prelude to containing Guam, advanced base of invasion", he said, and a "curtain-raiser" for the North's "resolute countermeasures" against ongoing US-South Korean military exercises which the North regards as a rehearsal for invasion.

Yesterday's statement was the first time the North has acknowledged sending a missile over Japan's main islands. Two of its rockets previously did so, in 1998 and

2009, but on both occasions it claimed they were space launch vehicles.

Independent analysts posted images online suggesting that Kim's map showed an intended flight path of 3,200km, implying that the missile may have fallen 500km short.

**Enough is enough**

Tuesday's missile overflight triggered consternation in world capitals and on the ground, with sirens blaring out and text message alerts in Japan warning people to take cover.

"Threatening and destabilising actions only increase the North Korean regime's isolation in the region and among all nations of the world," Trump said in a statement. "All options are on the table."

At the Security Council emergency meeting US ambassador Nikki Haley warned that "enough is enough" and that tough action had to be taken.

But despite Washington's rhetoric, US officials privately echo the warning by Trump's now former chief strategist Steve Bannon – that a pre-emptive strike against the North is impossible given its capacity to inflict massive retaliation on the South.

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi told a briefing yesterday that Beijing would make a "necessary response" to the launch, but said consensus would be needed on any fresh set of sanctions.

AFP