

NORTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 22, 2026 - October 29, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Executive Summary

North Korea significantly escalated tensions on the Korean Peninsula during the period of October 22-29, 2026, through heightened military posturing and explicit threats against South Korea. Key developments included leader Kim Jong Un's directive for intensified military drills and war preparedness, coupled with the deployment of new "counter means" and "firepower units" along the inter-Korean border. Pyongyang also launched a barrage of short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, further demonstrating its military capabilities and rejection of denuclearization. Concurrently, North Korea engaged in "geopolitical bridge diplomacy" with China, marked by Kim Jong Un's visit, while continuing to leverage its military cooperation with Russia. The week also saw significant cybersecurity activity, with millions of scan-like access attempts originating from North Korean IPs targeting South Korean financial institutions.

Key Security Developments

- Heightened Military Preparedness and Drills

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presided over the 3rd Company Commanders' Conference of the Korean People's Army in Pyongyang from October 22-23, where he ordered military personnel to "step up military drills and strengthen the combat readiness of army units" and "accelerate the Korean-style military revolution." This directive underscores a consistent policy priority of strengthening the military and achieving a "new-era military build-up."

- Missile Barrage Launch

On October 29, 2026, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff detected approximately 10 short-range ballistic missiles fired from North Korea's eastern coastal town of Wonsan toward the sea. Japan's Defense Ministry also confirmed the launch of what appeared to be a ballistic missile, which splashed down outside Japan's exclusive economic zone. This launch represents the latest in a series of recent weapons tests, including submarine-launched cruise missiles and hypersonic missiles, and is seen as a reaction to rising tensions with South Korea.

- Deployment of "New Counter Means" and "Firepower Units" at the Border

On October 21-22, Kim Yo Jong, sister of Kim Jong Un, announced that North Korea would place "new counter means" on alert along the border and put its loudspeakers on standby within days. She stated that "new firepower units have taken their firing

positions" along the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), following a visit to border areas where North Korean troops are strengthening fortifications. This move was presented as a response to alleged South Korean provocations, including warning shots and loudspeaker broadcasts.

- Resumption of Anti-Seoul Propaganda Broadcasts

North Korea plans to resume anti-Seoul propaganda broadcasts along its heavily fortified border with South Korea, a psychological warfare campaign that had been halted by South Korea's liberal government. Kim Yo Jong explicitly stated that "the loudspeakers for psychological warfare against the ROK will be in operation along the whole border" within October. This decision further exacerbates inter-Korean hostility, which has been rising since landmine explosions injured South Korean soldiers in September.

- Continued Fortification of the DMZ and Border Incidents

North Korea has been actively installing mines, barbed-wire fences, anti-tank barriers, and other fortifications along the border since 2024, aiming to establish a "permanent border" with South Korea. South Korea's military reported that North Korean soldiers crossed the Military Demarcation Line 50 times this year during fortification work, prompting South Korean warning shots and loudspeaker broadcasts. On October 26, Reuters reported spotting three North Korean armored personnel carriers in the DMZ, a violation of the Korean War Armistice Agreement.

- "Geopolitical Bridge Diplomacy" with China

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a surprise visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong on October 26-27, via a newly inaugurated bridge, to push for greater cooperation. This visit, described as "geopolitical bridge diplomacy," aimed to counter the accelerating military cooperation between North Korea and Russia and safeguard China's influence over the Korean Peninsula. The New Yalu River Bridge, which had been unused for 12 years, is now expected to significantly increase North Korea-China trade.

- Cybersecurity Attacks on South Korean Financial Sector

From October 21, 2026, onwards, over 4.4 million "scan-like access attempts" originating from North Korean Internet Protocol (IP) addresses were detected targeting South Korean financial companies, including banks, securities firms, and virtual asset exchanges. While no actual damage like information leaks has been confirmed from these specific attempts, financial authorities have requested emergency security checks. This follows earlier hacking incidents in the financial sector in October.

- Rejection of Denuclearization and Hostile Stance Towards US-ROK

North Korea has publicly rejected calls for denuclearization, emphasizing its status as a nuclear-armed state and maintaining a hard-line stance toward Seoul and Washington. Kim Jong Un has declared South Korea his "most hostile adversary" and cut off diplomatic engagement and cooperation. This posture contributes to the unstable security environment in Northeast Asia.

- Stalled US-North Korea Diplomatic Prospects

Prospects for a summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the near future remain slim. U.S. experts cite Pyongyang's demands for a shift in Washington's policy, particularly regarding denuclearization, as a major hurdle. Despite Trump's expressed interest in re-engaging, North Korea has shown little interest in diplomacy aimed at containing its nuclear program.

- North Korean Cyber Espionage Targeting Ukraine

North Korean state-sponsored hackers, specifically the Kimsuky group, have been targeting Ukrainian government, policy, and academic circles with spear-phishing attacks to pilfer intelligence about the Russia-Ukraine war. This campaign aims to gather information on the war, North Korean troop losses, and the handling of prisoners of war, reflecting Pyongyang's deepening military cooperation with Russia.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

North Korea's actions during this period significantly heighten regional instability, particularly on the Korean Peninsula. The explicit threats of resuming propaganda broadcasts and deploying "new counter means" along the border with South Korea, coupled with missile launches, directly contribute to a dangerous cycle of escalation. This aggressive stance makes any meaningful dialogue between the two Koreas increasingly difficult, as evidenced by North Korea's lack of response to South Korea's proposal for military talks to clarify border issues. The ongoing fortification of the DMZ and reported border crossings by North Korean troops further solidify the perception of a permanently hostile relationship, undermining efforts for de-escalation and confidence-building measures.

Relations with major powers are also in flux. Kim Jong Un's visit to China via a newly opened bridge signals Beijing's efforts to reassert its influence over Pyongyang, potentially as a counterbalance to North Korea's deepening military ties with Russia. While China prioritizes border stability and risk management, it also seeks to avoid being grouped into a "China-Russia-North Korea axis." This "bridge diplomacy" offers North Korea leverage, allowing it to diversify its dependencies and maximize gains from both China and Russia, who are seen as competing for influence. The continued military cooperation with Russia, including alleged troop deployments to Ukraine and arms supplies, remains a critical factor, providing Pyongyang with economic and

military benefits while bolstering its strategic value.

The prospects for diplomatic engagement with the United States remain bleak. North Korea's consistent rejection of denuclearization and its demands for a shift in Washington's policy make a potential Trump-Kim summit unlikely in the near future. This diplomatic stalemate allows North Korea to continue its weapons development programs without significant international pressure, further entrenching its status as a nuclear-armed state. The intensifying strategic competition between the United States and China, alongside the Russia-Ukraine war, creates a complex geopolitical backdrop where North Korea can exploit great power rivalries to its advantage, further complicating regional security efforts.

Military and Defense Analysis

North Korea's military posture during this period reflects a clear and consistent focus on strengthening its armed forces and enhancing combat readiness. Kim Jong Un's directive to "step up military drills and strengthen the combat readiness of army units" and to "accelerate the Korean-style military revolution" underscores a commitment to building a "strongest army." This includes the ongoing fortification of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) with mines, barbed-wire fences, and anti-tank barriers, aimed at creating an "eternally impregnable" border with South Korea. The deployment of "new counter means" and "firepower units" along the border, as announced by Kim Yo Jong, indicates a forward-leaning operational deployment rather than mere demonstrations of force.

Capability developments are evident in the recent barrage of short-range ballistic missile launches from Wonsan, which are part of a series of weapons tests that have included submarine-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs) and hypersonic missiles. While the specific details of the October 29 launches are still being analyzed, previous tests, such as the "strategic" SLCMs from the *Hero Kim Kun Ok* guided-missile submarine on October 14, demonstrate North Korea's efforts to enhance its second-strike capabilities and potentially arm conventional submarines with nuclear-capable armaments. The display of the Hwasong-20 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) at the Defence Revolution Museum on October 11, with photographs suggesting multiple-warhead configurations and a range extending beyond the US mainland, highlights Pyongyang's aspirations for advanced strategic deterrence. These developments indicate a modernization program focused on both conventional and strategic capabilities, aimed at increasing its offensive strength and deterring perceived threats.

Defense spending trends are not explicitly detailed in the provided news, but the continuous development and deployment of advanced weaponry, coupled with

extensive border fortification, suggest a sustained and significant allocation of resources towards military objectives. The emphasis on a "military revolution" and building an "elite, self-sufficient combat unit" implies a focus on internal military strength and operational effectiveness, likely at the expense of other sectors. The deepening military cooperation with Russia, including alleged arms exports and troop deployments to Ukraine, could also provide North Korea with valuable resources, technology, or revenue to support its defense industry and modernization efforts.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, tensions on the Korean Peninsula are likely to remain elevated, if not further escalate. North Korea's commitment to resuming propaganda broadcasts and deploying "new counter means" along the border suggests a deliberate strategy to maintain pressure on South Korea and reject any overtures for dialogue without significant concessions. We can anticipate continued military activities, including further missile tests, particularly short-range ballistic missiles, as Pyongyang seeks to refine its capabilities and signal its resolve. The "geopolitical bridge diplomacy" with China is expected to continue, with North Korea leveraging its relationships with both Beijing and Moscow to secure economic and strategic benefits, while carefully balancing its dependencies. Cybersecurity threats originating from North Korea will persist, with a high likelihood of continued "scan-like access attempts" and targeted phishing campaigns against financial institutions and intelligence targets in South Korea and beyond.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) remains a critical flashpoint. The ongoing fortification work, coupled with North Korean border crossings and the deployment of "firepower units," significantly increases the risk of accidental clashes or intentional provocations. The resumption of propaganda broadcasts will further inflame emotions and could lead to tit-for-tat responses from South Korea, potentially involving their own loudspeaker broadcasts or warning shots. The Yellow Sea and other maritime borders also present risk areas, given North Korea's demonstrated submarine-launched missile capabilities and potential for naval provocations. The lack of effective military-to-military communication channels between the Koreas exacerbates these risks, making de-escalation difficult once incidents occur.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of North Korean missile launches, particularly any tests of new or more advanced systems. The scale and intensity of military drills and border activities, including troop movements and fortification efforts in the DMZ, will be crucial. Any changes in the rhetoric from Kim Yo Jong or other senior North Korean officials regarding inter-Korean relations or denuclearization should be closely watched. The volume and targets of

North Korean cyberattacks, especially those with confirmed breaches, will indicate the level of cyber threat. Furthermore, the nature of interactions between North Korea, China, and Russia, including high-level visits and economic cooperation, will provide insights into Pyongyang's strategic alignment and leverage.

Strategic recommendations: To mitigate risks, international actors should prioritize efforts to re-establish military communication channels between North and South Korea to prevent accidental escalation in the DMZ. While direct denuclearization talks with North Korea appear unlikely in the short term, maintaining open diplomatic channels and exploring opportunities for tension reduction, even on a limited basis, is essential. Strengthening cybersecurity defenses in South Korea's financial sector and critical infrastructure is paramount, given the persistent threat from North Korean state-sponsored hacking groups. International cooperation to counter North Korean illicit cyber activities and sanctions evasion should be intensified. Finally, a coordinated approach among the US, South Korea, Japan, and other regional partners is necessary to deter North Korean provocations and present a united front, while also being prepared to engage in dialogue if and when North Korea signals genuine interest.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: NK News

• North Korea fires salvo of around 10 ballistic missiles toward sea: Seoul (2026-10-29 03:51)

This is a developing story. Please check back for more details. (Last updated at 1:48 p.m. KST with more details from Seoul's JCS) North Korea launched a salvo of around 10 short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) toward the East Sea (Sea of Japan) on Thursday, South Korea's military announced. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said [⋯]

• US, ROK defense chiefs agree to delay top-level military talks on OPCON transfer (2026-10-29 03:20)

The defense chiefs of the U.S. and South Korea agreed Wednesday to postpone annual top-level talks until early 2027, dealing a setback to Seoul's efforts to assume wartime operational control (OPCON) over U.S.-ROK forces in the event of a conflict with North Korea. South Korean Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, [⋯]

• Bonnie Jenkins on the future of North Korea diplomacy: North Korea Unpacked (2026-10-28 08:25)

Former U.S. Under Secretary of State Bonnie Jenkins joins North Korea Unpacked with Jacco Zwetsloot to discuss the growing gap between Washington's denuclearization goals and North Korea's expanding nuclear arsenal, the credibility of U.S. extended deterrence in South Korea and the prospects for renewed diplomacy between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un. Jenkins explains [⋯]

• The elephant's gambit: Why Seoul and Washington should ignore North Korea (2026-10-28 08:23)

Editor's note: The following article is an opinion piece by Rocco P. Santurri III, a national security professional based in Korea and U.S. Army reservist. Views expressed in opinion articles are exclusively the author's own and do not represent those of NK News or the U.S. government. For years, the Korean Peninsula has operated in [⋯]

• US-ROK command could be 'suboptimal' after OPCON transfer: Ex-USFK commander (2026-10-28 08:10)

The former commander of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) said the combined command structure with South Korea could be "suboptimal" after the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON), while highlighting the need to address issues with the ROK military's culture before it can take more responsibility for defending against North Korea. Speaking at an online

symposium [⋯]

• North Korean trade fair shows off foreign goods, but without foreign attendees (2026-10-28 06:48)

North Korea kicked off its autumn international trade fair this week with goods from across Asia but few if any foreign attendees, while also promoting a new foldable smartphone. The DPRK's External Economic Relations Minister Yun Jong Ho opened the 18th Pyongyang International Autumn Trade Fair on Monday, state media reported the following day. The [⋯]

• Photos capture North Korean artillery deployed on South Korea's doorstep (2026-10-27 09:58)

North Korea has deployed self-propelled artillery pieces along its western border with South Korea, NK News confirmed Tuesday, as troops continued work to fortify the frontier. Photos and videos captured by NK News at the Aegibong observatory in Gimpo showed at least three artillery pieces on the northern side of the Jogang River separating Aegibong [⋯]

• New 'Call of Duty' game imagines war with North Korea, through Koreans' eyes (2026-10-27 08:56)

The world's most popular first-person shooter series has turned its sights on the Korean Peninsula, and offered perhaps the most compelling depiction of North Korea in a video game to date. Released on Friday, "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4" continues the franchise's unique approach to transforming complex international conflicts into blockbuster digital entertainment, centering [⋯]

• Deepfakes of North Korean forces massing on border go viral as tensions rise (2026-10-27 08:53)

Deepfake footage purporting to show North Korean forces massing across the border have gone viral this week, NK News analysis has found, presenting a misleading picture of the military situation amid rising tensions. The fakes identified by NK News appear to have been generated from real footage of 122mm self-propelled guns that the DPRK has [⋯]

• US lifts sanctions on Chinese animation studios linked to North Korean schemes (2026-10-27 08:12)

The U.S. Treasury Department has removed two Chinese animation businesses and a Chinese national from its North Korean sanctions list, without publicly explaining the decision. The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) deleted Moxing Cartoon, Shanghai Hongman Cartoon and Animation Design Studio, and Lu Hezheng from its Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) List, [⋯]

• Dandong residents caught off guard by restrictions during Kim Jong Un's visit (2026-10-27 06:57)

Security measures due to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's unannounced visit to Dandong caught locals off guard over the weekend, according to social media posts seen by NK News, as authorities closed roads and in some cases locked down residential compounds. After Kim crossed the newly opened New Yalu River Bridge on Saturday, posts [⋯]

• Six North Koreans killed after train hits vehicle in Russian Far East (2026-10-27 05:15)

Six North Korean nationals were killed when a train hit their vehicle in the Russian Far East on Sunday, with local authorities launching a criminal probe into the accident. The collision took place in Russia's Jewish Autonomous Region, killing six of the seven North Korean passengers on board, the state-run RIA news agency reported, citing [⋯]

• Swiss foreign minister to visit North Korea this week to open political office (2026-10-27 04:45)

Switzerland's foreign minister will travel to North Korea later this week to attend the official opening of the first dedicated Swiss political office in Pyongyang, marking the highest-level visit by a Western official in years. Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis will make a two-day visit from Thursday and meet with DPRK officials, according to a Swiss [⋯]

• Kim Jong Un's surprise China visit and rising tensions at the DMZ (2026-10-27 01:48)

Korea Risk Group Executive Director Jeongmin Kim joins the NK News Podcast this week to discuss Kim Jong Un's surprise visit to China, the reopening of a long-delayed border bridge and escalating military tensions between North and South Korea. She explains why Kim's unconventional one-day trip to Dandong signals a pragmatic approach to diplomacy focused [⋯]

• Chinese bus factory that Kim Jong Un visited has strong ties with North Korea (2026-10-26 10:44)

The Chinese automobile factory that Kim Jong Un visited over the weekend had historical and economic ties with North Korea, NK News has found, including producing vehicles that were previously rebranded for the DPRK market. Huanghai Automobile in the Chinese border city of Dandong has also clearly signaled its interest in bolstering business with North [⋯]

• North Korea accuses South of fabricating DMZ land mine blast in letter to UN (2026-10-26 10:07)

North Korea has sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) president accusing Seoul of staging a recent land mine blast that injured ROK troops in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), after South Korea sent its own letter blaming Pyongyang for the explosion and heightened border tensions. In a statement released Monday, the state-run Korean [⋯]

• North Korean foreign minister totes $3.5K luxury handbag during China trip (2026-10-26 08:58)

North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui appeared toting a handbag worth over $3,500 during a trip to China on Saturday, despite sanctions prohibiting the export of luxury goods to the regime and state media warnings against capitalist consumption. Choe carried a black bag resembling a Yves Saint Laurent's (YSL) Sac de Jour while accompanying […]

• Woman entered restricted area near North Korea border, damaged fencing: Seoul (2026-10-26 08:41)

A woman entered restricted South Korean territory near the North Korean border over the weekend and damaged fences along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Seoul officials said Monday, amid rising border tensions. "Our military on Sunday, Oct. 25, secured an unidentified person who approached military guard facilities without authorization in an area north of the Civilian […]

• US court orders North Korea to pay $400M over 1968 seizure of USS Pueblo (2026-10-26 08:34)

A U.S. court has ordered North Korea to pay $400 million to compensate the crew of the USS Pueblo, a warship Pyongyang seized in 1968, bringing the total amount of damages related to the incident to nearly $3 billion. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ordered the payment to several crew members […]

• Kim Jong Un says North Korea 'inspired' by China's success in border city visit (2026-10-25 00:27)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country is "inspired" by China's success during a visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday marking the 76th anniversary of China entering the Korean War, according to DPRK state media. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Sunday on Kim's visit to the "Memorial […]

• North Korea's Kim Jong Un visits Chinese border city of Dandong: Xinhua (2026-10-24 06:26)

This is a developing news story. Please check back for further updates. (Last updated on Oct. 24 at 8:20 p.m. with details from Xinhua) North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday, according to China's Xinhua state news agency. Xinhua reported that "China's top political advisor Wang Huning […]

• Kim Jong Un rallies junior commanders to build 'world's strongest' army (2026-10-24 02:02)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a two-day military conference in Pyongyang this week on perfecting low-level leadership and improving training systems, according to state media. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Saturday that Kim delivered a speech at the Third Meeting of Company Leaders of the Korean People's Army (KPA) and that […]

• Chinese officials visit North Korea to mark China's entry into Korean War (2026-10-23 09:32)

A Chinese delegation arrived in North Korea on Thursday ahead of the anniversary of China's entry into the Korean War, amid an unconfirmed report that DPRK officials are visiting China to prepare for a possible visit by leader Kim Jong Un. The delegation of China's Ministry of Veterans Affairs, led by Vice Minister Hong Zongming, […]

• Seoul again proposes talks with North Korea on border lines amid rising tensions (2026-10-23 08:05)

South Korea's Defense Ministry renewed its proposal for military talks with North Korea to verify the exact location of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) on Friday, amid heightened tensions after land mine explosions injured three ROK soldiers last month. Kim Hong-Cheol, Seoul's Deputy Minister for National Defense Policy, said in a statement addressed to Pyongyang […]

• Police investigating if North Korean IT worker infiltrated ROK organization (2026-10-23 08:03)

South Korean police are investigating a suspected case of a North Korean IT worker obtaining employment at a domestic organization under a false identity, police confirmed on Friday. The National Security Investigation Bureau of the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) independently identified the case last year and launched an investigation, according to a document submitted […]

• How North Korea built its founding mythology around an obscure communist group (2026-10-23 07:12)

North Korea's celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU) this month have drawn new attention to the obscure political group, which the regime holds up as the "origin of the Korean revolution." Allegedly founded by Kim Il Sung in 1926, when he was just 14 years old, the DIU (타도제국주의동맹) is officially […]

• UN experts raise concern about fates of forcibly repatriated North Koreans (2026-10-22 08:05)

U.N. human rights experts have raised concern about the unknown fates of North Koreans forcibly repatriated from China, urging Beijing to halt deportations and Pyongyang to disclose information about those returned. In a press release issued Wednesday, the 18 experts expressed continued serious concerns about "the fate, whereabouts and treatment of those repatriated." The experts […]

• North Korean, Russian prosecutors sign deal on combating terrorism, smuggling (2026-10-22 06:01)

The top prosecutors of North Korea and Russia pledged to jointly combat terrorism, smuggling and cybercrime during a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday, signing an agreement on law enforcement cooperation. Russian Prosecutor General Alexander Gutsan and his DPRK counterpart Kim Chol Won signed “an updated Cooperation Agreement” between the two countries’ prosecution offices, according to […]

- Kim Yo Jong denounces South Korean lawmaker who criticized loudspeaker plans (2026-10-22 05:34)

The North Korean leader’s sister Kim Yo Jong has demanded that a South Korean presidential adviser “stop rambling and shut his mouth” after he criticized Pyongyang’s plan to restart border loudspeaker broadcasts, declaring they will be operational “within a few days.” In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Kim responded to […]

- North Korean athlete wins silver in table tennis at Asian Para Games (2026-10-22 01:35)

North Korean athlete Jon Ju Hyon won a silver medal in table tennis at the Fifth Asian Para Games on Tuesday, the country’s first medal at the ongoing multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities. Jon finished second in the men’s singles event of the Class 6 category, a para table tennis classification for athletes who […]

- Carlo Masala on why a Russian victory matters for Korea: North Korea Unpacked (2026-10-22 01:12)

Editor’s note: This interview was recorded in July 2026. Some references to recent events and political developments reflect the situation at the time of recording and may differ from subsequent developments. German political scientist Carlo Masala joins North Korea Unpacked with Jacco Zwetsloot to discuss his book “If Russia Wins: A Scenario,” why a Korean-style […]

Source: NK Pro

- Why a spate of public disputes is déjà vu for the US-ROK alliance (2026-10-28 08:17)

Disputes between the U.S. and South Korea over everything from sharing intel on North Korean threats to management of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) have increasingly spilled out into public view, in what looks like a revival of past alliance tensions. When Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Elbridge Colby visited Seoul in January, he described the […] The post Why a spate of public disputes is déjà vu for the US-ROK alliance appeared first on NK PRO.

- No summit, new bridge: What to make of Kim Jong Un’s unusual visit to Dandong (2026-10-26 11:18)

Kim Jong Un’s one-day trip to the Chinese border city of Dandong over the weekend was a departure from his tried-and-tested approach to diplomacy, marking the first time the North Korean leader has visited a foreign country without holding a summit with his counterpart. For

Kim, trips outside the DPRK offer the chance to stand [⋯] The post No summit, new bridge: What to make of Kim Jong Un's unusual visit to Dandong appeared first on NK PRO.

• High-end Chinese EVs worth up to $152K spotted in North Korean capital (2026-10-23 09:45)

Some of China's newest and most expensive electric cars have appeared on the streets of Pyongyang this year, NK Pro has found, suggesting that higher-end EVs are growing in popularity amid a surge in private car ownership in North Korea. A black Maextro S800 was photographed in Hwasong New District of Pyongyang this spring, according [⋯] The post High-end Chinese EVs worth up to $152K spotted in North Korean capital appeared first on NK PRO.

• North Korea leaves citizens in the dark about tensions at inter-Korean border (2026-10-23 04:38)

North Korean state media offered no coverage of Kim Yo Jong's statements attacking South Korea this week, leaving domestic audiences in the dark about rising border tensions. Criticism of the ROK's Hoguk military exercises published for foreign readers did not appear in domestic-facing media either. The silence appears to underscore Pyongyang's broader effort to treat [⋯] The post North Korea leaves citizens in the dark about tensions at inter-Korean border appeared first on NK PRO.

• Kim Jong Un erasing prominent symbol of predecessors' top military rank (2026-10-22 07:58)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appears to be erasing the Generalissimo symbol highlighting his father and grandfather's exalted military status from key shrines, according to NK Pro analysis, in a likely attempt to bolster his personality cult relative to the former leaders. The country's first leader Kim Il Sung took the Generalissimo title, the [⋯] The post Kim Jong Un erasing prominent symbol of predecessors' top military rank appeared first on NK PRO.

Source: The Diplomat NK

• Korean Dramas: Ukraine, Russia, and Where South Korea Begins (2026-10-23 14:15)

A diplomatic spat and a comment that caused controversy.