

## Japan prepares for potential North Korean satellite launch

30th May 2023



Japan has ordered preparations to counter a potential North Korean ballistic missile or rocket that threatens its territory. The Defense Ministry took action after Pyongyang notified Tokyo of its plan to launch a satellite between Wednesday and June 11.

The intended satellite launch, North Korea's first in over seven years, received immediate condemnation. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida expressed concerns, stating that any missile launch, even if labeled as a satellite, violates UN Security Council resolutions and poses a serious safety issue.

Japan has urged restraint and is collaborating with the US, South Korea, and other countries on the matter.

While North Korea argues that satellite launches fall under its civilian space program, Japan, South Korea, and the US view them as a disguise for advancing missile capabilities. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno labeled the potential launch as a "serious provocation." Defense preparations involve deploying missile-defense batteries to Okinawa's islands and stationing Aegis destroyers with interceptors in surrounding waters. Although a shutdown is unlikely, these measures aim to reassure the public. North Korea's ambitions for satellite intelligence-gathering face challenges in camera performance, limited resources, and capturing timely images of military sites, according to experts.

### Conversation Questions

1. Why did Japan order preparations for a potential North Korean missile launch?
2. What are your thoughts on North Korea's satellite launch plan and its impact on regional security?
3. Why does Prime Minister Kishida consider any missile launch, even if called a satellite, a violation?
4. How do Japan, South Korea, and the US see North Korea's satellite launches?
5. How can the deployment of missile-defense batteries and Aegis destroyers reassure the public?
6. What challenges might North Korea face in achieving its satellite intelligence-gathering ambitions?
7. Is diplomatic collaboration important in dealing with missile threats? Why?
8. How can peace be promoted amidst tensions related to missile launches and satellite programs?

### True or False (T / F)

1. Japan has issued an order to prepare for a potential North Korean satellite launch.
2. The satellite launch planned by North Korea is the country's first in over seven years.
3. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida supports North Korea's planned satellite launch.
4. Japan considers any missile launch by North Korea a violation of UN resolutions.
5. The Defense Ministry of Japan is cooperating with the US, South Korea, and other countries regarding the satellite launch issue.
6. North Korea claims that satellite launches are exempt from UN regulations.
7. Japan is taking security precautions to counter the potential missile threat.

### Synonym Match

1. preparations	A. land
2. counter	B. asked
3. potential	C. pictures
4. ballistic	D. measure
5. urged	E. thwart
6. images	F. initiate
7. territory	G. possible
8. action	H. arrangements
9. launch	I. projectile
10. satellite	J. orbiter

### Rank the most important inventions

nuclear energy - wheel - penicillin - printing press  
electricity - telephone - airplane - internet

## **Answers:**

### **True or False (T / F)**

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. True

### **Synonym Match**

1H, 2E, 3G, 4I, 5B, 6C, 7A, 8H, 9F, 10J