

The Movement for the Abolition of War

PRESS RELEASE

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The Movement for the Abolition of War has urged both sides in the dispute over North Korea's nuclear policy to start talks to end the "potentially devastating" crisis.

It accuses the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the one side and the United States and South Korea on the other of increasing tension by using "intemperate and incendiary" language.

MAW cites the DPRK saying: "nuclear war on the Korean peninsula would precipitate a disaster in which the US mainland turns into a scorched-earth", and also highlights US President Donald Trump responding: "North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen."

MAW condemns the development of nuclear weapons by DPRK with its biggest 120-kiloton test explosion earlier this month in contravention of several UN resolutions since 2006, but also points out that the US and South Korea have launched simulated missile attacks on North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear site, carried out naval battle group training and anti-submarine warfare exercises, and recently flown B-1B supersonic bombers and two F-35 fighter jets over South Korea in a show of strength.

MAW chair Tim Devereux said: "Both sides in this potentially devastating dispute must sit down together and find a peaceful way forward.

"They must end tit-for-tat military provocations and restart urgent diplomatic talks to defuse the crisis.

"The idea of either side launching a nuclear missile attack is unthinkable. Millions would die and it could spark a major nuclear war which could wipe out human civilisation."

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Notes for editors

For more information please see <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk>