# South Korean Soldiers Fire Warning Shots to Repel North Korean Incursion at Demilitarized Zone



On June 18, 2024, South Korean soldiers fired warning shots to repel a group of 20 to 30 North Korean soldiers who temporarily crossed the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), the land border between the rival countries. This incident occurred around 8:30 AM in a central frontline region, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

The North Korean soldiers were engaged in construction activities suspected to be aimed at installing anti-tank barriers, reinforcing roads, and laying land mines. These construction activities have resulted in multiple casualties among North Korean soldiers due to several landmine explosions, said the JCS.

After South Korean forces issued loudspeaker warnings and fired warning shots, the North Korean soldiers retreated. No suspicious activities were observed following the retreat, and South Korea's military does not believe the intrusion was intentional. This marks the second such incident in the month, following a similar incursion on June 11.

The increased North Korean construction activities are believed to be efforts to prevent defections and strengthen internal control. Tensions between the two Koreas have been rising, with recent engagements in psychological warfare and the suspension of a 2018 military agreement aimed at reducing cross-border tensions.

The MDL, part of the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the Koreas, is 154 miles long and 2.5 miles wide, and strewn with an estimated two million landmines, barbed wire fences, tank traps, and guarded by combat troops on both sides. The DMZ has been a site of occasional violent confrontations since the Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, in 1953.