# North Korean Soldiers Cross into South Korean Territory Ahead of Putin-Kim Summit



On June 18, 2024, approximately 30 North Korean soldiers inadvertently crossed into South Korean territory within the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The incident occurred on the eve of a summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

South Korean troops responded by issuing warnings and firing warning shots, prompting the North Korean soldiers to retreat. The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff confirmed that the North Korean soldiers, engaged in construction work near the border, likely strayed due to overgrown foliage obscuring demarcation line markers.

This marks the second similar incursion within a month, with a previous incident on June 11. Both episodes were deemed accidental rather than deliberate military maneuvers.

Amidst these developments, Putin and Kim signed a significant partnership agreement on June 19, 2024, pledging mutual support in the event of an attack. The agreement aims to bolster political, economic, cultural, and military cooperation between Russia and North Korea.