# Russian President Putin and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un Sign Mutual-Defense Pact



Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have signed a new mutual-defense pact. The pact, signed on June 20, 2024, commits both countries to assist each other if either is attacked. The scope of assistance remains ambiguous, potentially as a deterrence tactic.

The agreement echoes a similar 1961 pact between the Soviet Union and North Korea, which was never activated. The deal has caused global concern, particularly among Japan and South Korea. Analysts suggest the pact could escalate tensions in Northeast Asia and undermine international efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear advancements.

The United States and its allies, South Korea and Japan, have mutual defense commitments. Conversely, Russia maintains defense pacts within its Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), including Belarus and Kazakhstan. Additionally, China has a longstanding defense pact with North Korea.

The new pact's implications for Russia's ongoing conflict in Ukraine and potential cooperation on nuclear advancements with North Korea remain areas of concern.