



# ENQUIRY

VOL. IV .... No. 21 | CLINTON, NY. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017

A publication of the AHI Undergraduate Fellows // Free thought and discourse

① *The Trump Administration's Response to a Nuclear North Korea*  
#TrumpAdminNorthKorea

② *New Terror Tactic: Vehicular Attacks*  
#VehicularTerror

## The Trump Administration's Response to a Nuclear North Korea

By ELIZABETH BARRY  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Despite implementation of various sanctions and several UN Security Council resolutions, North Korea under the leadership of Kim Jong-un has continued to develop nuclear weapons. In 2016 alone, it conducted two nuclear explosions and more than 20 missile tests. More recently, North Korea test-fired a volley of missiles off the coast of Japan. It also tested an intermediate-range missile that used solid fuel – a feat which disarmament experts have called a significant advance.

Even more startling, perhaps, are North Korea's claims that the missiles are intended for the United States. In March of 2016,

*“Even with a nuclear freeze, North Korea's capabilities are advanced enough to threaten U.S. allies and military bases in Northeast Asia.”*

the state-controlled media released a propaganda video depicting a nuclear strike on Washington, along with a warning to “American imperialists” not to provoke the country. The four-minute video clip, titled “Last Chance,” uses computer animation to show an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) slamming into what appears to be the Lincoln Memorial.

“If the American imperialists provoke us a bit, we will not hesitate to slap them with a pre-emptive nuclear strike,” read the

Korean subtitles in the video, adding: “the United States must choose! It's up to you whether the nation called the United States exists on this planet or not.” Shortly after, Kim Jong-un announced that North Korea was in the “final stage” of preparation for the first launch of an ICBM that could reach the U.S.

North Korea released a similar propaganda film, coupled with a high-thrust rocket engine test, following Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's first official visit to South Korea. According to the *New York Times*, the video depicted an American aircraft carrier and a warplane being destroyed in computer-generated balls of fire. North Korea's missiles will be “stabbed into the throat of the carrier” and the jet will “fall from the sky,” it warns.

A day later, North Korea issued a statement saying the country would not be deterred from developing nuclear weapons. “The nuclear force is the treasured sword of justice and the most reliable war deterrence to defend the socialist motherland and the life of its people,” said a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. Classified assessments of the country conducted under the Obama administration indicate that Kim believes his nuclear weapons program is the only way to guarantee the survival of his regime and will never trade it away for economic or other benefits.

Unlike the Obama administration, however, President Trump and his top deputies are determined not to let such behavior continue without repercussions. “Let me be very clear: The policy of strategic patience has ended,” Secretary Tillerson said to the press while touring the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas. “We are exploring a new range of diplomatic, security and economic measures. All options are on the table.” Tillerson hinted that the options might include more

## This Week's News in 140 Characters

### EDITORIAL REPORT

- Charlie Sykes** @SykesCharlie · 10h  
Trump World now waging two front war against conservatives: attacking conservatives who bucked him (HFC) and those who backed him (Ryan)  
139 608 1.3K
- The Reagan Battalion** @ReaganBattalion · 3m  
Serious question: Is @FoxNews any less biased towards Trump than the (rest of the) mainstream media was towards Obama?  
1 2
- Department of State** @StateDept · 53s  
U.S. condemns detention of 100s of peaceful protesters in #Russia today. Detaining peaceful protesters is an affront to democratic values.  
2
- Charlie Kirk** @charliekirk11 · 5m  
If socialized medicine worked so well, why is the VA a total disaster with thousands of vets dying waiting for care?  
9 34 78
- Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump · Mar 17  
North Korea is behaving very badly. They have been "playing" the United States for years. China has done little to help!  
28K 21K 90K

## New Terror Tactic: Vehicular Attacks

By AMY ELINSKI  
STAFF WRITER

NEW TERROR cont.

On Wednesday, March 22, Khalid Masood drove a rented Hyundai Tucson onto the sidewalk of the Westminster Bridge in London. He plowed into the unsuspecting pedestrians before coming to a stop, exiting the vehicle and wielding a knife. In just 82 seconds, Masood killed five people—four civilians and one police officer—and injured 50. He was eventually shot and killed by a nearby officer.

ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that Masood was a soldier acting in their name. London deputy assistant police commissioner Neil Basu, however, said he might have been a lone wolf attacker. Regardless, police suggest he was inspired and radicalized by ISIS propaganda found online.

In the wake of the attack, the police arrested a dozen individuals they believed were linked to Masood. As of Saturday, though, nine had been released due to a lack of substantial evidence. Masood left no note, no

statement of motive or reason; the only potentially related communication police have found is a WhatsApp message he sent shortly beforehand.

This was not the first time Masood displayed violent behavior. Beginning in 2003, he served three years in prison for an assault on a local pub owner with a knife. While in prison, he converted to Islam and changed his name. His radicalization occurred swiftly thereafter. His second wife, Farzana Malik – or Isaq, as her surname has also been reported – fled from their home, insisting upon

*“The attacks are inexpensive, and very efficient in the sense that they often result in high casualties while gaining prominent media attention.”*

divorce when he tracked her down. She described Masood as a “psychopath,” and her family members described him as very violent and controlling. In the last year or so, attacks using tactics similar to Masood's have increased significantly. In

vigorous enforcement of sanctions, ramping up anti-missile defenses, cutting off North Korea's oil, and even taking pre-emptive military action if the North Koreans elevate "the threat of their weapons program" to a level deemed unacceptable.

Tillerson has also publicly ruled out any negotiation with North Korea to freeze its nuclear and missile programs, although this was a central component of past administrations' policies. He argues that negotiations "can only be achieved by denuclearizing, giving up their weapons of mass destruction." Even with a nuclear freeze, North Korea's capabilities are advanced enough to threaten U.S. allies and military bases in Northeast Asia. The rejection of negotiations for a freeze is consistent with the approach taken by President Obama, who declined Chinese offers to restart the so-called six-party talks unless the North first agreed that the goal of the negotiations would be the "complete, verifiable, irreversible" dismantling of its program.

It also appears as though the Trump administration blames China, North Korea's strongest ally, for the continued dalliance with nuclear weapons. "North Korea is behaving very badly," Trump tweeted recently. "They have been 'playing' the United States for years. China has done little to help!" The Trump administration has raised the prospect of disciplinary measures against American companies in China, in response to growing evidence of their involvement in building components that are used in North Korea's weapons programs.

Additionally, Trump administration officials have discussed putting pressure on Chinese banks through "secondary sanctions" – a technique that worked against Iran – which would make it hard for any bank that did business with North Korea to also deal in American dollars. Former defense secretary William Perry has said that he doubts their value. "We have sanctioned them a hundred times, and it didn't stop developing nuclear weapons," he noted. "They seem to be prepared to suffer economic deprivation

for the people so they can achieve the preservation of the regime, which they think that nuclear weapons is going to do for them."

With regard to sanctions, Tillerson says there is more that the international community could do to pressure North Korea: "I don't believe we have ever fully achieved the maximum level of action that can be taken under the United Nations Security Council resolutions ... we know other nations could take actions to alter their relationship with North Korea."

With these discussions occurring fewer than 100 days into the new administration, it is clear that Trump and his advisors have no intention of placing North Korea on the back burner. Though previous administrations recognized the threat that the North's nuclear weapons program poses to the United States, Trump seems to be the first president who is willing to tackle the problem head-on, even if it means working outside the realm of the UN. However, only time will tell if he can successfully facilitate the denuclearization of North Korea. If he succeeds, he will have begun to fulfill his promise to "make America safe again."

NEW TERROR cont.

December, Anis Armi killed a Polish truck driver and stole his truck, driving it into the Christmas Market in Berlin. He killed twelve people and injured 65. Last July, Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel drove a rented cargo truck into a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, France. Eighty-six people were killed and 434 were injured. Similar attacks involving vehicles have taken place in Quebec (October 2014); Valence, France (January 2016); and Jerusalem (this January).

Even the U.S. is not safe from these types of attacks. In November, an Ohio State student, Abdul Razak Ali Artan, rammed his car into pedestrians on campus and attacked other students with a machete. He injured eleven before he was shot and killed by a campus police officer.

ISIS has taken to promoting these sorts of attacks by its followers in its propaganda. The attacks are inexpensive, and very efficient in the sense that they often result in high casualties while gaining prominent

media attention. In addition, they achieve the primary goal, terror, exceedingly well. ISIS encourages its followers to conduct them in busy areas, particularly tourist attractions, where they will likely attract a large international audience due to wider coverage. Attacks of this sort are also a means by which followers, or those inspired by ISIS or other terrorist organizations, can easily act in the name of their groups.

The biggest challenge for police in the wake of these incidents is preventing similar attacks in the future. Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs are still developing in many cities and countries. While London, for example, has a very successful program and is a hub for CVE research, it's clear that some attackers still easily avoid detection until it is too late.

Professor Anthony Glees of the University of Buckingham suggests that rental car companies should inquire as to their customers' motives and report any suspicious people to the police. Doing so will not prevent carjackings or attackers using their own cars. Nevertheless, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice have encouraged similar reporting in the U.S., asking companies to tell the police about customers who are reluctant to provide personal information, pay in cash for large transactions, or appear overly concerned with the size and specifications of their vehicles.

While we may not have a tried-and-true method for preventing these types of attacks at the moment, progress is being made. As academics and think tanks conduct research to help in further development of both government-run and independent CVE programs, police and counterterrorism forces are working to prevent as many attacks as possible and stop the radicalization of people like Masood.

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

①

*The Trump Administration's Response to a Nuclear North Korea*

#TrumpAdminNorthKorea

②

*New Terror Tactic: Vehicular Attacks*

#VehicularTerror

<p>vol. IV</p> <h1>ENQUIRY</h1> <p>Elizabeth Barry <i>Editor in Chief</i></p> <p>Will Utzschneider Andrew Juchno <i>Associate Editors</i></p> <p>Helen Sternberg <i>Layout Editor</i></p>							
<p>STAFF WRITERS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Alex Klosner</td> <td>Amy Elinski</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sam Benevelli</td> <td>Allison Zuckerman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claire Anastasia Kitz</td> <td>Fred Pollevick</td> </tr> </table>		Alex Klosner	Amy Elinski	Sam Benevelli	Allison Zuckerman	Claire Anastasia Kitz	Fred Pollevick
Alex Klosner	Amy Elinski						
Sam Benevelli	Allison Zuckerman						
Claire Anastasia Kitz	Fred Pollevick						
<p><i>The opinions expressed in these articles are the views of their authors and do not represent the views of Enquiry or the Alexander Hamilton Institute.</i></p>							
<p>Enquiry accepts articles of 500 to 800 words at ebarry@hamilton.edu and madamo@hamilton.edu. Please be aware that we do not accept anonymous submissions.</p>							