

# N.Korea support: US slaps sanctions on Chinese, Russians

## Washington

**T**he United States yesterday slapped sanctions on 16 Chinese and Russian individuals and companies, accusing them of supporting North Korea's nuclear program and attempting to evade US sanctions.

The sanctions are part of a broader US effort to disrupt the flow of cash funding North Korean weapon's programs and target companies that have dealt in natural resources such as coal and minerals or engaged in financial transactions for North Korean interests.

"It is unacceptable for individuals and companies in China, Russia, and elsewhere to enable North Korea to generate income used to develop weapons of mass destruction and destabilize the region," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

The move follows a war of words between Washington and Pyongyang over recent missile tests that show North Korea is capable of reaching the US mainland.

President Donald Trump earlier

this month said he would respond to North Korea's nuclear threat with "fire and fury."

Also this month, Russia and China both voted to toughen UN sanctions on North Korea.

Trump has urged Beijing, North Korea's only major ally, to bring greater pressure to bear in reigning in the reclusive state's nuclear efforts, suggesting that the United States may offer concessions on trade in return.

## Targets of sanctions

The sanctions unveiled Tuesday effectively block those targeted from accessing much of the global financial system and freeze any US assets as well.

Among those hit by the sanctions was Russian national Ruben Kirakosyan and his Moscow-based company Gefest-M LLC, which the Treasury Department accuses of procuring metals for a sanctions-barred company involved in North Korea's nuclear weapons program known as Korean Tangun Trading Corp. Also targeted is China's

Dandong Rich Earth Trading Co. Ltd., which the United States says has acted on behalf of North Korea's General Bureau of Atomic Energy -- responsible for the North's nuclear program -- and has facilitated prohibited North Korean exports of vanadium ore.

A third company, Mingzheng International Trading Limited, which maintains offices in Hong Kong and mainland China, was in fact a front for Foreign Trade Bank, North Korea's main foreign exchange bank, the Treasury Department said.

The Treasury Department said three Chinese companies -- Dandong Zhicheng Metallic Materials Co. Ltd., JinHou International Holding Co. Ltd., and Dandong Tianfu Trade Co. Ltd. -- had collectively imported nearly a half billion dollars' worth of North Korean coal between 2013 and 2016.

The department also sanctioned Dandong Zhicheng's director Chi Yupeng, a Chinese national accused of moving cash for North Korean interests. (AFP)

# Headless torso 'could be' journalist from submarine

## Stockholm

**T**he headless torso of a woman found floating in Danish waters could be that of a Swedish journalist who authorities believe died aboard an inventor's homemade submarine, police said Tuesday.

In a grisly case that has captured public imagination in both countries, Danish inventor Peter Madsen has been accused of the negligent manslaughter of Kim Wall.

Police probing the disappearance of Wall -- who hasn't been seen since she was observed aboard the 60-foot (18-metre) Nautilus on the evening of August 10 -- said Monday they had found a torso missing its head and limbs in Koge Bay, south of Copenhagen.

"The length of the torso means we cannot rule out that it could be Kim Wall, but we don't know yet," Copenhagen homicide chief Jens Moller Jensen said in a video message released on Twitter.



The Submarine UC3 Nautilus is lifted onto a block truck from the salvage ship Vina with the help of a container crane in Copenhagen's Harbor,

He said DNA samples had been taken from the torso and would be compared with Wall's. Police were to receive the results on Wednesday.

Jensen said the body's arms, legs and head had been "deliberately cut off".

Madsen, whose website describes him as an "inventpreneur", had initially told authorities that he dropped Wall off on an island late on the evening of August 10.

He then changed his story several days later when he appeared in court, saying Wall died in an accident on board and that he dumped the body at sea in an undefined location of the Koge Bay.

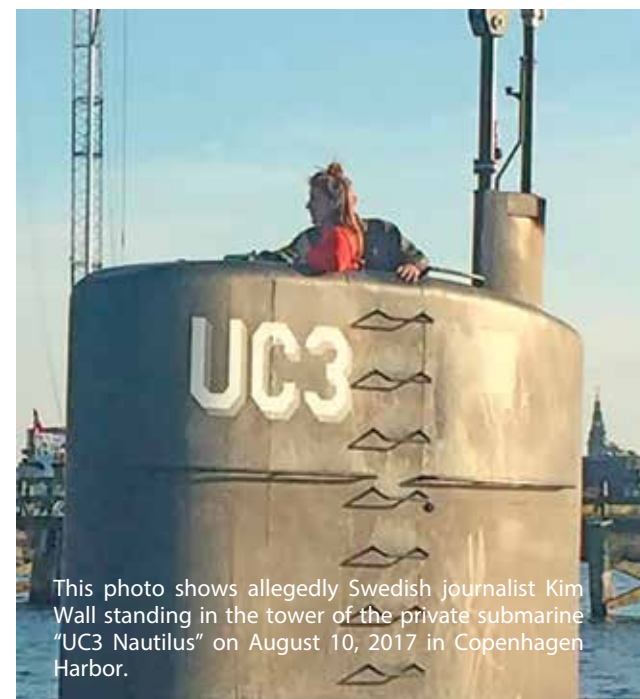
Search crews found the missing sub on August 11 in Koge Bay, and Madsen was rescued from the vessel, alone, just before it sank.

Police have since said they believe Madsen "deliberately"

sank the sub. It was brought to the surface and searched, but found to be empty.

Wall was a 30-year-old freelance journalist who had reported for The Guardian and The New York Times. A graduate of the Columbia Journalism School, she was based between New York and China.

She had met with Madsen to interview him for a feature story she was writing.



This photo shows allegedly Swedish journalist Kim Wall standing in the tower of the private submarine "UC3 Nautilus" on August 10, 2017 in Copenhagen Harbor.

Madsen, 46, and Wall were seen onboard the vessel by several people in waters off Copenhagen the evening of August 10.

Photos of the two emerged

online standing next to each other in the sub's tower. Wearing an orange fleece and with her long auburn hair tied in a topknot, she appeared to be smiling.