

# North Korea: Washington 'Destroying World Peace'



A man watches a TV news program showing an image of senior North Korean official Kim Yo-jong at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea.

August at the earliest, several allies, including Germany and Poland, have also pledged to send their own Leopard 2 tanks in the coming weeks and months. Berlin was initially reluctant to authorize shipments of the German-made vehicle, but ultimately accepted the move under pressure from fellow NATO members, allowing allies to export the Leopard to Ukraine. Kim expressed "serious concern" over the potential for escalation in Ukraine, accusing the U.S. of "further expanding the proxy war to destroy Russia". However, she said "no matter how desperate the allied imperialist forces are," all Western weapons supplied to Kiev would "burn up and become a pile of iron".

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Washington and its allies "are destroying world peace and regional security by handing over an astronomical amount of military equipment to Ukraine, completely ignoring Russia's safety concerns", she said, adding that the decision to supply tanks poses "a major threat and challenge to the strategic security of Russia". "The U.S. is the arch criminal which poses serious threat and challenge to the strategic security of Russia and pushes the regional situation to the present grave phase," said Kim, who is vice-department director of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea. After repeatedly declining Kiev's requests for heavy armor, U.S. officials finally gave in earlier this week and agreed to send 31 M1 Abrams battle tanks. Though the weapons aren't set to reach the battlefield until

## Protesters Slam Germany's Decision to Send Tanks to Ukraine

BERLIN (Dispatches) - People have staged a rally in Berlin to protest against the government's decision to send battle tanks to Kiev, and to denounce the United States as the utmost pusher of the war in Ukraine. Demonstrators, who took to the streets, opposed the escalation of regional conflicts and called for a halt to equipping Ukraine with lethal arms. Chanting slogans such as "stop escalating the conflict", "stop delivering weapons", and "withdraw from NATO", the protesters declared their opposition to the continuous military assistance of Germany and other NATO members and demanded a peaceful resolution of the conflict through diplomatic channels.



People in Berlin protest against the German government's decision to send heavy battle tanks to Ukraine.

"We're here to protest Germany's provision of main battle tanks to Ukraine, because it escalates the conflict, exacerbates the tension, and entangles Germany to a greater extent," said protester Ulrich Kotek. "We are deeply concerned and threatened, and we fear being drawn into war. We must never start another war," said another protester. The development came after the German government decided on Wednesday to provide 14 of its Leopard 2 tanks to the Ukrainian government and gave the green light to other European countries as well. Other allies, including Scandinavia, intend to go along with Germany in supplying their Leopard tanks to Kiev, Spiegel magazine reported. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz had allegedly opposed such military aid, but the German government finally changed its mind under increasing American pressure. The decision by the U.S. to send its M1 Abrams seems to have provided the po-

litical cover that Berlin had been seeking, according to The New York Times. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva however refused to consider an option to send tank ammunition to Germany over concerns that the shells could be handed over to Ukraine, the Folha de Sao Paulo reported. According to the report, the decision was made on January 20, during the meeting with top military command ahead of the resignation of Ground Forces commander Julio Cesar de Arruda. According to the report, it was Arruda, who raised the question of sending ammunition to Germany during the meeting, TASS reported. The Brazilian leader justified his rejection by arguing that one "should not provoke the Russians." According to the newspaper, the shells in question are ammunition for Leopard 1 tanks. This is not the first time Germany attempted

to reach an agreement with Brazil on handover of German-made weapons to Ukraine. Last year, Berlin was denied to buy ammunition for Gepard, a Russian, the report said. On Saturday, a Russian strike killed three people in a district of the eastern Ukrainian city of Kostiantynivka, the regional governor said. Fourteen other people were wounded in the attack, which also damaged four apartment buildings and a hotel, Donetsk governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said. "Rescuers and law enforcement officials are working at the scene of the tragedy to help people and carefully document yet another crime by the Russian occupiers on our land," he wrote on Telegram. Twisted metal and the charred remains of household items and at least one car lay scattered across the courtyard as rescuers worked to clear the rubble.

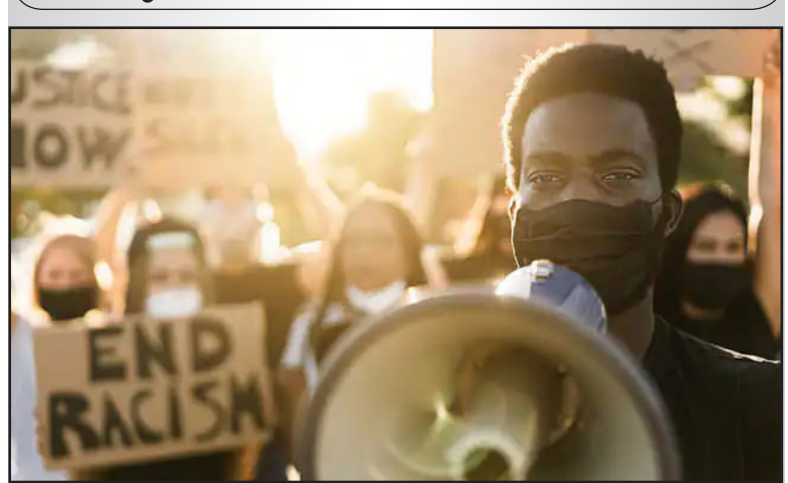
## Dozens of Malnourished Indigenous Children Hospitalized in Brazil Amid Health Crisis

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Dozens of indigenous children of Brazil's Yanomami population in the Amazon rainforest, suffering from severe malnutrition and acute diseases, have been hospitalized in northern Brazil, as the federal government declared a public health emergency. The health secretary of Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima state, said that 59 indigenous children were currently at the only pediatric hospital in the state. Out of the total children being treated at the San Antonio children's hospital in Boa Vista in the northern state of Roraima, three-quarters of them are Yanomami, and eight of those are in intensive care, according to official data. The vast majority of children are suffering from "moderate to severe malnutrition," complicated by other ailments including pneumonia, malaria, and the stomach flu, pediatrician Eugenio Patricio told AFP. "These patients, due to malnutrition, don't have enough in the tank to fight infections. So the consequences are far more serious, and some end up in intensive care," he added. Most of the Yanomami children, who are generally eight years old or younger, are about half the normal weight for their age

-- and sometimes even less, Patricio explains. "They are extremely weak when they arrive here," he says. Officials have labeled the catastrophe "genocide" and are blaming the administration of former president Jair Bolsonaro, for leaving them to die. "The invaders contaminated and destroyed the rivers, and people have been drinking dirty water," said the head of the local Yanomami health council, Junior Hekurari Yanomami, adding that malaria cases have also spiked in recent years. The Yanomami calls on the government to combat the disease were not addressed by the officials, he said, accusing the Bolsonaro administration of "negligence". It was discovered on Thursday that the Supreme Court of Brazil had noticed signs that the Bolsonaro government had failed to comply with court decisions aimed at protecting the Yanomamis. It is estimated that around 30,000 indigenous Yanomami people live in Brazil's largest indigenous territory. They are mostly dependent on hunting their own food, but ever since Bolsonaro's gold miners started arriving in their territory, they destroyed the natural habitat of the Yanomami people and led the region against Mother Nature.

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## UN Experts: Racism 'Structural, Institutional, Systemic' Across UK



UN experts said that cuts in public spending worsened racial discrimination in the UK.

LONDON (The Guardian) - A UN body wrote to the UK government to express "very extreme concern" about its failure to address "structural, institutional and systemic racism" against people of African descent in Britain. The UN working group of experts on people of African descent called for an immediate and unconditional moratorium on the use of joint enterprise, warning it was leading to the disproportionate imprisonment of black adolescents. In the damning interim findings that concluded a 10-day fact-finding mission, the experts also called for an immediate moratorium on the use of strip searches during stop and searches by police. "We have serious concerns about impunity and the failure to address racial disparities in the criminal justice system, deaths in police custody, 'joint enterprise' convictions and the dehumanizing nature of the stop and (strip) search," the working group said in a statement. The UN added that UK austerity measures had exacerbated racism and racial discrimination for people of African descent, which had an adverse impact on their fundamental rights. Speaking at a press conference in London, Dominique Day, one of the five members of the UN working group, said, "I've never vis-

ited a country before where there is a culture of fear pervading black communities - relating to a range of asylum, residency, policing issues. An entire community experiences constant and ongoing human rights violations as a routine and normalized part of daily life." Officials said they had had a "robust" discussion about their preliminary research with the UK Equalities Minister Kemi Badenoch. A 19-page summary of recommendations was sent to the government on Friday. The working group noted the continuing fallout from the Windrush scandal. "The experience of the Windrush generation has left a deep scar on the collective psyche of people of African descent in the UK," the UN investigator Barbara Reynolds said. She said elderly people had been forced to confront "deeply troubling" questions about their identity and were made to question "who am I, where do I belong? Why am I here? How did I get here, what happens next?" The report also raises concern about maternal and infant mortality. "Black healthcare professionals have cited the pervasive racism and discrimination across maternal and infant childcare that have resulted in relatively high mortality levels," the findings note.

## Climate Activists Block Main Road Into Hague

THE HAGUE (AP) - Hundreds of climate activists blocked one of the main roads into The Hague on Saturday, defying attempts to prevent their protest that have sparked concerns about restrictions on the right to demonstrate in the Netherlands. The protesters, many waving flags with the symbol of environmental group Extinction Rebellion and one holding a sign saying, in Dutch, "This is a dead end road," gathered on the A12 road near the temporary home of the Dutch parliament. Police and hundreds more demonstrators looked on. About an hour after the blockade began, officers began arresting demonstrators who refused to leave the road. Earlier this week, six Extinction Rebellion activists were detained by authorities on suspicion of sedition linked to calls to stage the protest. A judge on Friday upheld an order banning another activist from the area for 90 days. The arrests and exclusion order sparked unrest among activists who argue it infringes their right to peaceful protest. Extinction Rebellion spokesperson Anne Kervers said the large number of participants "shows what society thinks of fossil fuel subsidies and of the intimidation and criminalization of nonviolent climate activism." Prosecutors defended their action, saying the suspects were calling for supporters to take part in the "dangerous and disruptive blockade" of the

road. "Calling for a criminal offense - such as blocking a public road - amounts to sedition," prosecutors said in a statement. They said that the blockade of the busy road leading into The Hague was a danger to motorists and protesters. "Demonstrating is a fundamental right and is facilitated by the municipality of The Hague," prosecutors said. "There are hundreds of demonstrations in The Hague every year that go off without a hitch. But a demonstration is not a license to commit criminal offenses." Extinction Rebellion activists, however, vowed to continue with their protests, in which they demand an end to government tax breaks for companies linked to fossil fuels. "It is essential that citizens can demonstrate against this in a place that matters. For Extinction Rebellion, this includes the A12, between the House of Representatives and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate," the group said in a statement. "Any nuisance for traffic, for example, will have to be tolerated." Other activists joined the protest out of solidarity. "We are very concerned that the right to protest is being increasingly restricted in the Netherlands. We stand firmly behind peaceful activists who exercise their right to protest," Andy Palmen of the Dutch arm of Greenpeace said in a statement ahead of the demonstration.

## News in Brief

BERLIN (Xinhua) - Germany's education system is facing the "biggest shortage of teachers in 50 years" as a result of education policy failures, the country's teachers' association says. The problem is largely "self-made," association president Heinz-Peter Meidinger told the Rheinische Post newspaper. The number of new teachers has been continually declining in recent decades. There are currently 12,000 vacant teaching positions in Germany, according to a survey among the state ministries of education and cultural affairs, conducted by Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland (RND). According to the teachers' association, the figure could be as high as 40,000. At many schools, lessons have been cancelled in advance due to the shortage of teachers, leading to significant under-reporting. Due to its aging population, Germany is also lacking skilled workers in other areas, according to a study published by the German Economic Institute (IW) on Friday. This shortage is set to increase in the near future, IW said. "We have to make attractive offers, above all to older people, so that they voluntarily work longer - also part-time if they wish," study author Alexander Burstedde said. "Otherwise, work will be left undone more and more often in the future."

WELLINGTON (AP) - Authorities said Saturday that three people had died and at least one was missing after record levels of rainfall pounded New Zealand's largest city, causing widespread disruption. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins flew to Auckland on a military plane after a state of emergency was declared in the region. Friday was the wettest day ever recorded in Auckland, according to weather agencies, as the amount of rain that would typically fall over the entire summer hit in a single day. On Friday evening, more than 15 centimeters (6 inches) of rain fell in just three hours in some places. The rain closed highways and poured into homes. Hundreds of people were stranded at Auckland Airport overnight after the airport stopped all flights and parts of the terminal were flooded. Police said they found one man's body in a flooded culvert and another in a flooded carpark. They said fire and emergency crews found a third body after a landslide brought down a house in the suburb of Remuera. One person remained missing after being swept away by floodwaters, police said.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Mali's foreign minister has defended the military government's cooperation with Russia and rejected three options proposed by the UN chief to reconfigure the UN peacekeeping force in the West African country where Al-Qaeda and Daesh terrorist groups are driving insecurity. Abdoulaye Diop told the UN Security Council that security is the country's top priority and Mali will not continue to justify its partnership with Russia, which is providing training and equipment to the military. Mali will struggle to contain an extremist insurgency since 2012. Terrorists were forced from power in Mali's northern cities, but they regrouped in the desert and began launching attacks on the Malian army and its allies. Insecurity has worsened with attacks on civilians and UN peacekeepers in central Mali as well.

LIMA (AFP) - Peru's Congress rejected on Saturday a request by embattled President Dina Boluarte to bring forward elections to December 2023, as protests that have killed dozens rage on against her leadership. The South American country has been embroiled in a political crisis with near-daily protests since December 7 when former president Pedro Castillo was arrested after attempting to dissolve Congress. Demanding that Boluarte resign and call fresh elections, Castillo supporters have erected roadblocks on highways, causing shortages of food, fuel and other basic supplies. The government said it will soon deploy police and soldiers to clear the roadblocks. Lawmakers already agreed last month to bring forward elections from 2026 to April 2024. In the face of relentless protests, Boluarte on Friday urged Congress to call the vote for December, describing the political crisis as a "quagmire." But in a plenary session held during Saturday's early hours, Congress rejected the proposal, with 45 votes in favor, 65 against and two abstentions.

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Two Indian Air Force fighter jets crashed Saturday, killing one pilot and injuring two others, in an apparent mid-air collision while on exercises south of the capital New Delhi. The crash is the latest in a string of military aircraft accidents at a time when the government is trying to modernize its armed forces and meet India's complex security challenges. It involved a Sukhoi Su-30, carrying two pilots, and a French-built Mirage 2000, operated by a third, and was reported by witnesses to police at around 10:00 am (0430 GMT). Both aircraft took off from the Gwalior air base, around 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of where they came down. "The aircraft were on routine operational flying training mission," the country's air force said in a statement, adding that one of the three pilots was fatally injured. An investigation was underway to determine the cause of the crash, it added.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Former U.S. president Donald Trump swings through New Hampshire and South Carolina in the first two stops of a presidential campaign that has largely idled since he launched his new White House bid in November. Trump will speak first at the New Hampshire Republican Party's annual meeting in Salem before heading to Columbia, South Carolina's capital, where he will unveil his leadership team in the state. Both states are seen as potential kingmakers, as they are the first to hold their nominating contests. How a candidate performs there often makes or breaks their campaign. Political observers in both the Republican and Democratic parties will be keenly watching to see who shows up to support Trump at the events. Once the undisputed center of gravity in the Republican Party, an increasing number of elected officials have expressed concerns about his ability to beat Democratic President Joe Biden, if he decides to run again, as is widely expected.