

International Day Against Nuclear Tests

29 August



The human and environmental tragedies that are the result of nuclear testing are compelling reasons for the need to observe the **International Day against Nuclear Tests** – a day in which educational events, activities and messages aim to capture the world's attention and underscore the need for unified efforts to prevent further nuclear weapons testing.

For almost 20 years, a global norm has existed against nuclear testing based on voluntarily unilateral moratoriums. This restraint is a good beginning, but it is not enough. Continued nuclear tests by the Democratic Republic of Korea demonstrate that even the strongest norm is no substitute for a legally-binding prohibition.

In 2016, the Security Council adopted its first resolution focused solely on nuclear testing. Hopefully it represents a new momentum towards taking the essential next step in ridding the world of the menace of nuclear weapons. [International Day against Nuclear Testing](#) - 1 minute

[International Day against Nuclear Tests](#) - 8 minutes

Since nuclear weapons testing began on 16 July 1945, nearly 2,000 have taken place. Early on, having nuclear weapons was seen as a measure of scientific sophistication or military might, with little consideration given to the devastating effects of testing on human life, let alone the dangers of nuclear fallout from atmospheric tests. Hindsight and history have shown us the terrifying and tragic effects of nuclear weapons testing, especially when controlled conditions go awry, and in light of the far more powerful and destructive nuclear weapons that exist today.

In recent months, even as the two sides, U.S. and North Korea, engaged in diplomacy, North Korea was stepping up its production of enriched uranium for nuclear weapons, five U.S. officials say, citing the latest intelligence assessment. North Korea and the U.S. agreed at the summit to "work toward" [denuclearization](#), but there is no specific deal. On Trump's order, the U.S. military canceled training exercises on the Korean peninsula, a major concession to Kim.

While the North Koreans have stopped missile and nuclear tests, "there's no evidence that they are decreasing stockpiles, or that they have stopped their production," said one U.S. official briefed on the latest intelligence. "There is absolutely unequivocal evidence that they are trying to deceive the U.S."