

US Indicts 4 North Koreans; Pyongyang Calls It a Smear Campaign

July 4, 2025

— Categories: Crime



On Friday, tensions between North Korea and the United States escalated once again after Washington announced the indictment of four North Korean nationals accused of cybercrime. The United States charged them with wire fraud and money laundering linked to a scheme that allegedly stole and laundered nearly \$900,000 in cryptocurrency. This development has drawn a strong and immediate response from Pyongyang.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry condemned the U.S. move, calling it an "absurd smear campaign" designed to tarnish the country's image. According to the state-run Korean

Central News Agency, the ministry accused the United States of continuing a long-standing hostile policy that unfairly portrays North Korea as a cyber threat. They argued that these charges were groundless and politically motivated attempts to undermine their sovereignty.

The ministry stressed that the real threat to international cyberspace stability does not come from North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), but rather from the United States itself. Pyongyang accused Washington of using cyber issues as a political weapon, turning cyberspace into a battlefield and threatening the security of sovereign nations worldwide, including North Korea.

This response reflects Pyongyang's deep concern over the legal actions taken by the U.S. judicial authorities. The ministry stated that such moves threaten the safety and rights of its citizens, emphasizing their commitment to protecting those rights amid what they see as aggressive foreign tactics.

The indicted individuals have been placed on a federal wanted list by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia, marking a significant step in the ongoing cybersecurity conflict between the two countries. The case highlights the growing role of cryptocurrency in cybercrime and international tensions.

This latest exchange is just one chapter in the complex and often tense relationship between the United States and North Korea. For years, Washington has accused Pyongyang of engaging in cyber espionage, theft, and other malicious cyber activities, while North Korea denies these allegations and points fingers back at the United States for what it sees as provocative and hostile policies.

The rhetoric surrounding this incident underscores the delicate and fraught nature of cybersecurity on the global stage, where accusations and counter-accusations complicate diplomatic efforts. Both countries continue to accuse each other of actions that threaten international peace and security, with cyberspace becoming a new frontier for this rivalry.

While the legal proceedings against the four North Koreans move forward, the diplomatic fallout serves as a reminder of the broader challenges in addressing cybersecurity threats and maintaining stability in an increasingly digital world. The international community watches closely as these developments unfold, aware that such disputes can have wide-reaching implications beyond the immediate parties involved.