
JAPAN REPORTS SUSPECTED NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS BREACH

- 29.05.2018

Channel News Asia (29 May 2018)

Japan has reported a suspected sanctions violation by Pyongyang to the UN after spotting an apparent cargo transfer involving a North Korean tanker, the foreign ministry in Tokyo said Tuesday (May 29).

The incident is the fifth time this year Tokyo has reported a cargo transfer by a North Korean vessel, in violation of sanctions over Pyongyang's banned nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

A military patrol plane spied the North Korean-flagged tanker alongside a small vessel of unknown nationality - but which appeared to be flying what "seemed like" a Chinese flag - in the East China Sea on the night of May 19, the ministry said in a statement.

"The (Japanese) government strongly suspects they were transferring goods, which is banned by UN sanctions," it said.

The ministry identified the North Korean tanker as the *JI SONG 6*, one of the vessels denied international port access by the UN Security Council.

Pyongyang is subject to a series of UN sanctions, including one prohibiting all member states from facilitating or engaging in ship-to-ship transfers of goods to or from North Korean-flagged vessels.

Tokyo's claims come amid a flurry of diplomatic activity ahead of an expected summit between the North's leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/japan-reports-suspected-north-korea-sanctions-breach-10286392>

Kaynak/Source: