

# CPI(ML) Statement on N. Korea's Nuke Tests

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CPI (ML) expresses grave concern about the nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which have serious implications for nuclear disarmament. However, it must be emphasised that the existing nuclear order of the NPT – a highly unequal order ruled by the US and based on outright double standards – is hardly conducive to encouraging global non-proliferation and disarmament. With Israel possessing nuclear weapons but staying out of the NPT with the blessings of the US, and with several countries including India and Pakistan having conducted their own nuclear tests, North Korea's act has plenty of precedence.

North Korea having opted out of the NPT in 2003 was not legally bound to non-proliferation. But these tests on its part will surely be used by the US as a pretext to intensify its aggressive campaign against the so-called 'axis of evil' of Iran, North Korea and Libya, in the name of punishing violations of IAEA regulations. Such bullying and global policing in the name of a 'punitive' offensive, and any attempt to seek Security Council sanctions for such an offensive, or to escalate a military conflict, must be staunchly opposed.

India, despite its own record of repeated nuclear tests, has once again displayed its hypocrisy by playing the US game and coming out against North Korea for allegedly violating IAEA regulations. The UPA Government must not be allowed to let the US bend India to its imperialist will, as happened in the case of the vote on Iran in the IAEA.

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