The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

# North Korea Detains Crew of Russian Fishing Vessel

By Reuters

July 24, 2019




**7388PetVladVik / photos.sakhalin.name**

North Korea is holding 15 Russian and two South Korean crew of a fishing vessel for violating entry regulations, the Russian Embassy in North Korea said Wednesday.

The crew were detained on July 17 by North Korean border guards, and are currently being held in a hotel in the city of Wonsan, the Russian embassy in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang said in a post on its Facebook page.

The ship, identified by the embassy as the Xiangheilin-8, owned by the Northeast Fishery Company out of Nevelsk, Russia, was also at Wonsan.

North Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the crew was detained for "violating the rules of entry and stay in the territory of (North Korea)," the embassy reported.

**Related article**: Russian-Chinese Air Patrol in Asia-Pacific Draws Fire from S.Korean Jets

South Korea's Unification Ministry in charge of inter-Korean affairs said on Wednesday that the two South Korean sailors are safe and it has been striving to secure their freedom through consultations with their families, North Korea and Russia.

On Monday Russian consular officials were allowed to meet with the crew, who they described as healthy.

The Russian embassy said it was in "constant contact" with the North Korean government and taking all necessary measures to resolve the situation.

Russia has maintained relatively close ties with North Korea, and has continued to be a regular trade partner.

South Korea has sought to ease tensions with its northern neighbor, but South Koreans are still banned by their government from going to North Korea without Seoul's permission.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/07/24/north-korea-detains-crew-of-russian-fishing-vessel-a66537