

**'N. Korea is flouting sanctions'**

A file photo of a North Korean cargo ship docked at the Myanmar International Terminals Thilawar port.AP

North Korea is flouting sanctions by exporting coal, iron, steel and other banned commodities, earning nearly \$200 million in revenue last year, a UN report said on Friday.

A UN panel of experts also found evidence of military cooperation by North Korea to develop Syria's chemical weapons programmes and to provide Myanmar with ballistic missiles.

North Korea "continued to export almost all the commodities prohibited in the resolutions, generating nearly \$200 million in revenue between January and September 2017," said the report by the experts.

**Multiple evasions**

Coal shipments were delivered to China, Malaysia, South Korea, Russia and Vietnam by ships using "a combination of multiple evasion techniques, routes and deceptive tactics," said the report.

The Security Council last year adopted a series of resolutions to tighten and expand exports bans aimed at cutting off revenue to North Korea's military programs.

Seven ships have been barred from ports worldwide for violating UN sanctions with coal and petroleum transfers, but the experts said much more must be done to confront "these rampant illicit activities."

The panel found that North Korea "is already flouting the most recent resolutions by exploiting global oil supply chains, complicit foreign nationals, offshore company registries, and the international banking system."

**END**

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