

U.S. designates North Korea as a 'state sponsor of terror'

President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson at a meeting. APEvan Vucci

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday declared North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism. "Should have happened a long time ago. Should have happened years ago," Mr. Trump declared, announcing the designation at the start of a White House Cabinet meeting.

North Korea is already under a wide array of United States and United Nations sanctions, and the terror designation will not have much immediate economic impact in itself.

But U.S. officials see the designation — lifted by then-President George W. Bush in 2008 — as a way of ratcheting up the pressure on Pyongyang and especially on other states that may be failing to fully enforce the sanctions already in place.

"In addition to threatening the world by nuclear devastation, North Korea repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism including assassinations on foreign soil," Mr. Trump said. In February, North Korea leader Kim Jong-un's elder brother Kim Jong-nam died after he was sprayed with a nerve agent in Kuala Lumpur airport, in an assassination blamed on Pyongyang. "As we take this action today, our thoughts turn to Otto Warmbier and others affected by North Korean oppression," Mr. Trump continued, underlining the legal case for the designation.

U.S. student Warmbier did this year aged only 22 after he was repatriated from detention in North Korea already in a coma. U.S. officials allege he was tortured in custody.

Mr. Trump warned that, in addition to the terror designation, Washington is preparing yet another round of sanctions to force Pyongyang to give up its nuclear missile programme.

"The Treasury Department will be announcing an additional sanction — and a large one — on North Korea," he said.

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com