North Korea missile launch sparks panic and evacuations in Japan

A missile launched by North Korea caused alarm and panic in Japan before the weapon fell into the sea.

North Korea launched the missile between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, South Korean officials said, calling it a "grave provocation".

A **South Korean** military official said the test apparently involved a new weapons system displayed at a recent North Korean military parade, possibly using solid fuel.

It prompted the **Japanese** government to issue an evacuation order on Hokkaido Island, though it was later retracted.

The South Korean military said it was on high alert and coordinating closely with its main ally, the **United States**, which "strongly condemned" what the White House said in a statement was a long-range ballistic missile test.

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