US soldier held by North Korea after crossing border

North Korea is reported to have detained a serving US army soldier who crossed the heavily fortified border from South Korea without permission.

The man was on an organised tour of the UN-run zone dividing the two countries.

The crisis comes during a particularly tense time with the North, one of the world's most isolated states. US citizens are advised not to go there.

Hours after the soldier's detention, North Korea launched two suspected ballistic missiles into the nearby sea.

The missile launch, which has been confirmed by South Korea's military, comes as tensions run high on the Korean peninsula. There has been no suggestion that the launch is tied to the soldier's detention.

It is unclear if the man has defected to North Korea or hopes to return. There has been no word yet from the North.

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