

THE JERUSALEM POST

Can North Korea actually fire a nuclear weapon at the US mainland?

Experts weigh in on the issue.

By [Yonah Jeremy Bob](#) / November 30, 2017 04:36

North Korea's Hwasong-15 ballistic missile test on Wednesday could have a range of as much as 13,035 km., according to the US-based Union of Concerned Scientists – more than enough to hit anywhere on the US mainland.

[...]

Asked whether it is inevitable that North Korea will soon have the ability to hit the entire US mainland with a nuclear strike, **INSS** arms control director **Emily Landau** told *The Jerusalem Post*, “There is a very good chance” they will get that ability.

She said, “I do not see any ideas out there likely to work to ensure it does not happen. As far as North Korea is concerned, they are motivated and that is their goal.”

Landau did not want to speculate regarding some of the different estimates about whether North Korea would be able to hit the US next year or within a few years.

In terms of what to do, she said there are few good options, but appeared to endorse a US strategy of deterrence and containment.

“The US is deterring North Korea from even thinking about sending a nuclear weapon,” she said. “Redlines are being set. The redlines by the US are not redlines about missile testing.... The ‘fire and fury’ rhetoric in July” was directed at the idea of the North “showing it had a missile capability to reach the US mainland.”

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