



THE INFORMER

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CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES KILL EIGHT, BURN QUARTER-MILLION ACRES IN BLAST FURNACE WEATHER

Pray for all those citizens who are in the path of these wildfires in and around California. Pray for the fire fighters safety while working to extinguish these fires.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Heb 4:16)

"Everything is extremely dry. It's like the perfect recipe for a major fire," a fire official said.

Dry, scorching California summer heat on Monday plagued more than 12,000 firefighters battling 17 wildfires that have burned a quarter-million acres of the state, killed at least eight people and destroyed more than 1,000 structures, most of them homes.

Firefighters worked overnight to build lines to control the biggest of the fires, the Carr Fire in Shasta County, about 150 miles north of Sacramento, which started July 23, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.

Shifting winds, dry timber and other fuels hampered crews fighting the fire, which had charred more than 103,000 acres at and around Redding, a city of 91,000 people. Cal Fire said the blaze had destroyed more than 800 homes by Monday evening, along with more than 300 other structures.

Among those whose homes were destroyed was Redding Police Chief Roger Moore, who remained on the lines around the clock, even as he was losing his own home.

"I saw everything around it ignite, and I go, 'It's gone,'" Moore told NBC Bay Area.

The fire was reported to be 23 percent contained on Monday night. But the high temperature in Redding reached 105 on Monday in a heat wave that the National Weather Service said would persist through the first half of this week. Those conditions "will only exacerbate the ongoing threat," it said.

Redding police and Shasta County sheriff's officials said five people had been arrested on suspicion of looting as almost 40,000 residents have been evacuated from the county.

"Law enforcement is in full force and looting will not be tolerated," the sheriff's office said Monday.

The Carr Fire has been blamed for the deaths of six people, including two firefighters and three members of a Redding family....

Two firefighters have also been killed in the Ferguson Fire near Yosemite National Park, which started July 13 and had burned more than 57,000 acres by Monday night, when it was reported to be 30 percent contained, authorities said.

"Everything is extremely dry," said Amy Head, a spokeswoman for Cal Fire. "It's like the perfect recipe for a major fire."

The Mendocino Complex, two fires only 30 miles apart in Mendocino and Lake counties that started on Friday, reached 45,000 acres Monday night and was only 5 percent contained, authorities said Monday afternoon....

Fourteen other smaller fires span the state from Susanville in the extreme north to central San Diego County about 40 miles from the Mexican border. No deaths have been reported. (Excerpts from Alex Johnson's article on [NBC News](#))

SAUDI KING BACKS PALESTINIAN STANCE ON TRUMP'S PEACE PLAN

Please continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you prosper. May there be peace within your walls, and prosperity inside your fortresses." (Ps 122:6-7)

Saudi Arabia has reportedly reassured the Palestinian Authority and Arab states that it would oppose any peace plan put forward by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration that does not accept the Palestinian stance on the status of Jerusalem and the resettlement of millions of descendants of refugees.

"We will not abandon you," King Salman promised Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas during a recent meeting, Reuters reported Sunday. (Excerpts from Michael Bachner and Agencies in [The Times of Israel](#))

TRUMP SAYS U.S. TO IMPOSE 'LARGE SANCTIONS' ON TURKEY OVER PASTOR'S DETENTION

Please continue to pray for Pastor Brunson's release.

But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit. (Gal 4:29)

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday said the United States would impose significant sanctions on Turkey over its detention of American Christian pastor Andrew Brunson and called on Ankara to immediately release him.

"The United States will impose large sanctions on Turkey for their long time detainment of Pastor Andrew Brunson, a great Christian, family man and wonderful human being. He is suffering greatly. This innocent man of faith should be released immediately!" Trump tweeted.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday blasted Turkey over its detention of Brunson and threatened Ankara with U.S. sanctions unless the man was freed.

"To President Erdogan and the Turkish government, I have a message on behalf of the president of the United States of America: release Pastor Andrew Brunson now or be prepared to face the consequences.

"If Turkey does not take immediate action to free this innocent man of faith and send him home to America, the United States will impose significant sanctions on Turkey until Pastor Andrew Brunson is free," Pence said on behalf of Trump at an event hosted by the U.S. State Department."

On Wednesday, a court in Turkey ruled that Brunson, ... should be transferred to house arrest.

Brunson, who is from North Carolina and has worked in Turkey for more than 20 years, has been accused of helping the group which Ankara says was behind a failed military coup in 2016. He has denied the charges but faces up to 35 years in jail if found guilty. (Excerpts from [Reuter News Service and Haaretz News Service](#))

U.S. DETECTS NEW ACTIVITY AT NORTH KOREA FACTORY THAT BUILT ICBMS

Pray that a peaceful resolution will be made with the North Koreans.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

U.S. spy satellites have detected renewed activity at the North Korean factory that produced the country's first intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, a senior U.S. official said on Monday, in the midst of talks to compel Pyongyang to give up its nuclear arms.

Photos and infrared imaging indicate vehicles moving in and out of the facility at Sanumdong, but do not show how advanced any missile construction might be, the official told Reuters on condition of anonymity because the intelligence is classified....

According to the U.S. official who spoke to Reuters, one photo showed a truck and covered trailer similar to those the North has used to move its ICBMs. Since the trailer was covered, it was not possible to know what, if anything, it was carrying.

The White House said it did not comment on intelligence. A senior official at South Korea's presidential office said U.S. and South Korean intelligence agencies are closely looking into various North Korean movements, declining specific comment.

The evidence obtained this month is the latest to suggest ongoing activity in North Korea's nuclear and missile facilities despite talks with the United States and a June summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump....

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week that North Korea was continuing to produce fuel for nuclear bombs despite its pledge to denuclearize. But he insisted the Trump administration was still making progress in its talks with Pyongyang.

Joel Wit, a former State Department negotiator and founder of 38 North, a North Korea monitoring project, said it was unrealistic to expect North Korea to stop its programs “until the ink is dry on an agreement.”...

The Sanumdong factory produced two Hwasong-15 ICBMs, North Korea’s longest-range missiles, but the U.S. official noted that Pyongyang still had not tested a reliable re-entry vehicle capable of surviving a high-velocity trip through the Earth’s atmosphere and delivering a nuclear warhead.

It is possible, the official said, that any new missiles the North is building may be for further testing of such vehicles and of more accurate guidance systems.

“They seem to have figured out the engines, but not all the higher-tech stuff, and that might be what this is about,” the official said.

“What’s more, a liquid-fueled ICBM doesn’t pose nearly the threat that a solid-fueled one would because they take so long to fuel, and that’s something we almost certainly could see in time to abort a launch, given our assets in the vicinity.” (Excerpts from David Brunnstrom at [Reuter News Service](#))