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North Korea demands return of vessel seized by the United States

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The U.S. Department of Justice [filed a civil forfeiture complaint](#) on May 9 against “Wise Honest,” a 17,061-ton, single-hull bulk carrier ship registered in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). According to the Justice Department, the carrier was used to illicitly ship coal from North Korea and to deliver heavy machinery to the DPRK. The vessel was detained by Indonesian authorities in April 2018, who then handed it over to the U.S. The U.S. claims the vessel was transporting a large amount of coal in violation of U.S. sanctions against North Korea.

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