

Forum:	Security Council
Issue:	The situation in North Korea
Student Officer:	Areti Angeliki (Ariella) Besi
Position:	President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ariella Besi, I am an 11th grader at the German School of Athens and it will be a great honor for me to serve as your President. This PSMUN will be my 17th MUN conference and my 7th participation as a student officer.

MUN has been a long and pleasant journey, offering me experience, knowledge and inspiration to be a persevering free-thinking individual. It has shown me the importance of education and information for our generation teaching me more about the real role of politics in today's rapidly evolving society. MUN has equipped me with leadership skills and has introduced me to the art of rhetoric.

The Security Council is called upon to deal with multifarious topics requiring your strong political insight, critical thinking and deep knowledge on your countries' positions. This organ embodies the epitome of diplomatic power in a world characterised by interconnectedness and interdependence.

I believe that the chair should be the motivation, the person that inspires the committee to work on the topics and I will always be there to support you and answer your questions. (You can contact me at: ariella@hotmail.gr) Nevertheless, I will be very strict with rules of procedure and any kind of inappropriate behaviour won't be tolerated for the functioning of the committee to be operational. My expectations are very high, but if you're constructive delegates that work with professionalism, there's nothing to be afraid of.

INTRODUCING TOPIC

The question of North Korea is one of the most salient and multifaceted cases in the contemporary political scene. North Korea is an East Asian state in the northern part of the Korean peninsula that has been at the forefront of international news for the last 50 years.

The country is run by a family dynasty that governs according to media with absolutism, chauvinism and imperiousness requesting blind dedication from the citizens in the name of Juche-socialism. Yet, it is not the nature of North Korea's political system that has provoked the abomination of the international community, but rather the practices employed to impose this system on the country's citizens. North Korea's regime has been accused of practicing massive and systematic crimes against humanity on its own people in the name of Juche ideology and national devotion. In spite of the continuous involvement of the United Nations, the regime remains adamant and invokes the principle of national sovereignty as a pretext to exercise its own arbitrary law. Moreover, beyond the regional internal social and political situation, North Korea poses a threat to international peace and security.

The North Korean regime constitutes a pugnacious antagonist for international security. Since the end of the Korean War, North Korea has been transformed to a hyper-militarized state equipped with a wide array of military mechanisms including weapons of mass destruction. More specifically, after continuous missile tests, North Korea's nuclear program has evoked the condemnation of the international community. However, international abhorrence had no effect on North Korea's leadership. Today, the threat of a nuclear attack or war in the Korean Peninsula is employed as a way of blackmailing the United Nations in order for North Korea to cover its people's needs and tackle regional famine which was a result of the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

Encompassing various political, military and social elements, the current pandemonium constitutes a case of extreme interest, since it is one of the exceptional times, where the international community is called upon to deal with a political entity that has flagrantly disregarded the institution of the United Nations and its resolutions, declares war against a P5 state and openly calls its negotiating partners "puppets". This is a representative Security Council-case promising a suspenseful debate. It deserves respect and devotion from every participant.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

DPRK-ROK

DPRK stands for "Democratic People's Republic of Korea", which is the official name of North Korea, not to be confused with ROK, which stands for "Republic of Korea" and is the official name of South Korea.

Juche

Juche is a political ideology that constitutes the national shibboleth of DPRK. Juche ideology is Kim Il Sung's interpretation of Marxism-Leninism adjusted to the needs of DPRK. The ideology's cornerstone is the principle of "self-reliance". Self-reliance can be defined as economic autarky and independence. The concept encompasses different aspects, namely chaju, charip and chawi. Chaju embraces political self-determination, national integrity and autonomy. In the same way, charip entails economic self-sustenance, rejection of foreign economic influence and pursuit of national prosperity. In the end, the philosophy is completed by the attainment of chawi, embodying military independence and strong national defence. Juche ideology is the very reason why North Korea constantly refuses any international intervention in national political, economic and military issues in the name of sovereignty.

Korean Demilitarised Zone

The Korean Demilitarized Zone (KDZ) is a 248km-long and 4km-wide strip crossing the 38th parallel that functions as a border between North and South Korea. This area is a buffer zone, set up in order to separate the two antagonists and to preserve peace. In the middle, the Korean Demilitarised Zone is crossed by the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), established during the Armistice Agreement in 1953. This region constitutes one of the most heavily armed borders in the world comprised by nearly 2 million soldiers in total.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The roots of the current situation can be traced upon the historic evolution of the Korean War, influenced by the wider international political landscape in the context of the Cold War.

In the early 20th century the Korean Empire became subjugated to the colonial desires of Japan. As of the 1910 Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty following the end of the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Korea became conquered by Japan and remained so until the end of World War II, in August 1945. However, the aftermath of WWII brought about the emergence of a new proxy war in the Korean peninsula. The Korean War explicitly fomented by foreign superpowers in the context of the Cold War. The main stakeholders were the Western and the Eastern Bloc under the implicit leadership of the USA and the USSR respectively.

The first separation of Korea occurred after the Soviet invasion of the northern part of the peninsula (in agreement with the victorious Allies) as an act of war directed against Japan (who was in the Axis). Threatened by the danger of communist infiltration in Korea, the US responded by entering the southern part of the peninsula resulting in a deadlock. The only solution was the division of the peninsula over the 38th parallel into two separate states. From this time forward the northern state passed to the occupation of USSR troops, while the southern one passed under the rule of the USA.

Accordingly, the two newly formed states gradually adopted the political and economic models of their respective protectors. DPRK became a communist state under the leadership of Kim Il-sung (former communist activist and anti-Japanese guerrilla; supported by the Soviet Union) leading to the consolidation of this regime for the rest of the country's future. At the same time the Republic of Korea followed the democratic capitalistic model with Syngman Rhee (anti-communist; before his election he was appointed head of the provisional government by the US) as its first President. Each state desired reunification of the nation under its own rule as expressed in the following peace talks in 1946-1947. This mutual, yet contradicting wish became the apple of discord between the two parties and tensions escalated quickly.

The Korean War broke out on June 25th, 1950, when DPRK invaded ROK with the unconcealed support of the USSR. After only two months DPRK had reached the Pusan (or Busan) perimeter, near the end of the peninsula. This violent expansion of DPRK provoked the reaction of the Western Bloc.

At that time, the UN was lead mainly by the Western Bloc, so when the Chinese seat was taken over by the Nationalist government of the Republic of China, USSR representative Jacob Malik officially declared a boycott of further Security Council meetings in protest over the incident threatening its main ally. This temporary resignation of USSR facilitated in fact, western predominance in the Security Council.



Picture I North Korean invasion of South Korea in 1950

Thus, the UNSC condemned the northern invasion and proceeded with a UN military intervention in the Korean peninsula reaching the Yalu River in favour of South Korea. At this point, the People's Republic of China drastically joined the war in favour of DPRK and launched an offensive that pushed the UN-led forces back to the 38th parallel.

The Korean War concluded in 1953 with the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement and the establishment of the Korean Demilitarised Zone. However, DPRK and ROK are technically still at war, since this agreement is a cease-fire and not a peace treaty. Since then, several skirmishes have occurred between the two states, but no official battle has been fought yet.

Today, the two political entities have evolved independently. South Korea has become a modern, democratic, liberal state



Picture II Kim Jong-un, DPRK's current leader

despite experiencing a dictatorship period from the 1960s up until the 1980s. On the other hand North Korea has maintained the “Juche” principles of Kim Il-sung, who has been eternally assigned the post of President thus creating a family dynasty dominating DPRK’s politics. Despite his death in 1994, his legacy was passed to his son Kim Jong-Il, and, later on after Kim Jong-Il’s death in 2011, the power was transferred to his son Kim Jong-Un, DPRK’s current leader. This political, economic and social chasm has deepened the division between the two states rendering their co-existence a continuous threat to international security.

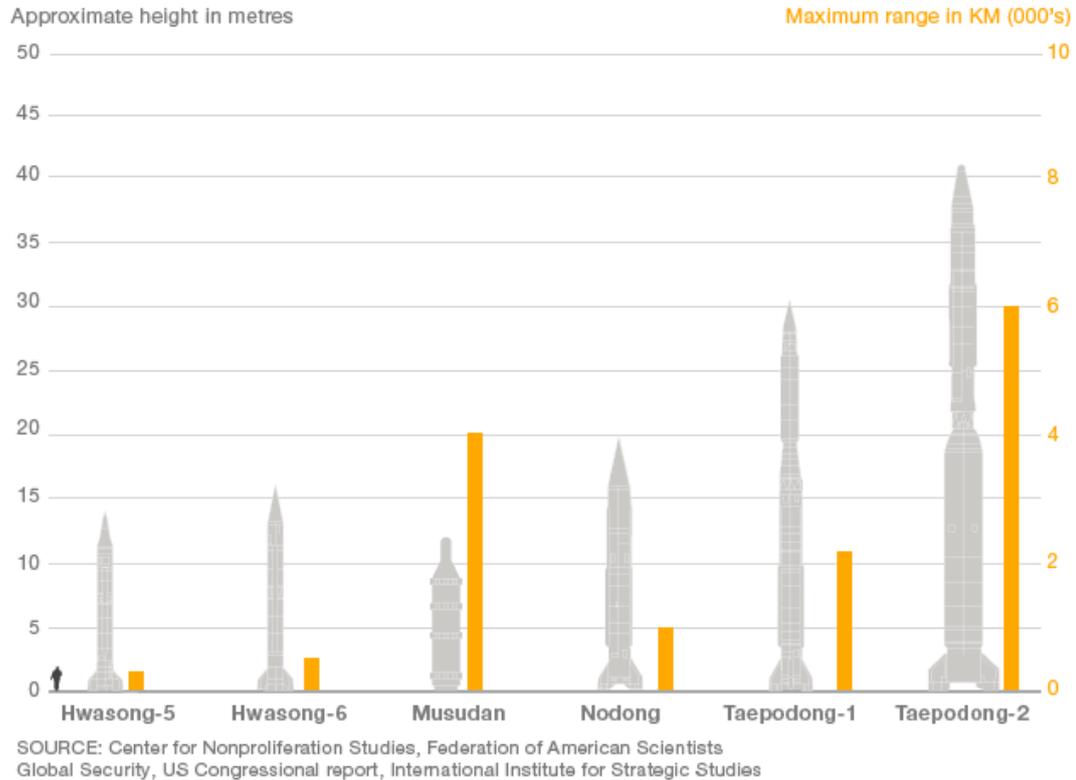
In the contemporary political scene North Korea is the most secretive and isolated country in the international community showing scepticism towards the rest of the world and even aversion towards any western states. Additionally, the political system of DPRK is widely seen as a form of a dictatorship contingent upon the cult of personality of a despotic and dogmatic leader. Everyday life in North Korea is pervaded by totalitarianism, non-tolerance of dissent and militarism. The regime has been accused of systematic human rights violations, such as tortures, public executions, censorship, forced abortions, slave labour and extrajudicial imprisonments. The UN has constantly responded with condemnations and sanctions. Yet, it disregards any foreign involvement. Moreover, North Korea maintains one of the most intensified armies in the world, but it is not considered to be modernised according to current international standards of training and equipment.

This political inexorability along with DPRK’s voluntary international isolation has led the country to stagnation and austerity. This Juche form of socialism has formed a rigid system that is not in the position to sustain itself resulting in a dilapidated economy and an impoverished society. DPRK’s failure to modernise and respond to its people’s economic needs has driven its leadership to the United Nations for the provision of aid. The international donations to North Korea can be estimated around over 500,000 metric tons of heavy fuel and over 12 metric tons of food since 1995.

DPRK’s Nuclear Programme

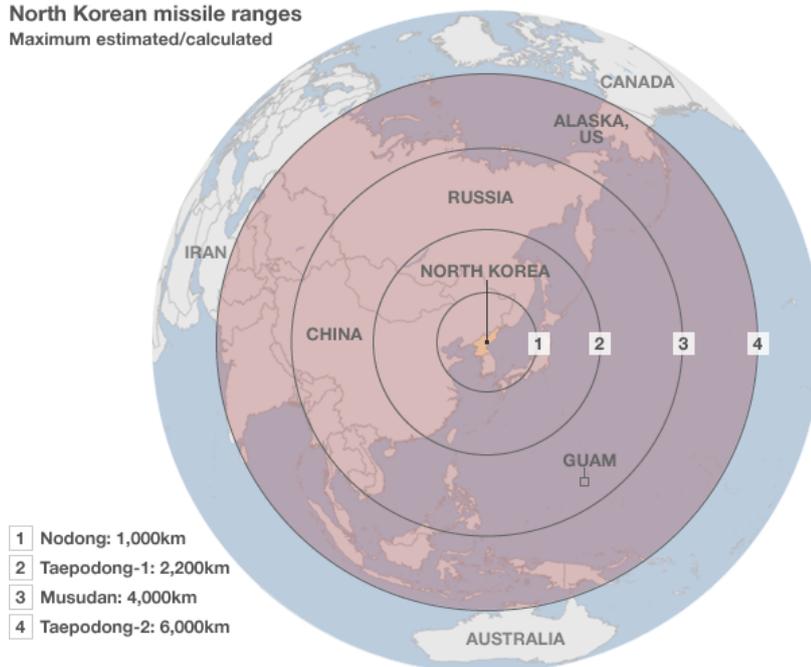
One of the main reasons for DPRK’s isolation in the international community is its nuclear aspirations. DPRK’s nuclear programme encompasses a wide array from short-and medium-range ballistic missiles to more complex modern systems. It was inaugurated in the early 1960s with the alleged provision of missiles by the USSR and Egypt in the 60s and 70s. Until 1984 DPRK was reportedly building its own scuds, the Hwasong-5 followed by the Hwasong-6 and later the Nodong and the multiple-stage Taepodong missile series.

Key North Korean missiles



One of the most important steps towards the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula was the signing of the 1994 Agreed Framework, a pact binding DPRK to freeze and then dismantle its nuclear power plant programme and open up two secret military sites to inspection by international experts, in return for the replacement of DPRK's graphite nuclear reactors with new light-water reactors and for the provision of oil from the US. The Agreement officially broke down in 2003.

North Korean missile ranges
Maximum estimated/calculated



Source: Council for Foreign Relations

From 2003 onwards DPRK's nuclear programme has been radically developing and rather aggressive threatening international security. DPRK has reportedly conducted missile tests in 1993, 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2014, and, nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013. All of them have received global condemnations. At times DPRK has promised to shut down its main nuclear reactor in exchange with aid, but negotiations have failed. Many efforts have taken place by the Six-Party Talks (between DPRK, USA, ROK, China, Japan and the Russian Federation) with the aim of Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, but these negotiations were rejected by DPRK in 2009.

From 1998 South Korea had been following a "Sunshine Policy" in bilateral relations to DPRK. Yet, this policy changed drastically after the election of Lee Myung-Bak as South Korean president in 2008. Tensions intensified when DPRK declared itself independent from the Armistice Agreement receiving once again international condemnation.

US sanctions against DPRK in August 2010 constituted a severe wound to the North Korean economy, a wound that along with natural disasters enforced DPRK to re-enter negotiations expressing willingness to accept aid. Despite this DPRK never really suspended its nuclear programme, thus bringing more chaos in the international community.

In 2015, after receiving a number of sets of UNSC sanctions DPRK has continued unimpeded with its nuclear programme and its hostile rhetoric threatening with declarations of war against USA (their officially declared "arch-enemy") and constantly blackmailing the international community.

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

United States America

The United States of America has been one of the main parties involved in Korean peninsula since the Korean War. The US position is against North Korean aggression and clearly in favour of South Korean and Japanese interests. USA and DPRK have no diplomatic relations and the USA have imposed a great number of sanctions on DPRK. The Swedish Embassy in North Korea is the U.S. protecting power and provides limited consular services to U.S. citizens. The U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy is Glyn Davies. North Korea has no embassy in Washington, DC, but it is represented in the United States through its mission to the United Nations.

People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China has been one of the most supportive allies to DPRK from the Korean War onwards being DPRK's most important trade partner and source of food, energy and arms. Chinese representatives have always opposed economic sanctions on DPRK, since a weak economy can result in an enormous wave of North Korean refugees to China, which is already overpopulated. However, DPRK's intransigent stance has frustrated Chinese politicians, especially after the execution

of Jang Song-Taek, Kim Jong-Un's uncle who had close relations with Beijing. Additionally, China has received heavy criticism because of its policy regarding North Korean refugees hiding in its territory. It has been reported that it enforces a policy of repatriation, arresting North Koreans and proceeding with their deportation back to DPRK, where they have to face severe consequences.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

Date	Event
1945	End of Japanese occupation of Korea with Japan's surrender after World War II
1948	First separation of Korea
1950	North Korean invasion
1950-1953	Korean War
1953	Signing of the Armistice Agreement
1993	North Korean missile tests
1994	Kim Il-Sung's death; signing of the Agreed Framework with USA
1998	DPRK fires its first long-range missile
2000	First inter-Korean summit
2002	DPRK named as part of "an axis of evil" by US
2003	DPRK withdraws from Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); Establishment of the Six-party talks
2005	First GA Resolution addressing Human Rights violations in DPRK
2006	North Korean missile tests; first underground nuclear test; UNSC adopts resolution 1695 prohibiting any transfer of material that could enhance DPRK's missiles programme; UNSC adopts resolution 1718 proposing sanctions and prohibiting future North Korean nuclear tests or deployment of any ballistic missiles
2009	DPRK missile and nuclear tests; UNSC adopts resolution 1874 calls DPRK to rejoin the NPT and to continue the six-party talks
2011	Kim Jong-Il's death

2012	UN adopts resolution 2050 against DPRK's stockpile and production of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons
2013	DPRK missile and nuclear tests; UNSC adopts resolution 2087 in response to DPRK's satellite launch and resolution 2094 condemning the third North Korean nuclear missile test
2014	DPRK missile tests

PAST UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

- S/RES/2141, 5 MARCH 2014
- S/RES/2094, 7 MARCH 2013
- S/RES/2087, 22 JANUARY 2013
- S/RES/2050, 12 JUNE 2012
- S/RES/1985, 10 JUNE 2011
- S/RES/1928, 7 JUNE 2010
- S/RES/1887, 24 SEPTEMBER 2009
- S/RES/1874, 12 JUNE 2009
- S/RES/1718, 14 OCTOBER 2006
- S/RES/1695, 15 JULY 2006
- S/RES/825, 11 MAY 1993
- S/RES/702, 8 AUGUST 1991

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The situation in DPRK is a multifaceted topic that can be examined from different aspects, such as the political, military, social, economic etc. Some of the most important issues that need to be addressed by the UN Security Council are:

DPRK's human rights violations

Regardless of ideology, no regime has the right to violate its people's fundamental human rights and thus to offend the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Charter. Freedom of speech is unknown to the citizens of DPRK. Any kind of press or media is subjected to state censorship and the people of DPRK have no contact to the rest of the world. Dissent is another unknown word for them, since any such expression is seen as treason. This regime employs terrorism on its own people to

imply its supremacy. Any dissidence is either subjugated to public execution or immediately sent to labour camps, where he/she is imposed to tortures and is forced to work under slavery conditions. Organisations such as the United Nations, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have condemned the humanitarian situation in North Korea with no effect.

DPRK's threats to international security

Withdrawing from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, rejecting IAEA inspections in the last decades and repeatedly testing nuclear weapons are some of the most important violations of international law that DPRK has been accused of. DPRK refuses to negotiate or generally to cooperate and unleashes nuclear threats or declarations of war. This state has ignored countless sanctions and UN policies thus rejecting the UN Charter. Until now, the United Nations have reacted with harsher sanctions, but how long will DPRK accept such sanctions without actively responding? And what kind of response is expected?

In any case the UNSC has to ensure the absolute isolation of DPRK and the protection of North Korean refugees. At this point it is worth mentioning that if there is any hope for overthrow of the current government, then this hope lies upon the hands of the North Korean people. However, few can be done in such a state-controlled and militarised system. This is the very reason why the only hope for the creation of an opposition lies upon the hands of refugee communities. Therefore, the United Nations have to ensure that North Korean refugees are protected by their host countries and are given the chance of participating in integration programmes under the auspices of the UN.

The international community has to act concomitant and transparent so as to ensure that DPRK is finally forced to adhere to the principles of the UN. Additionally, the neighbouring countries of DPRK should be safeguarded to be protected in case of a nuclear attack to avoid another international tragedy.

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