

EAST ASIAN OBSERVER

Issue 1: The North Korean Nuclear Crisis

A Consideration of the Current US-North Korea Standoff

Kelly Gieop Na*

1. What Happened in North Korea in 2013?

A. Satellite Launch

On April 13, 2012, North Korea launched the satellite-loaded 'Unha-3' rocket in defiance of sanctions and international warnings.¹ The United Nations Security Council ("UNSC") issued a presidential statement on April 16 of the same year, to condemn North Korea's rocket launch.² Consequently, North Korea cancelled its plan to let in the International Atomic Energy Agency ("IAEA") inspectors in response to the US' withdrawal of the food aid promised in February 29, 2012.³

Despite these events, North Korea launched a second unit of 'Unha-3' rocket with a satellite 'Kwangmyongsong-2' on board, on December 12, 2012. This time the launch was successful and the satellite entered orbit. The North American Aerospace Defense Command ("NORAD") also confirmed that the North Korean satellite launch was successful.⁴

* Student Editor. J.D. candidate at Chonnam National University School of Law, Korea. The author may be contacted at: boulez25@naver.com

¹ The rocket exploded 90 seconds after blast off and came crashing down into the Yellow Sea. For details, see *Controversial North Korea Rocket Launch Apparently Fails in flight*, UNIVERSE TODAY, Apr. 13, 2012, available at <http://www.universetoday.com/94561/breaking-news-controversial-north-korean-rocket-launch-apparently-fails-in-flight/> (last visited on May 10, 2013).

² U.N. Doc. S/RES/2094 (2013).

³ See *North Korea Refuses to Allow IAEA Monitors, Says It Will Launch Another Rocket with Satellite*, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES, Apr. 17, 2012, available at <http://www.ibtimes.com/north-korea-refuses-allow-iaea-monitors-says-it-will-launch-another-rocket-satellite-438148> (last visited on May 10, 2013).

⁴ See *NORAD Acknowledges Missile Launch*, NORAD NEWS, Dec. 11, 2012, available at <http://www.norad.mil/>