



## Landmine Detonates on South Korean Side of Demilitarized Zone

- [view pdf](#)

Tensions between North Korea and South Korea rose as a result of the first major exchange of artillery fire in five years.<sup>1</sup> On 4 August 2015, a landmine severely wounded two South Korean staff sergeants patrolling the DMZ.<sup>2</sup> Officials from Seoul accused North Korea of planting three mines near the guard post on the south side of the DMZ, 440 meters (481 yards) away from the demarcation line; officials from Pyongyang denied these accusations.<sup>3</sup> The explosives found were placed in wooden boxes, not unlike mines previously used by North Korea.<sup>3</sup>

South Korea responded to the incident with loudspeakers broadcasting propaganda across the border, a Cold War tactic not used in over a decade.<sup>1</sup> The loudspeakers broadcasted pro-democratic content, the weather and world news.<sup>4</sup> Pyongyang threatened severe and imminent retaliation should South Korean loudspeakers continue broadcasting, and increased their country's military alert to a "semi-war state."<sup>1</sup>

On 20 August 2015, North Korea fired rockets in the general direction of the loudspeakers, and exchanged artillery fire across the border with soldiers from South Korea.<sup>1</sup> During these events, the South Korean government asked the citizens in neighboring towns to evacuate the area due to "a danger of bombing."<sup>4</sup>

Officials from both countries met on 22–23 August 2015 and discussed resolving the current situation and furthering positive country relations.<sup>4</sup> On 24 August 2015, the opposing sides agreed on a truce; Pyongyang stated "regret" for the landmine explosion and lowered its defense status, and Seoul agreed to cease using their loudspeakers on the DMZ.<sup>5</sup> The status of landmines in the DMZ was not part of the truce agreement. 

~ Heather Funkhouser, CISR staff

### Contact Information

Center for International Stabilization and Recovery

James Madison University MSC 4902  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807 / USA  
Email: [cisr@jmu.edu](mailto:cisr@jmu.edu)  
Website: <http://www.jmu.edu/cisr>

## Endnotes

---

1. Sang-Hun, Choe. "North Korea and South Korea Trade fire Across Border, Seoul Says." *The New York Times*. Accessed 23 September 2015. <http://nyti.ms/1TVufGX>.
2. Gale, Alastair. "Seoul Says North Korea Laid Land Mines at Border." *The Wall Street Journal*. Accessed 23 September 2015. <http://on.wsj.com/1DD7JLy>.
3. Sang-Hun, Choe. "South Korea Accuses the North After Land Mines Maim Two Soldiers in DMZ." *The New York Times*. Accessed 23 September 2015. <http://nyti.ms/1Pft22c>.
4. McKirdy, Euan and Kathy Novak. "North Korea meets for talks with South Korea after high tensions." *CNN*. Accessed 23 September 2015. <http://cnn.it/1Lcze0g>.
5. Rothwell, James, Julian Ryall and Andrew Salmon. "North Korea Agrees Truce with South Korea and says it 'Regrets' its Actions." *The Telegraph*. Accessed September 30 2015. <http://bit.ly/1JDC7Gc>.

[TOP OF PAGE](#)

---

*The Journal of ERW & Mine Action* is produced and sponsored by:



© 2015 All rights reserved. *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action*, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University.  
MSC 4902 Harrisonburg, VA / USA 22807 | Email: [cisr@jmu.edu](mailto:cisr@jmu.edu)

If cited properly, short sections (a sentence or two) can be used without permission. Written *Journal of ERW and Mine Action* approval is required, however, before longer sections of content published in *The Journal* may be used by another source or publication.  
ISSN 2154-1485

[Past Issues](#) \* [CISR Home](#) \* [Subscribe](#)