

# Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Statement by **Korea Future**

# Situation in the DPRK

## 1. Arbitrary Detention

During the third UPR cycle, the DPRK government noted six recommendations pertaining to the issue of arbitrary arrest and detention.

# 1. Arbitrary Detention

## Human Rights Situation Development

- The DPRK continues to **violate procedural rights during the arrest and detention** of individuals exercising fundamental human rights, including freedom of expression, movement, and religion.
- The recent mass repatriation of over 600 North Koreans **underscores the ongoing pattern of arbitrary detention and disregard for procedural rights.**
- New laws enacted by the DPRK since the last review have **further escalated arbitrary detentions** for activities associated with the exercise of human rights.

# 1. Arbitrary Detention

## Key Recommendations

- **Prohibit** the arrest of individuals for the legitimate exercise of their right to leave the country and cease the detention of DPRK citizens who have been forcibly repatriated.
- **Ensure** that all detentions are based on lawful criteria and are carried out in full compliance with established due process protocols.

# Situation in the DPRK

## 2. Fair Trial and Justice

During the third UPR cycle, the DPRK government noted two recommendations related to the administration of justice and the right to a fair trial.

## 2. Fair Trial and Justice

### Human Rights Situation Development

- The DPRK lacks essential due process safeguards, leaving detainees unaware of their right to legal assistance.
- Defence attorneys in the DPRK are state-appointed and largely ineffective without the payment of bribes, highlighting pervasive corruption and the absence of an independent judiciary.
- Detainees are presumed guilty before standing trial, with no recognition of the presumption of innocence.

## 2. Fair Trial and Justice

### Key Recommendations

- **Ensure** the right to a fair trial for all individuals, in accordance with international human rights standards, by systematically training judicial and law enforcement personnel in these fundamental principles.
- **Safeguard** the independence and impartiality of judicial authorities, and guarantee the right to a fair trial for individuals facing administrative sanctions.

## Situation in the DPRK

### **3. Conditions of Detention**

During the third UPR cycle, the DPRK government noted seven recommendations concerning conditions of detention.



## 3. Conditions of Detention

### Human Rights Situation Development

- Detention conditions in the DPRK remain unlawful, with reports of nutritionally deficient food, severe overcrowding, a lack of hygiene supplies, untreated injuries, and a shortage of qualified medical staff.
- Women and girls in detention are subjected to severe sexual violence, including invasive searches and coerced abortions, often carried out by untrained personnel.

## 3. Conditions of Detention

### Key Recommendations

- **Improve detention conditions** to safeguard the right to health by ensuring the provision of nutritionally balanced food in adequate quantities, free from contaminants, and by guaranteeing unconditional access to comprehensive medical services, including mental, physical, maternal, and reproductive healthcare. Additionally, affirm the availability of sufficient personal hygiene amenities for all detainees.
- **Discipline or prosecute officials** found to be engaging in discriminatory practices or committing gender-based violence, including sexual and reproductive violence against women.

**Thank you for your attention.**

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