

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)

Presented by:

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DATABASE CENTER FOR NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS

1: Freedom of Expression & Access to Information

OUTCOME OF 3RD UPR IN 2019

Accepted 8 recommendations on the subject, including:

- *Reform laws and practices in line with international standards on freedom of speech and freedom of expression.*
- *Ensure the freedom to pursue, receive, and communicate information and ideas whether they be oral, handwritten, or printed.*

UPDATE ON SITUATION

1) Enactment of 3 draconian laws:

- Reactionary Ideology and Culture Rejection Act (2020)*
- Youth Education Guarantee Act (2021)
- Pyongyang Cultural Language Protection Act (2023)*

*Maximum penalty = death penalty

2) Deployment of task forces (*sangmu* or *groupppa*) for crackdowns and detainment

1: Freedom of Expression & Access to Information

We recommend that the DPRK:

- Repeal the Reactionary Ideology and Culture Rejection Law, the Youth Education Guarantee Law, and the Pyongyang Cultural Language Protection Act, and decriminalize actions that amount to the legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.**
- Allow individuals to freely access all types of media and information, including online.**

2: Freedom of Movement

OUTCOME OF 3RD UPR IN 2019

Accepted 3 recommendations on the subject, including:

- *Allow all citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to move freely at home and abroad.*

UPDATE ON SITUATION

1) Continued restrictions on domestic and international travel:

- Requirement of permits for domestic travel
- Lack of issuance of passports for ordinary citizens

2) Continued punishment of forcibly repatriated individuals

3) Border fortification and “shoot-on-sight” policy

2: Freedom of Movement

We recommend that the DPRK:

- Guarantee the right to freedom of movement, including the right to leave one's country, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**
- Release all individuals who have been forcibly repatriated to the DPRK from China.**

3: Freedom of Religion

OUTCOME OF 3RD UPR IN 2019

Accepted 3 recommendations on the subject, including:

- *Prevent and eliminate all forms of persecution committed on the basis of religion or belief.*
- *Promote religious tolerance and dialogue in society.*

UPDATE ON SITUATION

- 1) Near-extinction of religion in the country
- 2) Continued crackdowns on the exercise of Christian and other unapproved beliefs (e.g., shamanism)
- 3) Continued treatment and punishment of unapproved religious activities as treason

3: Freedom of Religion

We recommend that the DPRK:

- Allow the free exercise of religious beliefs, including organized meetings and access to religious texts, that is independent from state supervision.**
- End the practice of treating individuals as political criminals based on their religious or ideological beliefs.**

Thank you!

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