

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DPRK

People for Successful COrean REunification
(PSCORE) and its partners

August 2024

UPR Info Pre-sessions

Our Organization and partners

People for Successful COrean REunification (PSCORE)

- Special Consultative Status at the UN Economic and Social Council since 2012.
- Advocates for North Korean human rights and strives for a unified Korea.

Partners: North Korean Human Rights Corporation (NKHRC) & Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea (Hanbyun)

Summary



I. Forced repatriations

II. Digital Rights

III. Disability Rights

I. Forced Repatriations

In 2019, DPRK rejected recommendations regarding the freedom to enter and exit the country.

- Severe border control, increase in forced repatriation.
- Inhumane treatment upon repatriation: torture, execution, enforced disappearances, imprisonment...
- Between October 2023 and June 2024, **700 defectors forcibly repatriated from China.**

“I was slapped in the face with leather gloves and stomped on. If I screamed, they beat me for screaming out loud. (...) I was beaten for almost an hour. When I fell to the ground after being beaten, they would say I was feigning and grab me by my hair to beat me again.”

- Hyo-sung Joo (2022)

Recommendations – Forced Repatriations

1. Clarify those **700 individuals' fate and whereabouts**, including by ensuring the realization of their immediate return, and engaging in constructive dialogue with the parties concerned.
2. Ensure freedom of movement **across the Yalu and Tumen rivers' borders**.
3. Ensure escapees are not subject to **inhumane treatments upon repatriation** such as: torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and execution.

II. Digital Human Rights

DPRK's unique situation:

- Vast majority of North Korean citizens cannot access the **global internet**.
- DPRK implemented extensive **digital surveillance**.
- DPRK disregards the **right to privacy** as a universal right.
- **Three restrictive laws** to control access to outside media: the **Reactionary Ideology and Culture Rejection Act (2020)**, the **Youth Education Guarantee Act (2021)**, the **Pyongyang Cultural Language Protection Act (2023)**.

“ With access to the Internet] the level of consciousness will increase. [...] Everyone will learn and become progressive, so the quality of life will naturally increase as politics become democratized.”

Recommendations – Digital Rights

1. Allow **unrestricted Internet access** for all citizens to enjoy freedom of opinion and expression.
2. **Cease surveillance** of citizens' **internet activities** and the monitoring of their **digital devices** to protect the **right to privacy** as defined in the article 17-1 of the ICCPR.
3. Repeal the following laws that restrict access to outside media: the **Reactionary Ideology and Culture Rejection Act (2020)**, the **Youth Education Guarantee Act (2021)**, the **Pyongyang Cultural Language Protection Act (2023)**.

III. Disability Rights

- In 2019 UPR, DPRK promised to protect people with disabilities as stipulated in their existing law.
- **BUT people with disabilities endure mistreatment, social exclusion, violence.**

“I thought it was natural to deport and isolate the disabled somewhere so that they could not spread the seeds.”

- Ari Park (2019)

Recommendations – Disability Rights



1. Enforce **DPRK's existing laws** on protecting the rights of people with disabilities.
2. Provide **necessary equipment and facilities** to ensure the well-being of people with disabilities.
3. Guarantee **equality in universities and workplaces** for people with disabilities.

Thank you



From all the members of our coalition:

- People for Successful COrean REunification (PSCORE)
- North Korean Human Rights Corporation
(NKHRC)
- Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea
(Hanbyun)