

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
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Item 6:

Consideration of UPR reports

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. President,

Amnesty International notes the efforts by the DPRK with the UPR process on this occasion. Genuine engagement with the international community is imperative if its appalling human rights record is to be addressed. We note in particular that the DPRK has accepted a number of recommendations on food shortages and the provision of international humanitarian aid,¹ and we hope that this will lead to meaningful cooperation with the international community to alleviate the dire humanitarian problems in the country.

Nevertheless, we are gravely concerned that the DPRK has refused to accept more than half of the recommendations addressed to it. This level of rejection illustrates the systematic failure by the DPRK to uphold its human rights obligations.

Mr. President,

¹ See e.g. recommendations 124.45-47, 124.141-143, 124.145-149 (Ethiopia, New Zealand, Norway, Finland, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Chile, Norway, and Mozambique). But see also rejected recommendations 125.25, 125.27, 125.68, 125.74, 125.82-83, 124.44, and noted recommendation 124.40 (Iceland, Portugal, Netherlands, Ireland, Czech Republic, Greece [x2], and Finland).

The outright rejection by the government of the many recommendations to close down political prison camps is particularly alarming.² Amnesty International continues to have grave concerns over the inhuman conditions in these camps and other detention facilities. Detainees are regularly subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, such as forced hard labour or deliberate starvation. Techniques reported include the insertion of sharp bamboo under the fingernails, handcuffing and suspension by the wrists, and prolonged detention in solitary confinement. We urge the DPRK to immediately close down all political prison camps.

Amnesty International is also deeply disappointed at the DPRK's rejection of recommendations to allow the victims of its policy of abduction and enforced disappearance of foreign nationals, as well as their descendants, to return freely to their country of origin.³

Equally troubling is the government's rejection of recommendations to cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms, particularly the Special Rapporteur on the DPRK, or to act on the conclusions of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK, which articulates the international community's clear demand for accountability.⁴

We urge, once again, the DPRK to take immediate measures to end the systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations documented by the Commission of Inquiry.

Thank you, Mr. President.

² Recommendations 125.54-70 (Canada, Greece, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Republic of Korea, Austria, Sweden, Spain, France, USA, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, Netherlands, Argentina, and Japan).

³ Recommendations 125.15, 125.22, 125.25, 125.46-50 (Australia, Japan, Iceland, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Korea, Japan, and Slovakia).

⁴ Recommendations 125.12-39 (Italy, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Latvia, Estonia, Republic of Korea, Germany, USA, France, Japan, Portugal, Slovenia [x2], Iceland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Uruguay, Ukraine, Greece, Switzerland, Lithuania, United Kingdom, Sweden, France, Austria, Romania, and Brazil). See also Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, A/HRC/25/63, paras 74-79.