

## International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)

131<sup>st</sup> Session (March 1, 2021 – March 26, 2021)

### Report for the Preparation of the List of Issues prior to reporting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Periodic Report of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

December 30, 2020

#### Group to Protect the Rights of DPRK Citizens (GPRDC)

We, the Group to Protect the Rights of DPRK Citizens (GPRDC), are concerned Japanese citizens dedicated to the defense of the fundamental human rights of the Korean people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and upholding the Korean people's fundamental human rights in the DPRK.

---

---

#### **Concentration camps**

On November 18, 2020, the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/C.3/75/L.30)," which outlined North Korea's deplorable human rights record. The same resolution has been adopted annually by the UN since 2005. Every single Resolution has pointed out the DRPK's lack of respect for fundamental human rights, as it has engaged in unspeakable torture, public executions, slavery, forced abortions, abduction of numerous foreign citizens, and the individual right of free expression. Resolutions have requests that the United Nations Secretary General ask the DPRK to submit comprehensive reports on the status of its compliance with fundamental human rights of its citizens as stated by the UN. However, the DPRK has repeatedly denied visitations by the UN Special Rapporteurs requests and has consistently rejected all United Nations resolutions.

In light of this, we, the GPRDC, request that the UN demand an accurate and fact-based report from the DRPK. Such a report should, in our view be verified in conjunction with a UN inspection of the DPRK. The DPRK should explain, should it refuse, to state in a timely and meaningful manner, the reason for its refusal.

### **1. Relevant articles of ICCPR**

Article 6: Every human being has the inherent right to life.

Article 7: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 8: No one shall be held in slavery; slavery and the slave-trade in all their forms shall be prohibited.

Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention.

Article 10: All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.

Article 14: All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals.

### **2. Problems**

Numerous publications have shown the lengths through which the DRPK will go through to muzzle their citizens, including slave labor, torture, and execution. One chilling account of the DRPK's atrocities is "The Hidden Gulag," by David Hawk, a member of the U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. The book is based on interviews of 24 former DRPK concentration camps prisoners and detailed accounts of these camps.

UN Special Rapporteur Tomas Qjea Quintana submitted "Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/75/388)" in 2020. In the end, North Korea flatly denied any of the U.N.'s allegations. No further action was taken.

### **3. Proposed Recommendations**

North Korean concentration camps clearly violate Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The DRPK refused on-the-spot investigation of their concentration camps and the UN's response is tantamount to appeasement, of its abandonment of its sacred commitment to the CCPR.

In light of these facts, we ask that the CCPR insist of DPRK to report of its true situation concerning:

- 1) The number of internees and pertinent information, including sex, age, place of birth, nationality, and occupation, in all of their concentration camps;
- 2) The reason for their detention and their charges in case of criminals,
- 3) Any relevant legal processing and court records prior to internment,
- 4) Their period of detention,
- 5) Their standard treatment of internees including forced labor, meals, personal sanitation, quarters, opportunity for activity, etc.,
- 6) Rate of mortality and the cause of death.

==== End =====