

FORUM: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

QUESTION OF: Human Rights Violations in North Korea, including Civic Space and Surveillance

MAIN SUBMITTER: The United States of America

CO-SUBMITTER: Burkina Faso, Mexico

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,

*Having studied* the White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea conducted between 2010 and 2014 on 1,125 defectors, 37.7% responded that sexual harassment and rape were 'common' in the detention facilities and correctional labor camps, and of these 15.9% responded that it was 'very common', and out of the respondents, 33 women had been raped and 51 had witnessed rape,

*Referring to* a Human Rights Watch research the 68.71% of harassment victims are women. It is also indicative of that this phenomenon of sexual abuse knows no class or profession is that 45.6% were ex police agents, guards 17.7%, secret police agents 13.9% and government officials 1.3%,

*Taking into consideration* United Nations Human Rights Council, the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Mandate states from the 1st to the 5th of July 2013 an investigation is to be conducted into various human rights violations which include the violation of Freedom of Expression,

*Having studied* the Human Rights Watch report on forced labor we are convinced that the DPRK government enforces ordinary citizens to work for free and assigns both men and unmarried women from cities and rural areas, and in most of the cases, enterprises do not compensate the laborers forcing them to find other jobs to make a living and are also forced to pay bribes to be absent from their assigned workplace,

*Confident* in the report produced by PSCORE on child labour in the DPRK, it covers 8 testimonies that the government forces students to collect an array of items that are nearly impossible to find, and this report shows how children are used as labour within the DPRK with governments consent,

1. Calls upon Member States, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, and all women and men to collaborate more closely regarding the cause of human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK);
2. Strongly recommends the implementation of education regarding topics such as but not limited to:
  - a. patriarchal family cultures prevalent in Asian societies that hinder the reporting of sexual violence within the family,
  - b. representation of women in public spaces, including but not limited to:
    - i. political representation,
    - ii. workforce employment;
3. Recognizes the need to protect women from sexual violence and abuse in means, such as but not limited to:

- a. creation of a department within the government that focuses on women's rights and violence conduct against women,
  - b. use of websites for women to anonymously report on sexual crimes and violence against them with information such as:
    - i. the location and time the crime occurred,
    - ii. the identity of the perpetrator,
  - c. efforts made by the government to investigate the records of sexual violence,
  - d. pressure from international NGOs to ensure that the records of sexual violence are being taken seriously and that prevention measures are created;
4. Requests the implementation of education regarding respect, equality, and sexual education for women, such as but not limited to:
  - a. training programs for the youth, women, and men on political systems, women's rights to participation, and roles in decision-making,
  - b. support for women's leadership in the workplace through greater inclusion in executive positions and on corporate boards,
  - c. grassroots organizations to encourage women to participate collectively in society,
  - d. establishment of an independent observatory that would monitor the level of women employment in the country;
5. Expresses its hope for equal opportunities within the legal system for victims in means, such as but not limited to:
  - a. elimination of political immunity,
  - b. empowerment of justice systems to prosecute offenders,
  - c. protection by the government given to victims to ensure that are able to testify against their perpetrators;
6. Stresses the need for the participation of women in politics to enhance gender equality through:
  - a. elimination of laws that promote discriminatory behavior towards women in politics, such as views that are contrary to the parties ideology that only men should provide for a household,
  - b. promotion of the importance of gender balance in all public positions,
  - c. regular monitoring of progress in the representation of women in politics through the collection and analysis of data on political participation;
7. Encourages the creation of an online platform for citizens to express themselves online regarding sensitive cases or opinions that differ from traditional values that can be implemented through:
  - a. online platforms will be supervised by existing government agencies such as the Internet Supervision Department,
  - b. the Public Security Department will set up a special investigation team for network reporting,
  - c. opinions and information will be submitted anonymously by the citizens;
8. Recommends the replacement of old Red Star OS devices with internationally renowned new fiber network infrastructures;
9. Condemns the lack of respect for the rights to journalism considering:

- a. freedom to research and sharing well-documented events should meet the international standard of freedom of expression and lack of censorship,
  - b. awareness of DPRK citizens to be well-informed on ongoing events both inside and outside the nation;
10. Supports the implementation of a public educational system alongside the primary education that is obligatory and free by reducing military spending and increasing education spending, for reasons such as but not limited to:
  - a. encourage children to continue their education past the primary education,
  - b. allow children from low income families to achieve a fair chance at education;
11. Endorses the reduction of underage children in labor, through means such as but not limited to:
  - a. implementation of laws made to ensure that children under the age of 16 do not enter the workplace,
  - b. reporting of employers engaging in illegal child employment through online platforms;
12. Emphasizes the need for fair legal means provided to the state to prevent unfair trials, through means such as but not limited to:
  - a. fully paid lawyers provided by the state to defend the accused,
  - b. lawyers provided by NGOs or other member states to provide their services in DPRK on a voluntary basis,
  - c. extreme cases involving members of the government take place outside of DPRK with independent judges,
  - d. adopting a criminal and procedure law in the norms of international court and criminal law for reassurance through legislation of a fair trial,
  - e. proper treatment for the citizens, such as:
    - i. basic human needs like water and food,
    - ii. proper cell conditions,
    - iii. no inhumane treatment through violence,
    - iv. rights to a trial;
13. Further requests the travel ban within the country to be lifted to respect the rights of citizens to travel freely and not be subject to limitations for reasons such as but not limited to:
  - a. including DPRK citizens in the international community,
  - b. encouraging relations between DPRK citizens and citizens of the Republic of Korea (ROK),
  - c. giving the nation access to a new source of income such as the open global market of tourism.