

FORUM: SOCHUM

QUESTION OF: Human Rights Abuses and lack of Civic Space and Surveillance in DPRK

MAIN SUBMITTER: Ghana

CO-SUBMITTERS: Australia, Belgium, Canada

SIGNATORIES: China, Russian federation, Mexico, Burkina Faso

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,

*Reiterating* the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on December 10th 1948 to enforce human rights which are one of the three pillars of the United Nations,

*Recalling* the human rights treaties The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has ratified such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1981 (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 1981, Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2001 and the Convention on the Rights of Person's with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2018,

*Acknowledging* research conducted by the Commission of Inquiry (COI), Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Special Rapporteur, on the violation of civic space in DPRK,

*Deeply concerned* about the lack of accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK,

*Aware of* the irresponsible use of surveillance technology by DPRK poses increasing threats to international peace and security which is deeply concerning,

*Noting with disapproval* the horrific human rights violations within DPRK's political prison camps and that 120,000 people in detention facilities are at risk of forced labour, as well as torture and other ill-treatment,

*Bearing in mind* DPRK accepted a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with disabilities in December 2018, and they are being more conscious about global reputation,

1. Urges the DPRK government to address the systematic discrimination that underpins human rights violations, including by taking immediate action to abolish the songbun class system in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. allowing people in lower classes to live in Pyongyang, which they are currently not allowed to, and take part in political activities such as getting party membership:
    - i. understanding that simply not being born in a higher social class is the basis for not applying to elite universities in Pyongyang,
    - ii. is the basis for not being able to enter the army or police force,
    - iii. calls for the abolishment of the songbun class as it is a basis for discrimination based on a person's social, economic and political background rather than a person's educational capabilities
  - b. prioritize the human rights of its population over military expenditure, including by dedicating resources to ensure freedom from hunger,

2. Calls for the reunion of separated family members in the DPRK and ROK who have been separated because of the division of the peninsula in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. allowing family members and relatives who consist of parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins to communicate by means of virtual communication such as zoom where physical contact is not required especially considering COVID-19 limits interactions between individuals:
    - i. especially family members and relatives who are above the age of 60 and are reaching close to the life expectancy of 82 years,
    - ii. abolishing the songbun system, so that all citizens can equally use the internet, namely to communicate with their estranged families,
  - b. ease travelling restrictions wish to visit DPRK so they can meet family members,
    - i. allowing ROK separated family members to visit Pyongyang
    - ii. including the Kungang Mountain tour, ask DPRK to expand more options to tour DPRK
  - c. promoting discussions between ROK and DPRK on the issue of separated
    - i. family members with the intention of allowing them to reunite at the very least virtually;
  
3. Calls upon nations to use sports as a tool to promote human rights, development, peace, dialogue and reconciliation, since sports can be used to promote cooperation with the DPRK in ways such as:
  - a. creating an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among people, and nations,
    - i. through sports, and namely the Olympics can serve as an opportunity for peaceful dialogue and promotion of human rights with the DPRK, for example, the member-states can promote values such as non-discrimination and freedom of expression,
    - ii. treating their athletes and staff with respect, each member-state could set an example to the DPRK,
  - b. sport events held in other countries, which include the DPRK can lead the people of the DPRK to visit other countries and be confronted with different realities:
    - i. they can witness the freedoms that are suppressed in DPRK such as the freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of press,
    - ii. beneficial for DPRK citizens to interact with citizens from other nations to experience other cultures;
  
4. Asks DPRK to increase the number of NGOs allowed to enter the country such as the Red Cross and to uphold the right to health in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. improving the health index of DPRK in ways such as:
    - i. the rapporteur can monitor the process of gauging index,
    - ii. The health index must include Life expectancy at birth, nation nutrition, infant death probability, maternal death probability, Number of Health Facilities and Physicians, Number of confirmed cases of COVID-19,
  - b. providing medical aid (medicines and Covid vaccines) in material and humanitarian ways to DPRK,

- c. developing the public health education in DPRK:
    - i. allowing the doctors of the Red Cross to teach North Koreans to improve public health awareness,
    - ii. making proper teaching material about health care in Korean;
5. Recommends the ROK, which has a low free media index, and international media to be vocal about the human right issues in DPRK, a low free media index in ROK indicates that media itself is not independent from the government, hence ROK should try to report on DPRK's human rights issues in ways such as but not limited to:
- a. drawing attention to the lack of freedom of assembly, expression, and religion in the DPRK, through necessary journalism for the enjoyment of other human rights, and for the population to gain knowledge of what human rights are,
  - b. since DPRK has no independent domestic media and all media is deeply censored, calls for ROK and the international community, to advocate for lack of independent media in DPRK:
    - i. by engaging in discussion with DPRK on allowing freedom of expression to its citizens,
    - ii. by being vocal about human right issues through several different media outlets such as films, tv series, documentaries etc, which can possibly reach the DPRK,
  - c. condemn the punishment and in severe cases execution of citizens, by DPRK, who violate the rules such as consuming foreign media, receiving non-governmental broadcasts or owning radio;
6. Requests the cooperation of DPRK by allowing the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in DPRK to assess the human rights situation in DPRK in ways such as but not limited to:
- a. not interrupting or distorting the external investigation led by UN bodies, such as the special rapporteur, and allowing them a visit to assess the human rights situation in the DPRK,
  - b. following the recommendations made by the rapporteur and by the COI,
  - c. granting unrestricted access to all United Nations special procedure holders who request to visit the DPRK,
  - d. establishing an internal body responsible for the investigating of human rights violations and promoting the protection of human rights in the country, a body which can collaborate with the UN and the international community to give them an insight on the human rights situation in the DPRK;
7. Emphasizes the lack of effectiveness of the UN North Korean human rights foundation, established in 2016 and human rights record center in DPRK and its potential to improve human rights in DPRK by cooperating with the international society:
- a. lack of effectiveness should be exposed to the public by media, NGO's projects, and through education,
  - b. international attention can be drawn by the media and influence of NGOs,

- c. expresses its hope that the members of the international community who have an ongoing dialogue with the DPRK can advocate for peace in the Korean peninsula and address the human rights conditions;
8. Proposes the United Nations and International Criminal Court (ICC) to work together to improve accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK:
  - a. the ICC has a critical role to play, as a court of last resort where a State party with jurisdiction is unable or unwilling to exercise it,
  - b. documenting gross human rights violations is important to bring key human rights challenges to the attention of the DPRK, even if the DPRK does not acknowledge such violations,
  - c. proposes the United Nations to accuse DPRK on charge of crime against humanity,
  - d. establishing an ad hoc tribunal, which focus on crimes against humanity committed in the DPRK:
  - e. insuring that defectors, who are victims of serious human rights violations, and their families are provided with an effective reparation;
9. Condemns the People's Republic of China (PRC) for sending defectors back to DPRK instead of allowing them to continue living in China or help them reach ROK in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. guaranteeing their human rights are upheld at all times, from the moment they are found in China, to the moment they leave China:
    - i. by providing them with basic necessities such as food, water and money for transport,
    - ii. by possibly creating an integration process for DPRK defectors
  - b. China should accept defectors as refugees in ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. allowing UNHCR to contact and protect defectors,
    - ii. allowing defectors to reach the ROK embassy in China
    - iii. guaranteeing refugee status to defectors;
10. Proposes DPRK to take steps that protect vulnerable groups like women and children, whose safety is linked to peace and security of a nation in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. avoid drafting the children and family members of political prisoners, especially children under the age of 18 as they need to focus on their education rather than living their lives in the horrific conditions at political prisons in DPRK for crimes they have not committed,
  - b. honouring the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),
  - c. creating an internal special body to protect women who are victims of violence;

11. Asks the international community to pressure the DPRK to improve the Human rights situation of their citizens in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. raising awareness events to promote human rights in international communities,
  - b. using the unique position of national human rights institutions to drive change through monitoring human rights situations, and to advocate for recommendations,
  - c. continuing to interview DPRK defectors to gather more information about human rights violations in the DPRK,
  - d. supporting and integrating North Korean defectors, by creating an integration system and providing them with education and financial help,
  - e. for member-states that have an ongoing dialogue with the DPRK, continuing to advocate for peace in the Korean peninsula, by putting pressure on the DPRK to address their human rights situation;
  
12. Recommends providing human rights activists and other humanitarian actors with the financial support needed to develop more initiatives related to promoting human rights in the DPRK.