



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 43rd SESSION

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) – 09/10 March 2020

OHCHR Report: [A/HRC/43/58](#)

During the reporting period, there was no sign of improvement in the human rights situation, nor progress in advancing accountability and justice for human rights violations in DPRK.

Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, Special Rapporteur (SR) on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK:

Women's rights situation in DPRK

The vast majority of **North Korean escapees are women** ; In DPRK, only married women are exempt from **state assigned jobs** ; Women are vulnerable to **threat and sexual abuses** ; In DPRK, women surrenders to the **authority of men** ; The government must implement **recommendations from CEDAW** ; **Leaving DPRK** is a hard journey: several years in China before reaching South Korea. ; Women in **detention** in DPRK remain vulnerable, especially to **sexual violence** ; Women are further **excluded from official structures**. Women don't have their word in politics.

Overall human rights situation in DPRK:

Population fears arbitrary arrest and **displacement in detention camps** ; Significant proportion of citizens struggle to reach **basic needs** ; **Living conditions of prisoners** remains of particular concern ; Frequent **death of prisoners** in detention ; Solidarity to all DPRK who are facing **threat of COVID_19** and government efforts to contain it. **widespread infection in DPRK would have serious consequences** ; **Detrimental impact of sanctions on DPRK people**. SR calls to develop a comprehensive assessment on the negative effects of sanctions on human rights.

Interactive Dialogue Participants – States:

African States: . **Asia-Pacific States:** Japan, Myanmar, Lao, South Korea, China, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Marshall Islands. **MENA region:** Syria, Iran. **Eastern European States:** Russian Federation, Belarus, Armenia. **Western Europe and Other States:** European Union, Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, France, Czech Republic, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Norway, United Kingdom, Iceland. **Latin American and Caribbean States:** Cuba, Venezuela.

Interactive Dialogue Participants – Other Stakeholders:

Ingenieurs du Monde, Human Rights Watch, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, United Nations Watch, International Society for Human Rights (Joint Statement), Center for Global Nonkilling

Addendum: HC Oral update on the situation of Human Rights in DPRK

Ms Michelle Bachelet, High-Commissioner for Human Rights:

OHCHR monitoring in DPRK indicates **systematic human rights violations**, with likely involvement of higher authorities. They may amount to **crimes against humanity** ;

OHCHR **Accountability project** is historic, but challenging: **difficulty in gaining information** from DPRK
OHCHR is carrying out this project with a **limited budget**. OHCHR asks DPRK to **facilitate investigations of allegations**, to put an end to violations where they are taking place and support victims.