

Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the DPRK

Let me begin by expressing our deep appreciation for the work of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Marzuki Darusman. We remain deeply concerned about the continued deterioration of human rights and the humanitarian situation in the DPRK ~~in spite of the succession in leadership.~~

1. We fully share his concern on asylum seekers and refugees from the DPRK. As the Special Rapporteur mentioned in his report, whatever their motivation of ~~leaving the DPRK~~, it is pertinent to provide all individuals with protection. The principle of non-refoulement is a key element of refugee protection and we would like to add our voices to his repeated call for the full respect of this fundamental principle.
 2. The Republic of Korea ^{supports} ~~endorses~~ the Special Rapporteur's plan to further pursue the issue of political prison camps, to which he has already paid attention in his previous reports. Indeed, we believe that political prison camps are a clear showcase of the grave human rights situation of the DPRK, from the lack of due process, including arbitrary detention and detention based on guilt by association, to torture, public execution, severe malnutrition, and forced labour.
 3. Concerning the future reports of the Special Rapporteur dealing with this issue of serious concern, we would like to ask the Special Rapporteur whether he plans to cooperate with ~~other~~ other human rights mechanisms in this regard, and if so, how he plans to proceed. We would also like to join his call for the release of all people detained for guilt by association, including Ms Shin Sook Ja and her two daughters.
 4. We note with concern that humanitarian situation in the DPRK continues deteriorating. The Special Rapporteur once again urges the government of the DPRK to take care of its people by rectifying its flawed economic policy and allocating enough resources for its people's most critical needs such as food, medicine, water, and sanitation. We fully agree to his recommendation in this regard.
rather than mitigate
 5. While the present report of the Special Rapporteur does not cover separated families and abductees, we expect his continued attention to these pressing matters. We would also like to urge the DPRK to take immediate measures to resolve these issues. The issue of prisoners of the Korean War detained in the DPRK is also a remaining concern we would like to share with the Special Rapporteur.
- Finally, while urging the DPRK to heed to the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur and to cooperate with him, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its full support for the work of the Special Rapporteur. /End//