

Rights? What Rights?

The United Nations have launched an investigation over North Korea violating the Human Rights.

Freedom of Information

All media and publications are state-controlled, and unauthorized access to non-state radio or TV broadcasts is punished. Internet and phone calls are limited within the country and are heavily censored. North Koreans are punished if found with mobile media such as computer flash drives or USBs containing unauthorized videos of foreign films or TV dramas. Authorities also actively track and seek to catch and punish persons using Chinese mobile phones to make unauthorized calls to people outside North Korea.

People accused of any serious political offence are sent to political prisoner camps. These camps are operated by North Korea national security agency. At these camps prisoners have very meagre rations which lead to near starvation, no medical care, a lack of shelter and clothing, as well as regular mistreatment which includes sexual assault and torture and executions. Prisoners are also faced with back breaking forced labour. Death rates where they work are extremely high. US and South Korean officials estimate 80,000-120,000 people are imprisoned at these camps. North Korea's capital Pyongyang denies all existence of these camps.

Forced labour is common outside of political prisoner camps. People suspected of illegal activities are sent to work in forced labour brigades. Many women are victim to sexual abuse. There are harsh working conditions in these brigades which results in high numbers of injuries.

Freedom Of Movement

The government uses threats of detention, forced labour, and public executions to ensure that no one leaves the country without official permission

Japanese Thoughts

Geneva – Japan and the European Union are poised to call for concrete measures to hold those responsible for human rights abuses in North Korea accountable, according to a draft of their resolution to be submitted to a U.N. human rights panel.

The two parties plan to jointly submit the resolution, the 10th of its kind, on Thursday with the aim of winning approval from the U.N. Human Rights Council next week.

China and Russia have signalled their opposition, saying they cannot support any attempt to address rights issues for political purposes. According to the draft, a copy of which was obtained by Kyoto News on Wednesday, the resolution is expected to welcome a recent report by U.N. Special Rapporteur on North Korea Tomas Ojea Quintana that calls on the international community to refer the issue of Pyongyang's rights abuses to the International Criminal Court.

It also expresses “grave concern” at the lack of positive action by North Korea on the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s and calls for settling the matter “at the earliest possible date.”

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