

# **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and North Korea**

**This document was prepared by the North Korea Freedom Coalition and can be freely reprinted and disseminated.**

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaiming that “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” The preamble stated: “disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind.”

On this 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of this declaration, the North Korea Freedom Coalition is releasing this document showing how the citizens of North Korea fare under the Kim Jong-il regime citing the 30 articles of the Declaration. The Authors of this Declaration warned in 1948 that a lack of human rights leads to “barbarous acts”, which certainly describes the Kim Jong-il regime, and with this examination we hope that the “conscience of mankind” will be outraged and act to promote human rights for the people of North Korea.

Outlined below are the thirty articles of the Declaration of Human Rights and how the regime in North Korea fares when these universally accepted rights are considered. Tragically, none of these rights are enjoyed by the citizens of the Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea, who are not only unaware of this document, but unaware of the term “human rights.” The North Korea Freedom Coalition plans to work to disseminate this document in North Korea as was called for in the original Declaration and calls for all people who enjoy these rights to use them to help the people of North Korea gain theirs.

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**Article 1.** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

## **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“One’s songbun (class background) is either good or bad, and detailed records are kept by party cadre and security officials of the degree of goodness or badness of everyone’s songbun. There is really no way to escape one’s songbun.” The favored group constitutes about 25 to 30 percent of the population. “Ranked below them in descending order are forty-seven distinct groups in what must be the most class-differentiated society in the world today....North Korea’s population can be broken down into three main groups, roughly equal in size. The preferred class...is given every advantage; with hard work, individuals in this group can easily rise to the top. The middle 40 percent of the population-the ordinary people-hope for a lucky break...There is no hope, however, of a college education or a professional career. The bottom 30 percent of the population –the ‘undesirables’ are treated like a pariah class; all doors to advancement, the army, the higher schools of education are closed to them.”

**- Kim Il Sung's North Korea by Helen Louise Hunter**

“North Korea prioritizes the masses before the individual. North Korea also discriminates against people based on their genealogical background...those of the ‘hostile class’ face direct discrimination.”

**- Survey of North Korean Human Rights Conditions 2008**

“The pervasive repression imposed by the authorities ensures that the people live in continual fear and are pressed to inform on each other. The State practices extensive surveillance over its inhabitants and even officials live in daily apprehension, since their colleagues are encouraged to ‘whistleblow’ mutually. Throughout the years, the authorities have bred a culture of mistrust and a policy of divide and rule that permeate families and communities.”

**- Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

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**Article 2.** Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

**BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Discrimination against women in North Korea is pervasive. While the North Korean Constitution states that ‘women hold equal social status and rights with men,’ few women have reached high levels of the Party or the Government, despite the fact that women are represented proportionally in the labor force.”

**- Cammarota, P., Crace, J., Worly, K., & Zaltzman, H. (2007). *Legal Strategies for Protecting Human Rights in North Korea*. Washington, DC: U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea**

“Given the very hierarchical system in the country, those in the elite group live well, while the rest of the population suffers. The discrimination which results from such stratification can be seen through the plight of various groups.”

**- Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

“The North Korean authorities have distributed food unevenly, in a way which favors those who are economically active and loyal to the state. Many vulnerable groups, including homeless children and the elderly, are believed to have been effectively abandoned by the state.”

**- Amnesty International USA (1999, May 31)**

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**Article 3.** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Invasion of privacy is widespread in North Korea. The institution of ‘neighborhood units’ (inminban) and social organizations oversee the population and implement Party policies by means of a collectivized invasion of privacy.”

**-Survey of North Korean Human Rights Conditions 2008 by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea**

“The freedoms from want, from fear, from discrimination, from persecution and from exploitation are regrettably transgressed with impunity by those authorities, in an astonishing setting of abuse after abuse.”

**-Statement by Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur to the UN, October 2009**

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**Article 4.** No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

**BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“There have been widespread reports of trafficking in North Korean women and young girls into China. Some are sold by their families or by kidnappers as wives or concubines to men in China; others flee to escape starvation and deprivation in North Korea. Many such women, unable to speak Chinese, are held as virtual prisoners and some are forced to work as prostitutes. Moreover, guards in the prison system sexually abuse female prisoners. Victims and witnesses have stated that prison officials rape female prisoners in prison camps and detention facilities. The North Korean authorities fail to acknowledge differences in women’s physical and mental condition compared to men. Also, within the security services, only men interrogate the women. For example, while investigating trafficking, security personnel frequently abuse women with beatings and insulting remarks. Female guards are not used in the imprisonment facilities and, as a result, male guards supervise the women prisoners. Reports indicate that women are denied access to shower facilities even during menstruation.”

**- Cammarota, P., Crace, J., Worly, K., & Zaltzman, H. (2007). *Legal Strategies for Protecting Human Rights in North Korea*. Washington, DC: U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea**

“Multiple forms of exploitation are committed by the authorities and other actors against the general population, from systemic exploitation to exploitation at the community and personal levels.”

**- Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

“The kwan-li-so (prison camps in North Korea) include the repressive phenomenon of lifetime sentences for perceived political wrongdoers paired with guilt-by-association imprisonment for up to three generations of the supposed wrongdoers’ families.

Whatever the category, all the prison facilities are characterized by very large numbers of deaths in detention from forced, hard labor accompanied by deliberate starvation-level food rations. Incarceration of Koreans repatriated from China includes routine torture during interrogation and the practice of forced abortion or infanticide inflicted upon babies borne by pregnant repatriates.”

**- *The Hidden Gulag*, by David Hawk and US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea**

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**Article 5.** No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Although torture is prohibited by law, it is extensively practiced. In addition, the substandard prison conditions, including lack of food, poor hygiene, freezing temperatures in wintertime, forced labour and corporal punishment, constitute a myriad of abuses and deprivations, ensuring that many prisons are akin to purgatory for the inmates.”

**- Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

“The North Korean regime routinely commits torture, especially in interrogation facilities operated by the National Security Agency. Victims of North Korean torture are subjected to: • Beatings with shovels to the point of unconsciousness or death; • Electric shock; • Prolonged periods of exposure; • Confinement in tiny punishment cells in which prisoners are unable to stand upright or lie down; • Motionless kneeling, water torture, and facial and shin beatings with rifle butts; • Hanging by the wrists; • Forced beatings by fellow prisoners; • Required to stand up/sit down repeatedly until they collapse or die; • Forced abortions or infanticide”

**- Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights & Labor, U.S. Department of State, Country Report on Human Rights Practices – 2005: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea**

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**Article 6.** Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“The legal system does not acknowledge individual rights. The Ministry of People’s Security routinely dispenses with trials in political cases and refers prisoners to the Ministry of State Security for punishment.”

**-Library of Congress – Federal Research Division Country Profile: North Korea**

“In fact, the mission of North Korean attorneys is to protect the policies of the Korean Workers’ Party rather than the rights of the accused.”

**- White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2009 –Korean Institute for National Unification**

“North Korea’s code of criminal procedures does not adopt a preliminary warrant system under the due process system when legal force, including the examination of evidence, detention, search and seizures by investigators or pretrial agents, is needed.”

**- Survey of North Korean Human Rights Conditions 2008 by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea**

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**Article 7.** All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“North Korea continues the policy of strictly separating political crimes from ordinary crimes and punishes the political offenders under different terms.”

“Citizens are tried in open courts, but officials and party staff are tried in secret.”

**- White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2009 –Korean Institute for National Unification**

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**Article 8.** Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Regarding the right of due process of law and legal protection, the foremost problem is that most North Koreans are unaware of the various legal procedures, including criminal law, even if they have knowledge of the law, the decisions, instructions and policies of the Party and ‘the Dear Leader’ (Kim Jong-il) are given priority over the law.”

**-Survey of North Korean Human Rights Conditions 2008 by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea**

“Impunity is enjoyed by the regime in power and the machinery surrounding it. For instance, the justice system is in desperate need of revamping, despite the various legislative reforms in recent years.”

**- Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

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**Article 9.** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Arbitrary arrest, detention, and lack of due process remain serious concerns.”

**- Human Rights Watch, January 2009**

“Although detention places are not officially prisons, people appear to have been detained there against their will, often in appalling conditions.”

**- Amnesty International, 1999**

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**Article 10.** Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

**BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“North Korea does not have an independent judiciary.”

**-Freedom House, Freedom in the World North Korea Report, 2009**

“The justice system leaves much to be desired. It lacks an independent judiciary, lawyers who would act genuinely on behalf of accused persons and juries who would provide the necessary checks and balances for the delivery of justice. Even though judges, lawyers and juries all exist in the system, they are subservient to the ‘powers that be’ and do not uphold the internationally recognized notion of the rule of law.”

**- Vitit Muntarhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

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**Article 11.** (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence. (2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

**BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“The jury system is based upon two persons who work with the courts, not to ensure that the rights of the accused are upheld but to confirm the list of crimes presented at the trials and to affirm the conviction of the alleged wrongdoer. The lawyer’s role is to pressure the accused to confess to a crime rather than to defend his client.”

**- White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2008 –Korean Institute for National Unification**

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**Article 12.** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

**BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“A 75 year-old North Korean factory manager was shot by firing squad in October for failing to declare his family background, investing his own money in the factory, appointing his children as its managers and making international phone calls.”

**- Amnesty International, 2008**

“Sometimes individuals are publically executed for the crime of circulating information about the outside world through leaflets and/or video materials.”

**- White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2009 –Korean Institute for National Unification**

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**Article 13.** (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Freedom of movement does not exist, and forced internal resettlement is routine. Access to Pyongyang, where the availability of food, housing, and health care is somewhat better than in the rest of the country, is tightly restricted.”

**- Freedom House, Freedom in the World North Korea Report, 2009**

“North Korea has ordered its border guards to open fire on anyone who crosses its border without permission, in what could be an attempt to thwart defections by people disgruntled over its recent currency reform.”

**-Associated Press, December 2009**

“A person who unlawfully crosses the frontier of the Republic shall be sentenced to a labor training institution for up to two years.”

**- North Korea Criminal Code, Article 233**

“There is basically no change in the policy of restricting the freedom of travel, residence, and movement, as well as the practice of banishment.”

**-White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2008 –Korean Institute for National Unification**

“North Korea’s policy of punishing border crossers is a clear violation of the fundamental right to leave one’s own country.”

**- Human Rights Watch, North Korea Report, March 2007**

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**Article 14.** (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. (2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“The Chinese government forcibly repatriates North Korean refugees facing starvation and political and religious persecution in their homeland, contravening its obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol....Repatriated North Koreans face long prison sentences, torture, and execution.”

**- U.S. Congressional –Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2006, 2007, 2008**

“Those forcibly returned are held for interrogation in detention centers or police stations operated by North Korean security agencies. Depending on who they are and the result of interrogation, they may be sent back to their home province, or to labor camps for up to six months. A few, particularly former officials or returnees found with religious literature, are assigned long terms of imprisonment with hard labor or in some cases face execution. Those sent back to their home province are ostracized within their community and subjected to surveillance. Many flee the country again. Some have fled and been returned several times, reportedly facing increasingly severe punishments with each failed escape attempt.”

**- Amnesty International, 2004**

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**Article 15.** (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

**BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“North Korea handed down a death sentence by firing squad for a woman who expressed the desire to go to South Korea and live in freedom and hold a press conference to expose hardship of life in North Korea.”

**- North Korea Today: Research Institute for North Korean Society, January 2008**

“Any citizen who defects, surrenders, or gives secrets to a foreign country or to the enemy in betrayal of the country and the people shall be sentenced to a re-education through labour institution for not less than five years. In cases where the person commits an extremely grave offense, he or she shall be given life imprisonment in a re-education through labour institution, the death penalty or have his or her property confiscated.”

**- North Korea Criminal Code, Article 62**

“In 2005 the teenage daughter of a North Korean defector woman named Mrs. J, who was arrested in China and forcibly repatriated to North Korea, was beaten to death (executed) by North Korean security agents for the crime of escaping North Korea and wanting to live in freedom as a South Korean citizen.”

**- Free North Korea Radio, December 2009**

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**Article 16.** (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

**BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**



“Personal background also affects marriages. Men with unfavorable personal backgrounds have little chance to overcome the class barriers unless fortunate enough to marry a woman with a good personal background. If one’s background is unfavorable control apparatus such as the Security Agency will often systematically interfere with personal affairs.” For example, a man was denied the opportunity to marry ten times by the Security Agency or Factory Party Committee while one woman was denied the ability to marry because the background on her father’s side was bad.”

**- White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2009 –Korean Institute for National Unification**

“On the whole, people seem to accept the system of arranged marriages, as it is practiced, with the party exercising totalitarian controls over the most personal of social issues-the choice of one’s marriage partner.”

**- Kim Il Sung’s North Korea by Helen Louise Hunter**

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**Article 17.** (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“It was reported that the authorities were beginning to register small plots of land with a view to eliminating private patch farming. This ‘kitchen farming’ has to date been very important for the survival of the general population, who lack adequate food and who undertake such farming to supplement food availability and intake. Such a restriction would cause further hardships for the general population, for whom the authorities are unable adequately to provide food and other assistance.”

**- Vitit Muntarhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

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**Article 18.** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Although the DPRK committed to protect religious freedom in its constitution and international human rights treaties, and claims to adhere to those commitments, there is little evidence that the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion exists in North Korea... Over the past year there have been no indications that the status of religious freedom has improved. In fact, reports continue to indicate that the North Korean government has taken new steps to combat the growth of clandestine religious activity, particularly that which reportedly is spread by crossborder contact with China. According to the testimony of North Korean refugees, anyone engaged in such activity can be arrested, tortured, and imprisoned.”

**– Annual Report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom on North Korea, May 2009**

“Those accused of proselytizing/practicing in underground churches have also been reportedly executed...Religious freedom, although guaranteed by the constitution, is in practice sharply curtailed. There are reports of severe repression of people involved in public and private religious activities, through imprisonment, torture and executions. Many Christians are reportedly being held in labor camps, where conditions were reported to be extremely harsh.”

- **Amnesty International, 2005**

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**Article 19.** Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Opposition of any kind is not tolerated. According to reports, any person who expresses an opinion contrary to the position of the ruling Korean Workers' Party faces severe punishment, and so do their family in many cases.”

“The domestic news media is strictly censored and access to international media broadcasts is restricted. According to reports, at least 40 journalists since the mid-1990s have been ‘re-educated’ for errors such as misspelling a senior official's name. Radio and television sets were tuned to receive only state broadcasts and those who listened to foreign radio stations risked being punished.”

- **Amnesty International, 2005**

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**Article 20.** (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“The government of North Korea does not allow the freedom of assembly.”

-**Survey of North Korean Human Rights Conditions 2008 by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea**

“Freedom of assembly is not recognized, and there are no known associations or organizations other than those created by the state. Strikes, collective bargaining, and other organized-labor activities are illegal.”

- **Freedom House, Freedom in the World North Korea Report, 2009**

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**Article 21.** (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country. (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

## **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“A single party rules over the country and, despite the pretence of national elections to the Supreme People’s Assembly in 2009, such elections are cosmetic; they merely rubber-stamp one-party rule with its determined grip on the population.”

**- Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

“North Korea is not an electoral democracy. Kim Jong-il has led the DPRK since the 1994 death of his father, founding leader Kim Il-sung. He has many titles but rules as the chairman of the National Defense Commission, the ‘highest office of state’ since the office of president was permanently dedicated to Kim Il-sung in a 1998 constitutional revision. North Korea’s parliament, the Supreme People’s Assembly, is a rubber-stamp institution elected to five-year terms; the latest elections were held in August 2003. The body meets irregularly for only a few days each year. It last elected Kim Jong-il as National Defense Commission chairman in September 2003. All candidates for office, who run unopposed, are preselected by the ruling Korean Workers’ Party and two subordinate minor parties.”

**- Freedom House, Freedom in the World North Korea Report, 2009**

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**Article 22.** Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

## **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“With plausible policy adjustments – such as maintaining food imports on commercial terms or aggressively seeking multilateral assistance—the government could have avoided the great famine and the current shortages that continue to exist. Instead, it blocked humanitarian aid to the hardest hit parts of the country, during the peak of the famine and curtailed commercial food imports as humanitarian assistance began to arrive. Rather than supplementing supply, the government used aid largely as balance-of-payments support, cutting commercial imports, and, reallocating expenditures to other priorities, including the military.”

**- Hunger and Human Rights: The Politics of Famine in North Korea US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea**

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**Article 23.** (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

## **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Choosing an occupation in North Korea depends not on individual decisions but on the personnel supply-demand plans of the Party.”

- **White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2009 –Korean Institute for National Unification**

“Even if people go to work, they have nothing to do, and factories lack the ability to compensate their workers with wages or rations.”

- **Survey of North Korean Human Rights Conditions 2008**

“The Government regularly ordered people out for a 150 day ‘food battle’, or intensive agricultural labor, but those involved were not guaranteed to share in the produce.”

- **Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on NKHR, referring to the DPRK regime in his latest report to the UN, October 2009**

“There are no genuine trade unions, apart from those which prop up the regime.”

- **Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

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**Article 24.** Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

## **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“The regime, which believes that people ought to ‘do away with the slightest indolence and relaxation in life and work and live with revolutionary morale, always in a strained and mobilized posture’ provides little in the way of recreational facilities...”

“With all the demands made on their time, North Korean students have little to spend by themselves, with their friends, or at home with their family. Their days are programmed: from thirty to forty hours a week in class, from one to five hours a week of militia training, from twelve to twenty hours a week of volunteer labor, and from three to six hours a week of criticism meetings. That leaves precious little free time, some of which must be spent on homework.”

- **Kim Il Sung’s North Korea by Helen Louise Hunter**

“It is ironic that people are being forced to work more through mass mobilization, even though this is not necessarily to their benefit but to the benefit of the regime in power and its own sustenance.”

- **Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

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**Article 25.** (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special

care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Millions of North Koreans continued to suffer hunger and chronic malnutrition. Continued government restrictions on freedom of movement and information, lack of transparency and hampering of independent monitoring meant that food aid may not always have reached those most in need. According to WFP estimates, nearly half of North Korea's 23.7 million do not have enough to eat and more than a third of the population (nearly 6.5 million North Koreans) is chronically malnourished. Rations from the Public Distribution System - the primary source of staple food for more than 70 per cent of the population - have reportedly declined from the already insufficient 319g per person per day in 2003 to 250g in March 2005. Urban families reportedly spent up to 85 per cent of their incomes on food. Such households were heavily dependent on inflation-prone private markets, where staples cost 10 to 15 times more than in the government-run system.”

**- Amnesty International, World Food Program 2005**

“The social welfare system, including the quality of hospitals, is in serious decline.”

**- Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

“Particularly worrying was the finding that cases of children affected by diarrhea had increased markedly, to nearly twice the number recorded in the previous Government/United Nations nutritional survey in 2005. Child malnutrition and illnesses have thus been on the rise.”

**- Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in DPRK, Annual Report on Human Rights in DPRK, August 2009**

“About 20% of children under the age of two suffer from diarrheal diseases caused by contaminated water and poor hygiene practices...Approximately one third of mothers are malnourished and anemic, a rate that has not improved since 2002.”

**- UNICEF Report on North Korea, November 2006**

“DPRK Infant mortality ratio – 47 per 1,000 live births; maternal mortality ratio – 370 per 100,000 live births. South Korea Infant mortality ratio – 4 per 1,000 live births; maternal mortality ratio – 14 per 100,000 live births.”

**- UN Population Fund State of the World Population 2009 Report**

“The ultimate epitome of the highest level of dehumanization reigning in the concentration camps of North Korea are the reports of compulsory abortion, disappearance of newborn children and the systematic killings of babies by the North Korean authorities in the presence of their mothers. Unborn and newly-born babies are not spared the qualification of being 'enemies of state' as their mothers are North Korean defectors who have been repatriated to North Korea against their will. The a

priori incrimination of unborn babies transpires in the words of a guard in Yodok camp who admonished a pregnant woman, 'How can a counter-revolutionary and an enemy of the people such as yourself dare to bear a child?'"

**- Human Rights Without Frontiers January 8, 2002 Reports on "Long-standing practices of baby-killing in the camps of North Korea"**

"Pregnant women repatriated from China are subjected to forced abortions for carrying 'half-Chinese' babies"

**- Free North Korea Radio, December 2009**

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**Article 26.** (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit. (2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. (3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

"Although access to education is quasi universal, the school environment with hundreds of classrooms damaged or destroyed by floods remains poor as well as the quality of education due to lack of resources and exposure."

**- UNICEF, Humanitarian Action Report 2009, Asia and the Pacific, DPRK**

"Children are taught discipline and love for Kim, the state, and their parents...They are taught that Kim is the source of everything good and that they should love, honor and obey him."

**- *Kim Il Sung's North Korea* by Helen Louise Hunter**

"Children would be taught to be militant revolutionaries. 'We must educate the students to hate the landlord and capitalist classes and the exploiting system,' Kim said."

**- *Under the Loving Care of the Heavenly Father* by Bradley K. Martin**

"'Thank you, Father Kim Il-SUNG' is the first phrase North Korean parents are instructed to teach to their children. From cradle to grave, the North Korean citizens are surrounded by the all-encompassing presence of the 'Great Leader' and his son, the 'Dear Leader' Kim Jong-il. The Kim dynasty is much more than an authoritarian government; it holds itself out as the ultimate source of power."

"The religious cult around the Kims touches every individual and every province in the DPRK. Students are required to memorize the 'Ten Principles for the Establishment of the One Ideology System of the Party', and every North Korean is expected to attend

one or more of an estimated 450,000 Kim Il Sung Revolutionary Research Centers at least weekly for instruction, inspiration and self-criticism.”

- **“Thank You Father Kim Il Sung:” US Commission on International Religious Freedom**

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**Article 27.** (1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. (2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Culture in North Korea would be ‘socialist in content, nationalist in form.’ In other words, old novels, plays, songs and poems unsuitable for the indoctrination of the masses might be consigned to libraries and filing cabinets accessible only to a handful of specialists.”

- ***Under the Loving Care of the Heavenly Father* by Bradley K. Martin**

“Apparently no one is ever above suspicion, especially intellectuals and creative people. Party officials have been particularly zealous in monitoring the activities of North Korea’s top artists and musicians....Whereas most people were supposed to attend mutual criticism sessions once a week, artists and actors were ordered to attend such sessions every other day.”

- ***Kim Il Sung’s North Korea* by Helen Louise Hunter**

“North Korean scientists who complained that their country is turning into China’s industrial waste site have been purged in North Korea... The soil survey research center at Hamhung Institute of Technology released a research paper on its study of land pollution resulting from burial of industrial waste from China and a letter urging countermeasures to the Central Committee of the (North Korean) Workers’ Party. The institute was dismantled and senior officials and researchers were all purged, because ‘the scientists violated rules by reporting the matter directly to the party secretary without going through the required process.’”

- **The Dong-A Ilbo, November 26, 2009**

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**Article 28.** Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“The government’s human rights record remained poor, and the regime continued to commit numerous serious abuses. The regime subjected citizens to rigid controls over many aspects of their lives. Citizens did not have the right to change their government. There continued to be reports of extrajudicial killings, disappearances, arbitrary detention, and political prisoners. Prison conditions were harsh and life-threatening, and torture occurred. Pregnant female prisoners underwent forced abortions in some cases, and in other cases babies were killed upon birth in prisons. The judiciary was not

independent and did not provide fair trials. Citizens were denied freedom of speech, press, assembly, and association, and the government attempted to control all information. The government restricted freedom of religion, citizens' movement, and worker rights. There continued to be reports of severe punishment of some repatriated refugees. There were widespread reports of trafficking in women and girls among refugees and workers crossing the border into China.”

**- 2008 Human Rights Report: DPRK; US State Department, February 25, 2009**

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**Article 29.** (1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. (2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. (3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Everyone in North Korea seems to know pretty much what his *songbun* (class background) is, although there are no precise gradations and no official notice is ever given. At every important juncture in life – at the end of middle and high school, with admission or non-admission to college, entry or non-entry in the army, admission or non-admission to the party, approval or non-approval for marriage, assignment to a job, or transfer into or out of the city or into or out of a collective farm—it is fairly obvious whether one’s *songbun* is good or bad. Just how good or how bad becomes clearer over time, with the more subtle changes in a career. The system has a negative effect on the incentive, ambition and diligence of the privileged class as well as the non-privileged.”

**- Kim Il Sung’s North Korea by Helen Louise Hunter**

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**Article 30.** Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

### **BUT IN NORTH KOREA...**

“Therefore, the cry must be human rights. It must be the first thing on our agenda, on any agenda, in any discussion with North Korea. That is what we are calling for today, as one voice, the voice of people of many faiths and nationalities.”

**- North Korea Freedom Day statement Seoul Peace Prize laureate Suzanne Scholte**

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**For further information contact North Korea Freedom Coalition at [nkfreedom.org](http://nkfreedom.org).**