

**Questions for all the stakeholders on progress in accountability for  
human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**for the Special Rapporteur's report to the 46th Human Rights Council  
session in March 2021**

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Tomás Ojea Quintana, is preparing his next report to the fortysixth session of the Human Rights Council scheduled in March 2021. In his upcoming report, the Special Rapporteur intends to analyze progress and challenges of the accountability agenda for serious human rights violations in the DPRK, including crimes against humanity, seven years after the release of the report of the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) on human rights in the DPRK.

The contribution of civil society organizations and other stakeholders remains critical, and the Special Rapporteur would like to seek your views on the following questions:

**1. What progress and limitations do you see on accountability issues in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea seven years after the COI report, and how do you envisage the way forward?**

<Advances>

(1) The contents of the COI report, that is, the UN's unwavering process of determining the responsibilities of crimes against humanity in North Korea, is playing a role as a lever and hope for the North Korean human rights movement in working with civil groups for human rights in North Korea.

(2) Make the North Korean defectors residing in South Korea or abroad clearly aware of their will to prosecute and punish the person in charge of human rights in North Korea through the cooperation and participation of NGO through the UN Seoul Office.

It gives the victims that a sense of trust and security in their testimony and submission of data.

(3) Although the efforts of the United Nations and the international community based on the COI report are still weak in the Korean media, they are gradually recognizing the seriousness of North Korea's human

rights issues and crimes against humanity and the justification of efforts to investigate.

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(1) For the past few years, the South Korean government has been silent or bystander on North Korea's human rights violations, and has not made any efforts to change North Korea's attitude.

The current government has never held official meetings with civic groups for the improvement of human rights in North Korea, nor has it disclosed any reports on human rights in North Korea.

(2) The Korean president and the government are working only to create an atmosphere for inter-Korean dialogue, and have not responded at all to the proposals and efforts of the international community and North Korean human rights organizations in South Korea.

(3) Moreover, even the parliamentary parties are dealing with the issue of North Korean human rights issues only in areas that meet the political interests of each party. Therefore, neither the National Assembly nor the legislature is making progress in improving human rights in North Korea.

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(1) In solving the problem of human rights in North Korea, the Korean people and citizens must first know the seriousness of the human rights problem in North Korea. To this end, I think it is important to inform and publicize the contents of the UN Report on North Korean Human Rights.

(2) It is necessary for civic groups to continuously inform the public of the situation on human rights issues and responsibilities in North Korea through the UN Report on Human Rights in North Korea. Since North Korea does not accept the UN COI report, and the North Korean authorities reject it, it is necessary to publicize the North Korean Human Rights Report a lot in South Korean and the international community.

(3) It is necessary to inform and spread more about why the report came out, what kind of situation is unfolding about the contents of the report, and what the purpose of the North Korean human rights responsibility investigation is.

That is why the North Korean authorities must express their will to improve human rights in North Korea due to the pressure of the North Korean human rights issue in South Korea and the international community.

**2. What are your views on the approach that should be taken to ensure that the obligation to respect human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including on accountability measures and ending impunity, and the need for the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula are fulfilled.**

As stated in paragraph 1 above, in order to ensure respect for human rights in North Korea,

A national movement is needed so that the Korean people know a lot about the report of the UN Commission on Human Rights in North Korea.

As stated in the recommendations and conclusions of the COI report, the purpose of punishing the person responsible for crimes against humanity in North Korea needs to be delivered to the South Korean and North Koreans.

In addition, as political parties and governments in the Republic of Korea are ignoring human rights in North Korea, the UN and the international community should further urge the South Korean government to stop being silent.

Last year, the South Korean National Assembly enacted a law banning the delivery of leaflets and goods

to North Korea.

It is illegal to send all cash, USB (external information) and leaflets to North Korea from the end of March this year. So, paradoxically, we must inform the Korean people about the liberalization of external information and human rights issues in North Korea.

Therefore, it is necessary to make efforts to inform the civil society and citizens of South Korea of the human rights issue in North Korea, and to make the Korean people aware of the seriousness of the human rights issue in North Korea.

The South Korean Unification Ministry is not making any efforts to improve human rights in North Korea and is interfering with the activities of North Korean human rights organizations.

Therefore, it is necessary for the international community and civic groups to further revitalize and make efforts for the North Korean human rights campaign.

When these efforts are made visible and consistently unfolded, we will be able to see where the ROK and North Korean governments are changing.

One thing to be careful about is that, along with these efforts, it is necessary to ensure that the human rights issue in North Korea transcends the issues of both conservative and progressive South Korea and does not become an issue for the interests of each party.

※PS: I agree to disclose my name and affiliation of this respondent.

Thank you.

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