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## **Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

### **Call for inputs**

#### **Questions for all the stakeholders on the progress in accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the Special Rapporteur's report to the 55th Human Rights Council session in March 2024**

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Elizabeth Salmón, is preparing her next report to the Fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council scheduled in March 2024. In her upcoming report, the Special Rapporteur intends to outline the progress made on the accountability measures for serious human rights violations in the DPRK, including crimes against humanity, and the steps required to further advance accountability.

In this connection, the Special Rapporteur wishes to ask Member States, civil society organizations, victim-survivors and other stakeholders the following questions:

#### **1. What concrete measures have you (as an individual, an organization or a State) taken to advance accountability for serious human rights violations, including crimes against humanity, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea?**

Individual (Park Sun-Young)

- 1) Since she was a member of the 18th National Assembly, she has conducted in-depth legislative and Human Rights activities related to North Korea, such as strong opposition to China's forced repatriation of North Koreans as a member of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Commission for four years.
- 2) In 2012, <12-Day Hunger Strike Against Repatriation> was held for North Korean defectors who were threatened of being forcibly returned to North Korea by China. As this situation was broadcast to International media, the situation drew the attention of people around the world, which served as an opportunity to lay the foundation for the resolution on human rights in North Korea by the Chinese government's suspension of repatriation of North Korean defectors and the UN Human Rights Commission.
- 3) In addition to the human rights of North Korean defectors, one-man demonstrations to urge the repatriation of Prisoners of War who have not returned since the Korean War and legislative activities for abductees after the war are promoted.
  - Resolution calling for the suspension of forced repatriation to North Korea.(2012)
  - Wartime Abductees Act : Act on the Investigation of the Abductees in the Korean War



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and the Restoration of impaired reputation of Abductees.(2010)

#### Organization (Mulmangcho)

- 1) Mulmangcho, established on May 22, 2012, has held its 83rd seminar to date to inform external and internal about the world's most harsh human rights violation in North Korea.
- 2) Mulmangcho POW Repatriation Committee established in 2012 has organized POW report center and been conducting activities related to POW's human rights.
  - Taking legal action against Kim Jong-un through ICC. (2015)
  - Filed a three POW's compensation claim(2016) against North Korean Government and Kim Jong-un for forced labor in a South Korean court and won the trial. (2020)
  - A lawsuit of collection against Foundation of inter-Korea cooperation which is holding copyright fees for North Korean government is ongoing.
- 3) Opened the report center for continuing, planned and organized War crime by North Korean government. (20 JUN 2021)
- 4) Solidarity with international NGOs
  - In addition to domestic activities, we continue to hold the North Korean Human Rights Freedom week event with Suzanne Scholte, the representative of North Korea Freedom Coalition(NKFC).
- 5) In December 2019, We held a seminar with Japanese Parliament on the 60th anniversary of the repatriation of Korean Japanese. Seminar and Concert by Mulmangcho Choir composed of only female North Korean defectors.
- 6) To raise issues and conduct a briefing related to human rights in DPRK, we signed an MOU with Transitional Justice Working Group(TJWG).

## **2. What steps are you (as an individual, an organization or a State) intending to take to further advance the accountability measures for serious human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea?**

- 1) Recruitment of an international assistant administrator  
By recruiting international intern(French nationality) for solidarity between Korean NGO and international NGO, I will do international Advocacy activities to investigate responsibility for human rights violations in North Korea more active than now.
- 2) The world's only choir of North Korean defectors, Mulmangcho Choir's active advance of human rights activities  
Mulmangcho Choir, human rights defender and victim of North Korean human rights violations, started its performance in Japanese Parliament in 2019. From 2024, the Mulmangcho Choir will perform in the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights



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Council, and Brandenburg, Germany. It is intended to allow victims to directly inform of the serious human rights violations in North Korea that are still being committed.

- 3) Create content about North Korean human rights through webtoon or documentary  
It is intended to show contents not only in Korea but also abroad to inform human rights violations in North Korea and to investigate responsibility.

**3. If some of the actions you (as an individual, an organization or a State) have been taking are guided by the recommendations made by the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued in February 2014, please specify which recommendations and explain how they have influenced your work.**

- 1) To complain about human rights situation in North Korean, based on the COI recommendation, we filed a complaint with the ICC about the issue of POW who have not been repatriated(2015). Also, we went to law for damages against North Korea for forced labor of South Korean prisoners of war.
- 2) Various lawsuits are being filed in relation to the detention and non-return of POW. North Korea has committed systematic, continuous and planned criminal acts. It will be conducted progressively, not only with the people directly involved but also with the children of them.

**For submission:**

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Please send your responses to the questionnaire, including name and contact details, in Word format by email to [hrc-sr-dprk@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-dprk@un.org) by **29 December 2023**.

Due to a limited capacity for translation, we also request that your inputs be submitted in English. We may accept submissions in Korean in exceptional circumstances, please contact [madoka.saji@un.org](mailto:madoka.saji@un.org) if you do not have the capacity to submit your responses in English in advance.

All submissions will be made publicly available and posted on [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea | OHCHR](#), unless it is indicated that the submission should be kept confidential.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Madoka Saji, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Seoul (+82 10 4230 3523, [madoka.saji@un.org](mailto:madoka.saji@un.org)).