

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK): Amnesty International welcomes the government statement that the State is obliged to ensure the human rights of all citizens

Amnesty International welcomes DPRK's express commitment, during its presentation in the UPR Working Group, that "[e]very individual citizen is entitled to enjoy human rights and the State is obliged to ensure these rights."

Amnesty International urges the DPRK to support and implement the recommendations on the right to food by facilitating access and effective distribution of international humanitarian aid to people in need, and by cooperating constructively with humanitarian agencies.¹ It is regrettable that the DPRK has rejected the recommendation to end discrimination in the distribution of food by the government.²

During the interactive dialogue the DPRK delegation referred to visits by Amnesty International to reform and detention facilities.³ The organization regrets, however, that since its visit in 1995 it has had no access to the DPRK. Amnesty International takes this opportunity to request that the government invite Amnesty International and other human rights and humanitarian organizations to visit the DPRK with a view examining the human rights situation first hand.

Apart from visits in 1995 by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and in 2004 by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, no UN human rights mechanisms have been invited to visit the DPRK. Amnesty International notes that many states encouraged the DPRK to cooperate with the Special Procedures of this Council and is concerned that the government has already rejected some of these recommendations.⁴ The organization urges the government to support and implement those recommendations it agreed to consider, and to re-consider the recommendations it rejected, with a view to supporting them in due course.

Finally, Amnesty International strongly urges the government to re-consider its rejection of recommendations by several states to establish a moratorium on executions, to abolish the death penalty, and to end the practice of public and extrajudicial executions.⁵

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of DPRK on 18 March 2010 during its 13th session. Prior to this Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

During its review, the DPRK rejected 50 recommendations and took note of 117 recommendations. Disappointingly, the DPRK did not support any of the recommendations made to it during the review. Amnesty International has understood that the recommendations noted by the DPRK remain under its review and looks forward to the DPRK informing the

¹ A/HRC/13/13, paragraph 90, recommendations 89-94

² A/HRC/13/13, paragraph 91, recommendation 96, 97,13

³ A/HRC/13/13, Paragraph 85

⁴ A/HRC/13/13, paragraph 90, recommendations 42-55 and paragraph 91, recommendations 4-12, 49.

⁵ A/HRC/13/13, paragraph 91, recommendations 14-22 and 26

Human Rights Council at an upcoming session of its decisions about whether it will accept the noted recommendations.

Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis for the review through its submission on DPRK: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA24/008/2009/en>

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