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Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
Oral intervention in interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Delivered by Peter Splinter – Video link: <http://goo.gl/D050FD> (statement number 35)

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The report notes some areas where the DPRK seems to be making efforts to engage with UN human rights mechanisms. It preponderantly documents the ongoing denial of blatant human rights violations in the criminal justice system, abductions of foreign nationals, and lack of respect for the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Amnesty International urges the government of the DPRK to demonstrate what it claims to do. It must give every person currently under arbitrary detention a fair trial, admit and remedy enforced disappearances and much more. The UN Special Rapporteur on the human right situation in the DPRK must be provided access to the country as a demonstration of cooperation with the UN and a measure towards improving the human rights situation in the country.

Amnesty International looks to the Special Rapporteur to continue to report his finding and recommendations to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly and to report on the outcome and the follow-up to the work of the Commission of Inquiry. We urge the UN General Assembly to send an unequivocal signal later this year that the international community will take forward the work of the Commission of Inquiry.

Amnesty also notes the potentially pivotal role of China in promoting improvement of the human rights situation in the DPRK. We encourage China to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur, and to use its influence on DPRK constructively to foster an improved human rights situation. We also urge the Chinese and other governments, to respect the principle of *non-refoulement* when dealing with North Korean nationals seeking refuge in their country.

Finally, we strong encourage operationalisation of the Rights Up Front initiative in the DPRK, so that UN programs and agencies respond in a coordinated and unified manner to the massive human rights violations in the DPRK.

Thank you Mr. President.