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31 March 2014

**The international community has given insufficient attention to
flagrant human rights violations in the Democratic People's
Republic of Korea for too long: Amnesty International oral
statement to the 25th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (3 –
28 March 2014)**

17 March 2014

Item 4

Inter-active Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on
human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The report corresponds with many of our own findings, including testimonies from former detainees and guards of political prison camps that detail extrajudicial executions and torture and other ill treatment, including forced labour. We also received reports of executions of political opponents of the leader Kim Jong-un.

Much of the North Korean population faces severe restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly and movement. In 2013 the DPRK government also escalated efforts to prevent persons from fleeing the country. Echoing the Commission's recommendations, Amnesty International urges China and other states to not forcibly return individuals to the DPRK where they could face enforced disappearance, execution or torture or other ill-treatment, including forced labour, on return.

The DPRK must also remedy its acts of enforced disappearance that have affected tens of thousands of persons from many countries, including the Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand and Lebanon.

For too long, the international community, and in particular the UN Security Council, have given insufficient attention to the enormity of the human rights violations in the

DPRK while focussing on a narrow conception of peace and security in connection with the DPRK. With the devastating findings of the Commission of Inquiry before them, UN member states must now ensure that human rights are central to all activities involving the DPRK.

Amnesty International urges the Human Rights Council to take all appropriate action, including by:

- calling on all United Nations bodies, agencies and programmes to implement the recommendations of the Commission within their purview;
- establishing a structure to continue the evidence collection and documentation work of the Commission with the aim of ensuring accountability for human rights violations and crimes against humanity in the DPRK; and
- asking the Secretary-General to refer the report of the Commission to the Security Council.

Thank you Mr. President.