



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Sub-Commission resolution 1998/2

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Reaffirming that all Member States have the obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and as elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other applicable human rights instruments,

Recognizing that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Considering the participation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the examination of its initial report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/3/Add.41) by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in May 1998 to be an encouraging sign of cooperation with the United Nations treaty bodies,

Recalling its resolution 1997/3 of 21 August 1997,

Concerned at the extreme difficulty in obtaining accurate information concerning the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which has been made even more difficult by the Government's persistent repression of independent journalists and human rights defenders,

Concerned also at frequent reports of extrajudicial execution and disappearances within the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as at similar reports that thousands of political prisoners are currently being detained within the country, many of whom have suffered severe ill-treatment and have consequently died of disease, starvation, and exposure,

1. Welcomes the participation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the examination of its initial report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

2. Urgently calls upon the Government to ensure full respect for article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which relate to the right of anyone to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country;

3. Requests the Government to cooperate fully with the procedures and services established by the United Nations with the aim of ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

4. Strongly urges the Government to allow and facilitate inquiries by independent national and international human rights monitoring organizations concerning the current human rights situation within the country and to allow the publication and distribution of all findings inside the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

5. Invites international human rights and humanitarian organizations to devote greater attention to the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

6. Also invites international humanitarian organizations to promote at the international level greater awareness of the consequences of the food shortages and other economic hardships on the citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to provide them with substantial and effective assistance;

7. Decides to recommend that the Commission on Human Rights consider the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at its next session and, if the Commission is unable to take action on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to continue consideration of the matter at the fifty-first session of the Sub-Commission under the same agenda item.

25th meeting

19 August 1998

[Adopted by secret ballot by 19 votes to 4,
with 1 abstention. See chap. IV.]