

To:
H.E. Mrs. YueHou
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
P.O. Box 4058 AMB
0244 Oslo
NORWAY

Your Excellency,

I write to convey my profound concern regarding the People's Republic of China's ongoing practice of forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees. This policy represents a serious violation of international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, which China acceded to in 1982.

North Korean individuals repatriated from China are subjected to severe punishments, including torture, forced labor in political prison camps, and, in numerous cases, execution. China's designation of North Korean refugees as "economic migrants" and their subsequent return to a regime that systematically persecutes its citizens have grave human rights and legal implications. Such actions clearly contravene the principle of non-refoulement, which forbids the return of individuals to territories where they face persecution or inhumane treatment.

The report further highlights the devastating effects of China's forced repatriation policy, particularly following the reopening of North Korea's borders after the COVID-19 pandemic. China's involvement in this process implicates it in the crimes committed within North Korea, including the persecution of Christians and other religious groups, in direct violation of fundamental human rights.

In light of this troubling information, I respectfully urge the Chinese authorities to:

- Refrain from classifying North Korean refugees as "economic migrants" and, instead, acknowledge their right to protection as refugees in accordance with China's international obligations. It is well-established that North Korea systematically violates fundamental rights, including religious freedom, and returning these individuals subjects them to persecution and likely death.
- Grant the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Beijing access to interview North Korean refugees to assess their eligibility for refugee status, thereby ensuring a fair and transparent process aligned with international norms.
- Facilitate the safe passage of these refugees to third countries where they may seek asylum and obtain protection from the extreme persecution they would otherwise face upon return to North Korea.

I urge you to consider these egregious human rights violations and act in accordance with China's obligations under international law. The international community looks to China to uphold its duty to protect refugees from abuse and persecution.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Yours sincerely,