

Ottawa Statement on the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

Issued by the Religious Liberty Partnership

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As members of the Religious Liberty Partnership (RLP) meeting in Ottawa, Canada, we welcome the in-depth information presented in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in North Korea. We applaud the swift completion of this crucial and unprecedented report and we credit Judge Michael Kirby and his team of expert investigators with constructing a comprehensive document. The investigation was conducted in a manner consistent with professional norms of the legal field and the document details the truly horrific human rights violations perpetrated against the North Korean people.

The RLP is greatly concerned about:

- The abject suffering of hundreds of thousands of individuals – including children – in North Korea's vast concentration camp system;
- The harsh restrictions on religious faith, and the specific targeting of North Korean Christians for systemic and egregious persecution;
- The unspeakable violence against women in the concentration camps and against repatriated defector women perpetrated by the North Korean regime in the form of systematic rape, torture, forced labor, forced abortion, infanticide, and execution;
- The plight of North Korean refugees in China, at risk of being unlawfully and forcibly repatriated by the Chinese government, and facing long term detention, torture, and execution;
- Reports of starvation, malnutrition or food deprivation due to targeted rationing or mismanagement.

The RLP commits to:

- Heightening in-depth research on human rights and religious freedom violations in North Korea through documenting accounts of refugee survivors;
- Disseminate widely information on the reality of life within North Korea through publicizing accounts of persecution;
- Advocate on behalf of the suffering people of North Korea;
- Ensure that our rhetoric, however strong, is backed up by action.

The RLP calls on the international community to:

- Read and broadly circulate the information found in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in North Korea;
- Push for strong action by international organizations and individual governments in light of this comprehensive report;

The RLP calls on the worldwide church to:

- Be an unwavering voice for human rights in North Korea;
- Utilize the information contained in the commission's report to educate members of churches throughout the world, encouraging them to pray;
- Use its voice with policy makers to persuade them to keep the suffering of North Koreans high on the international political agenda.

The RLP recommends that:

- United Nations organs tasked with providing technical assistance to governments continue their efforts to engage the DPRK to reform, including the immediate closure of all concentration camps and the release of all detained North Korean refugees;
- The international community insists that the U.N. Security Council refers the situation of the DPRK to the International Criminal Court to investigate these serious allegations of crimes against humanity, and to prosecute those responsible;
- All governments vote in the UN General Assembly for an independent tribunal to bring to justice specific officials within the DPRK regime who have perpetrated crimes against humanity;
- The international community create a publicly accessible list of DPRK officials responsible for perpetrating the most egregious forms of human rights violations and sanction them.

Members of the Religious Liberty Partnership (RLP):

Please note that though this statement is released with complete unanimity, several members of the RLP have chosen not to be listed for security reasons. Web sites are listed for prayer resources and additional information.

- Advocates International, USA: www.advocatesinternational.org
- Alliance Defending Freedom, USA: www.alliancedefendingfreedom.org
- All India Christian Council, INDIA: www.ChristianCouncil.in
- American Center for Law and Justice, USA: www.aclj.org
- Associação Nacional de Juristas Evangélicos (ANAJURE), BRASIL: www.anajure.org.br
- Asia Evangelical Alliance, ASIA: www.asiaevangelicals.org
- China Aid, USA: www.ChinaAid.org
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide, HONG KONG: www.csw.org.hk
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide, NIGERIA: www.cswng.org
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide, UNITED KINGDOM: www.csw.org.uk
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide, USA: www.cswusa.org
- Danish European Mission, DENMARK: www.daneu.dk
- Friends of the Martyred Church, FINLAND: www.martyredchurch.net
- Hilfe für Mensch und Kirche (HMK), SWITZERLAND: www.hmk-aem.ch

- Hilfsaktion Maertyrerkerche (HMK), GERMANY: www.verfolgte-christen.org
- International Christian Concern, USA: www.persecution.org
- International Institute for Religious Freedom, GERMANY, SOUTH AFRICA, SRI LANKA: www.iirf.eu
- Jubilee Campaign, USA: www.JubileeCampaign.org
- Law and Liberty Trust, USA: www.lawandlibertytrust.org
- Light for the Peoples, SWEDEN: www.ljusioster.org
- Middle East Concern, MIDDLE EAST: www.meconcern.org
- Open Doors, USA: www.opendoorsusa.org
- Release International, UNITED KINGDOM: www.releaseinternational.org
- Rule of Law Institute, BULGARIA: www.ruleoflawinstitute.bg
- Russian Ministries, USA: www.russian-ministries.org
- Seoul USA: www.seoulusa.org
- Set My People Free, EGYPT: www.freedom2worship.org
- Stefanus Alliance International, NORWAY: www.stefanus.no
- The Voice of the Martyrs, CANADA: www.persecution.net
- World Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission, GLOBAL: www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc

The Religious Liberty Partnership (RLP) is a collaborative effort of Christian organizations from over 20 countries focused on religious liberty. The RLP seeks to more intentionally work together in addressing advocacy, assistance, and in raising the awareness of religious persecution globally. Though members of the RLP are Christian entities, the RLP supports religious freedom for all. For more information on the Ottawa Statement or on the Religious Liberty Partnership (www.RLPartnership.org), contact Brian O'Connell, RLP Facilitator at: Brian@RLPartnership.org; +1 425.218.4718.