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International Organizations in Geneva**

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**Statement by the DPRK Delegation
during the UPR of south Korea
(25 October 2012)**

My delegation expresses its grave concern over the arguments in the national report with regard to the "National Security Law" and "Security Surveillance Law".

The "National Security Law" is the main source of systematic human rights violations. In the last 60-odd years, many of the violations of rights and freedoms including the freedom of expression and assembly have been committed in accordance with this "Law". Mr. Frank La Rue, the UN special rapporteur on promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression expressed serious concern in 2011 at the existence and application of "National Security Law", in particular, its article 7, as it "inhibits legitimate discussions in matters of public interest, and has a long history of seriously infringing on human rights, in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression".

Furthermore, the "National Security Law" defines the compatriots in the North as "enemies" and criminalizes any contact or communication with them. Therefore, the Human Rights Committee, in its concluding observations in 1992, 1999 and 2006, while expressing grave concerns, underlined that citing "security concerns" could not justify restrictions on articles 9, 18 and 19 and other provisions of the ICCPR imposed by the "National Security Law" and repeatedly recommended to abolish the "Law".

In this regard, my delegation makes following **recommendations** to the party under review:

- 1) to abolish the criminal laws as the "National Security Law"
- 2) to release all persons including pro-reunification patriots who were unjustly arrested and imprisoned according to the "National Security Law"
- 3) to abolish the "Security Surveillance Law", which restricts freedoms of former political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.