**UPR 19, May 1, 2014**

**Canada's Recommendations**

**North Korea**

**Questions**

In 2011, NGOs estimated that North Korea held 200,000 people in political prison camps. Latest submissions to the OHCHR COI suggest this number has drastically decreased to between 80,000 to 130,000.

* How does the delegation account for this significant drop in the political prison population?
* What are the leading causes of death in the prison and detention facilities operated by the regime?
* What measures are being taken in these and other detention facilities to satisfy basic needs?
* How many prisoners are egregiously incarcerated due to collective punishment and guilt by association?
* How many incarcerated individuals are under the age of 18, pregnant or over the age of 60?

**Recommendations**

Canada recommends to:

1. Close all political prison camps immediately.
2. Guarantee freedom of thought, conscience and religion to all individuals by ensuring the basic rights to freedom of assembly and association.
3. Enact national legislation to combat violence against women, including a definition of rape that applies to domestic rape and rape in detention centres.
4. Bring an end to the practice of forced abortion.
5. Hold those responsible for grave, widespread and systematic violations of human rights, including crimes against humanity, accountable for their depraved actions.
6. End discrimination against citizens on the basis of the so-called “core”, “wavering” and “hostile” social classes and of political connections.
7. Dismantle the “inminban” neighbourhood watches, and citizen registration and denunciation systems.

**Observations**

We are extremely concerned by the findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry into North Korea’s egregious human rights record, and the State's refusal to recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and the Commission and its finding that crimes against humanity have been committed in North Korea, pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the state. We urge North Korea to cooperate with the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures mandate holders to address the systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations, including those which constitute crimes against humanity, that are being committed by the country, its institutions and its officials, and to hold these perpetrators accountable.

We remain deeply concerned about the fate of those who have attempted to leave North Korea and who instead have been repatriated, who are treated as political criminals and subject to imprisonment, execution, torture, arbitrary detention, deliberate starvation, illegal cavity searches, forced abortions and other sexual violence. We urge North Korea to ensure that no one is detained or prosecuted for leaving the country without permission or subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, forced labour, enforced disappearance or the death penalty on return to North Korea.