



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**Agenda item 70: Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for
improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

New York, 31 October 2007

Mr. Chairman,

On the international arena today we witness continued acts that deprive people of their lives and violate human rights and fundamental freedoms, going against the trends of the times aspiring after peace and security.

The typical example is the undisguised aggression of independent countries under the pretext of the global "war on terrorism" followed by indiscriminate massive killings there.

The U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq resulted in more than a million losses of lives and triggered sectarian conflict, thus reducing the innocent population to the victims of bomb explosion and suicidal attack. The same is the case in Afghanistan.

How can we talk about human rights and fundamental freedoms in those countries and territories where innocent women, children and peaceful people are shedding their blood almost everyday?

The people's survival is threatened and their human rights are violated without exception in places where we see aggression and interference in internal affairs of sovereign states such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine.

Human rights immediately mean national sovereignty. The human rights, which are not guaranteed by national sovereignty, are no more than a fiction. People enjoy their human rights by legal and institutional measures of the state to which they belong and where national sovereignty is exercised.

Therefore, we should, above all, put an end to aggression and interference in internal affairs of sovereign states if we are to promote and protect human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

Removing double standard and selectivity is also important in the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Same rules should be applied to all human rights issues irrespective of the size of the country and the status of alliance. Moreover, the human rights should not be politicized.

To our regret, however, the unlawful acts of Israel in the occupied territories, the operation of CIA overseas secret prisons and maltreatment of prisoners there and other human rights violations that arouse deep concern of the international community are ignored, whereas the developing countries which take independent road of their own choice are becoming the target of "human rights violations".

In particular, the adoption of resolutions on human rights situation in the developing countries is a culmination of selectivity and double standard, which only leads to confrontation and distrust, without rendering any help to the activities of the international community for promotion and protection of human rights.

Another important issue in the promotion and protection of human rights today is to eliminate chauvinism against other nations prevailing in the developed countries.

Due to the emergence of neo-Nazism and ultra-right forces in many developed countries of the world, the acts of rejecting foreigners are rampant and the minority nationals are becoming the target of violence.

In this connection, my delegation wishes to draw attention of this committee to the suppression by the Japanese authorities of the Korean residents in Japan.

In recent months, the Japanese authorities are intensifying their crackdown on the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan(Chongryon), the lawful overseas compatriot organization of the DPRK which was established to defend the democratic rights of the Koreans there.

They mobilized hundreds of heavily armed policemen and even armoured vehicles more than several scores of time from early this year to carry out search operations against the facilities related to Chongryon as well as houses of the Koreans and perpetrated a series of such outrageous acts as assaulting and arresting them without appropriate reason. They even try to forcibly auction off the land and building of the Hall of its headquarter in an attempt to deprive the Korean residents of their living conditions. This is a wanton violation of the UN Charter and other international human rights instruments on respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people as it

serves as heinous fascist acts to eliminate the activities of Chongryon and the Koreans by physically exterminating their operation center.

Japan has legal and moral responsibilities for providing democratic national rights to the Korean residents in Japan, the direct victims and their descendents of the abduction and forcible drafting of 8.4 million Koreans it had carried out during its colonial rule.

However, the frantic repression of Chongryon now going on in Japan, clearly shows once again the political and moral vulgarity of the Japanese authorities who neither recognize and apologize nor compensate for their past crimes perpetrated in Korea and other Asian countries including the issue of "comfort women" for the imperial Japanese army, which constitutes the biggest human rights trafficking in the 20th century.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK since its foundation has made every possible effort to promote and protect human rights of the people, even under the continued threat of aggression and unprecedented economic blockade forced upon by the U.S. and other hostile forces over the past 60-odd years.

Today our people exercise fundamental freedoms and rights to the full as dignified masters of the state and society. They enjoy not so abundant but equal and fruitful life and press forward the building of a powerful state with optimism for the better future.

Our country is free from serious social problems such as rape, prostitution, discrimination and violence and all our people lead stable life while enjoying the benefit of social welfare system including education, medical care and dwelling houses free of cost.

The DPRK will safeguard more firmly our style socialist system, which guarantees enjoyment of human rights legally and in practice based on the people-centered Juche idea and make active contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.

I thank you.