



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release

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Statement by H.E. Mr. KIM CHANG GUK
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Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the UN

at the Third Committee of 61st session of the UNGA
under the agenda item 67(b) "Human rights questions, including
alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of
human rights and fundamental freedoms"

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Mr. Chairman,

The Charter of the United Nations mandated its member states to settle all issues on the principles of equality, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs and in the manner of cooperation.

However, we are now witnessing the grim reality that the principles of equality and respect for sovereignty have been replaced with the old conception of “strength is justice” and that rampant pressure and interference in internal affairs have prevailed over the cooperation.

Regardless of the trend of history towards peace and security, some forces keep on committing such illegal and evil acts as invading other countries outside its territory and slaughtering innocent civilians at random in these countries for the sake of their own strategic and selfish interests, dividing the world into “good or evil” and “democratic or dictatorial states”.

Mr. Chairman,

The illegal “war against terrorism” pursued by the US and the recent massacre of civilians in Lebanon perpetrated by Israel were barbarous acts that had gone beyond the moral and humanitarian limits and utterly ignored not only the international laws and human rights but also international community.

Last November an Iraqi woman with her baby in her arms who was pleading for her life was cruelly killed by the US marine corps in Hadithah, Iraq. She is only one among hundreds of thousands of civilians who were slaughtered by the US Army in Iraq. Even at this moment innocent civilians are suspected as “terrorists” and unjustly killed in Iraq due to the illegal military occupation of the US.

Slaughtering of civilians has not ceased by the U.S. and its followers this year, too. To give a simple example, 55 civilians including 21 children were killed in Qana village, Lebanon during one night of July 30 by indiscriminate night bombing of Israeli invaders.

The invasion upon Lebanon by the Israel under the active patronage of the US is a massacre of civilians which mercilessly killed even children and women. This constitutes a crime against humanity which can never be justified.

Today, nothing is more important and urgent for the international community than to vehemently denounce the invasion upon a sovereign state and massacre of civilians and take measures to prevent recurrence of such tragic incident.

This committee should be a model in denouncing such crimes against humanity. It is deplorable, however, that the committee is converted into a place of taking issues, on the contrary, with independent developing countries and into a scene of arbitrariness and high-handedness of shameless criminals.

In particular, the US, an arch criminal of Iraqi and Lebanese crisis, deserves condemnation and denunciation. The US, however, seeks to style itself “a judge of human rights”. This can not be construed otherwise than a thief crying for thief.

Mr. Chairman,

A pressing issue in improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms is to put an end to invasion upon and interference in internal affairs of sovereign states perpetrated under the pretext of “protection of human rights”.

Human rights are misused by the US and its followers as the weapon to invoke strength and the pretext to invade and interfere in internal affairs of independent countries.

We can cite a number of cases that the US and the UK found fault with “human rights” of and put pressure upon, and finally invade the countries, which hold strategic importance and do not curry favor with the formers. For instance, the US invaded Grenada, the islet country in 1983, and Panama in 1989 under the pretexts of “protection of human rights”. It is also a well-known fact that the US and the West had dealt with Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq as the subjects of resolutions in the UN human rights fora over 10 years before their military operations against them.

The history clearly proves that the armed invasion upon and military occupation of sovereign states under the pretext of “protection of human rights” caused worst violation of human rights, gave rise to regional dispute and imposed tragic disaster upon civilians.

Human rights immediately means sovereignty. Human rights apart from sovereignty of a state means nothing. People enjoy human rights by the legal and institutional guarantees of their sovereign states within the territory where the sovereignty of their states are exercised, not by the dint of the arrogant instructions or strength of the US or the western countries.

If the US and the West truly wish global protection and promotion of human rights they should not abuse the human rights as a tool for realizing their global strategy or an excuse for invading other countries and interfering in their internal affairs. Otherwise, their assertion on human rights can not but be construed as a camouflage to conceal their ambition for aggression.

Mr. Chairman,

Another pressing issue in improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom is to put an end to double standards and selectivity in dealing with human rights issues.

The way of the western countries in dealing with human rights issues of individual countries varies according to time and place, and it is a substantial stumbling block for the activities of international community for protection and promotion of human rights.

The EU took the lead in initiating a special session of the Commission on Human Rights on the issue of the former Yugoslavia, but rejected the proposal of the developing countries to address the issue of illegal aggression upon Iraq by the US put in the Commission.

The EU has repeatedly asserted that it will inquire into and call to account for any violation of human rights committed at anytime and any place. But it has kept mum about slaughtering of civilians by the U.S. in Iraq and the torture and maltreatment of the detainees in the US military prisons abroad including in Guantanamo, about which the Human Rights Committee recently expressed deep concerns.

In particular, the EU brings out the abduction issue of a few Japanese, which had been already settled, as a pending issue every year, while keeping mum about the crimes against humanity committed by the Japan against Korean people such as the kidnapping and forcible drafting of 8.4 million, slaughtering of one million and two hundred thousands of “comfort women” for the Japanese military.

If the “standard of human rights” applied by the EU is fair, it should take up, first of all, the crimes committed by the US, Israel and Japan, and human rights situation of the countries in its own region. However, the EU is remaining silent in this regard.

In dealing with the human rights issues, the EU should apply the same standards to any country, big or small, an ally or not and not disguise the acts conducted out of their political consideration and national interests as acts for “democracy” and “protection of human rights”. Otherwise, the EU’s assertion on human rights can be nothing but “hypocrisy” and nobody will pay attention to it.

Mr. Chairman,

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea steadily advance along the way chosen by its people without any socio-political chaos and frustration even in the face of the uninterrupted political pressure, economic blockade and constant military threat by the US and hostile forces.

This is thanks to the people-centred politics pursued by the government of the DPRK which enjoys full support from its people.

Of course, it does not mean that our people are well-off materially. However, there are no social troubles such as unemployment, illiteracy, violence and prostitution.

Everyone lives with confidence and optimism under the system where everyone is provided with free medical care, free education and dwelling houses free of charge.

The government of the DPRK will further consolidate and develop our own socialist human rights system centred on popular masses under the banner of the *Juche* idea in the future, too and make continued efforts for the justice of the world and for the protection and promotion of genuine human rights.

Thank you.