

WHITE PAPER
ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS
2010

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4. Right to Health: 225 incidents (208/17)

1) General analysis of the Right to Health

(1) Violations of the right to health

Type of act	Denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services	Failure to provide health care facilities and personnel	Total
Number	187	38	225
Percentage (%)	83.1	16.9	100.0

- 187 incidents of denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services (83.1%) and 38 failures to provide health care facilities and personnel (16.9%) were reported. This suggests that victims were denied appropriate treatment and health care services even if the health care facilities and personnel were available.

(2) Violations of the right to health listed by year

Type of act/Year	Denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services	Failure to provide health care facilities and personnel	Total
1960's	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.6%	0.4%
1970's	2	0	2
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	1.1%	0.0%	0.9%
1980's	13	1	14
	92.9%	7.1%	100.0%
	7.0%	2.6%	6.2%
1990's	104	19	123
	84.6%	15.4%	100.0%
	55.6%	50.0%	54.7%
2000-2005's	43	12	55
	78.2%	21.8%	100.0%
	23.0%	31.6%	24.4%
2006-2009's	15	4	19
	78.9%	21.1%	100.0%
	8.0%	10.5%	8.4%
Unspecified time	10	1	11
	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%
	5.3%	2.6%	4.9%
Total	187	38	225
	83.1%	16.9%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Violations of the right to health reported were the most frequently reported in the 1990's (54.7%). This was followed by the 2000-2005's, which accounted for 24.4%, and the 2000-2009's, which accounted for 8.4% of reported cases.
- This table suggests that the health care system of North Korea has not functioned properly since the 1980s and that its malfunction was the most severe in 1990's.
- The peak of incidents in 1990's coincides with the high number of violations of the right to survival in the 1990's such as death by starvation and suspension or reduction of food rations. This suggests that diseases caused by food shortages were not properly dealt with in North Korea

(3) Violations of the right to health listed by region

Type of act/ Region	Denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services	Failure to provide health care facilities and personnel	Total
Pyongyang	2	2	4
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	1.1%	5.3%	1.8%
North Hamgyong Province	116	22	138
	84.1%	15.9%	100.0%
	62.0%	57.9%	61.3%
South Hamgyong Province	21	2	23
	91.3%	8.7%	100.0%
	11.2%	5.3%	10.2%
Yanggang Province	13	4	17
	76.5%	23.5%	100.0%
	7.0%	10.5%	7.6%
Chagang Province	2	2	4
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	1.1%	5.3%	1.8%
North Pyongan Province	6	0	6
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.2%	0.0%	2.7%
South Pyongan Province	5	2	7
	71.4%	28.6%	100.0%
	2.7%	5.3%	3.1%
South Hwanghae Province	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.6%	0.4%
Kangwon Province	4	0	4
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	2.1%	0.0%	1.8%
Other areas in North Korea	9	3	12
	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	4.8%	7.9%	5.3%

Type of act/ Region	Denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services	Failure to provide health care facilities and personnel	Total
Soviet Union(Russia)	1	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Unidentified	8	0	8
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	4.3%	0.0%	3.6%
Total	187	38	225
	83.1%	16.9%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The majority of reported violations of the right to health occurred in North Hamgyong Province (61.3%). This was followed by South Hamgyong province (10.2%). Violations of the right to health occurred in remaining areas of North Korea were evenly distributed.

(4) Violations of the right to health listed by gender

Type of act/ Gender	Denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services	Failure to provide health care facilities and personnel	Total
Male	89	24	113
	78.8%	21.2%	100.0%
	47.6%	63.2%	50.2%
Female	62	10	72
	86.1%	13.9%	100.0%
	33.2%	26.3%	32.0%
Unidentified	36	4	40
	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	19.3%	10.5%	17.8%
Total	187	38	225
	83.1%	16.9%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Reported violations of the right to health involved proportionally more males (50.2%) than females (32.0%).
- There were more reports of violations of the right to health involving male victims than female victims, where the gender was known. This reflected the pattern between genders seen in reports of violations of the right to survival including death by starvation and suspension or reduction of essential food rations.

(5) Violations of the right to health listed by age of victim

Type of act/ Age	Denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services	Failure to provide health care facilities and personnel	Total
0-9	4	0	4
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	2.1%	0.0%	1.8%
10-19	5	0	5
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	2.7%	0.0%	2.2%
20-29	11	1	12
	91.7%	8.3%	100.0%
	5.9%	2.6%	5.3%
30-39	14	3	17
	82.4%	17.6%	100.0%
	7.5%	7.9%	7.6%
40-49	20	0	20
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	10.7%	0.0%	8.9%
50-59	10	1	11
	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%
	5.3%	2.6%	4.9%
60-69	8	2	10
	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	4.3%	5.3%	4.4%
70-79	3	1	4
	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	1.6%	2.6%	1.8%
Unidentified	112	30	142
	78.9%	21.1%	100.0%
	59.9%	78.9%	63.1%
Total	187	38	225
	83.1%	16.9%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

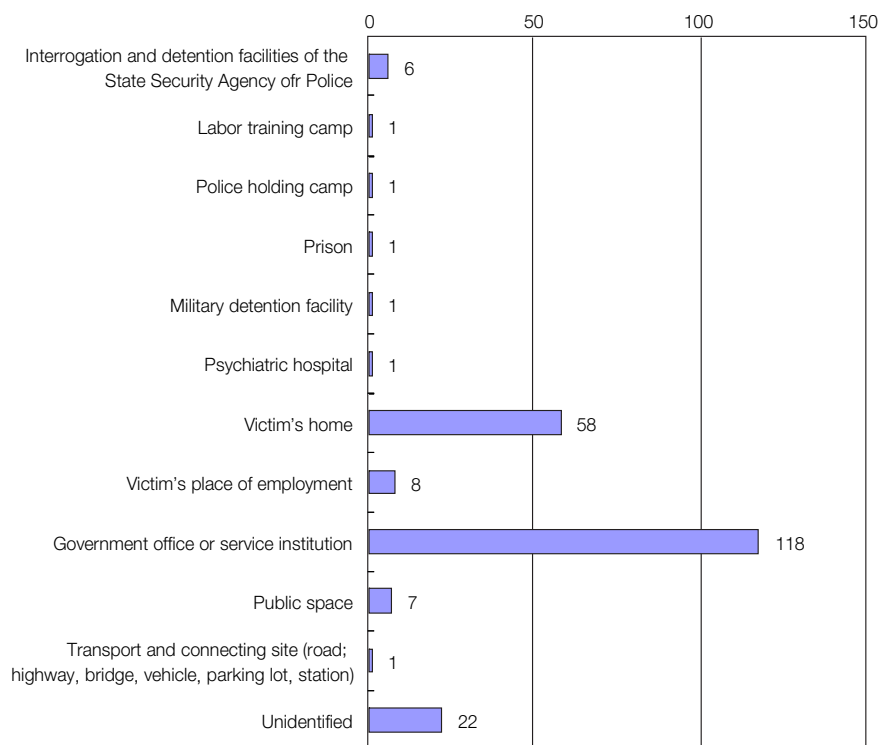
- Violations related to the right to health involved victims across all age groups. Specifically, these cases were more likely among occur among victims in their 40s (8.9%).

(6) Violations of the right to health listed by location of incident

Detailed act/Location of incident	Denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services	Failure to provide health care facilities and personnel	Total
State Security Agency or Police interrogation and detention facility	5	1	6
	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%
	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%
Labor training camp	1	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Police holding camp	1	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Prison	1	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Military detention facility	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.6%	0.4%
Psychiatric institution	1	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Victim's home	43	15	58
	74.1%	25.9%	100.0%
	23.0%	39.5%	25.8%
Victim's place of employment	7	1	8
	87.5%	12.5%	100.0%
	3.7%	2.6%	3.6%
Government office or service institution	101	17	118
	85.6%	14.4%	100.0%
	54.0%	44.7%	52.4%
Public space	7	0	7
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.7%	0.0%	3.1%
Transport and connecting site (road; highway, bridge, vehicle, parking lot, station)	1	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%

Detailed act/Location of incident	Denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services	Failure to provide health care facilities and personnel	Total
Unidentified	19	3	22
	86.4%	13.6%	100.0%
	10.2%	7.9%	9.8%
Total	187	38	225
	83.1%	16.9%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The majority of cases were reported to occur at government offices or service institutions (52.4%). These are likely to be cases where victims visited a hospital or another medical service institution but were refused treatment due to either lack of facilities or outright rejection of requests for treatment.
- The victim's home had the second-largest share of cases (25.8%). These are cases in which the victims suffered from illnesses without any medical treatment.



2) Detailed Analysis of Violations of the Right to Health

(1) Denial of Appropriate Treatment/Failure to Provide Health Care Services:
187 incidents (171/16)

Detailed act	Death	Contracting or worsening of disease	Total
Number of incidents	166	21	187
Percentage (%)	88.8	11.2	100.0

- Of the total incidents related to denial of appropriate treatment or failure to provide health care services, 88.8% involved the death of the victim and 11.2% involved the contracting or worsening of a disease. This suggests that the death rate of victims of the denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services was very high. There are 187 reports of denial of appropriate treatment/failure to provide health care services.

E10-I-11064 (Cheon 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“In the spring 2004, Kim died from abdominal dropsy in his liver. He was diagnosed and hospitalized, but the doctors taught him folk remedy and dismissed him because they did not have the means to provide treatment either. In North Korea, patients don’t expect to get treatments. All they expect is diagnosis. Kim lives 40km away from the hospital. He came home and bought medicines, but eventually died.”*

E10-I-3857 (Ko 00, Female, South Hamgyong Province) *“Though the hospital diagnosed my mother’s symptoms as cold, but she actually had pneumonia. She had high fever at 10 PM but the hospital did not have medicines. All they did was to give her a shot. My mother died, tightly clutching a bottle of penicillin. If she just had one shot, she would not have died. She died around 1975.”*

E09-I-3242 (Hyun 00, Female, Yangang Province) *“Kim 00 lived in the same village. His household was practically broke. I know of their situation*

because my mother was hospitalized in 2006. She took out a tooth and it was infected, leading to blood poisoning; decaying of the gum where the tooth was taken out. It deteriorated to cancer but the hospital did not take her. She cried and said "I want to see unification before I die." The hospital provides beds for patients and that was it. She died in a week. It was 2006 winter, Yangang province 00 hospital."

(2) Failure to Provide Health Care Facilities and Personnel: 38 incidents (37/1)

Detailed acts	Death	Contracting or worsening of disease	Total
Number of incidents	33	5	38
Percentage (%)	86.8	13.2	100.0

- Of the cases of failing to provide health care facilities and personnel, 5 involved the contracting or worsening of a disease and 33 involved death of the victim.

E08-I-5004 (Kim 00, Female, South Hamgyong Province) "Hwang 00 reported sickness in the middle of a training at Haeju arm corps. Hwang was sent to a hospital and died that day, because the operation room did not have electricity necessary for surgery. Hwang's back was decomposing at the time of death. I don't know what disease he had. It was 1992."