

WHITE PAPER
ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS
2010

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7. Right to Marry or Found a Family: 67 incidents (43/24)

1) General Analysis of Violations against the Right to Marry or Found a Family

(1) Violations against the right to marry or found a family

Type of act	Prohibition of marriage	Forced marriage	Forced divorce	Other	Total
Number	5	5	51	6	67
Percentage (%)	7.5	7.5	76.1	9.0	100.0

- Of the incidents violating the right to marry or found a family, forced divorce was the most often reported (76.1%), followed by forced marriage (7.5%), and prohibition of marriage (7.5%). Only small numbers of these types of incidents have so far been recorded and the reports were evenly distributed across the different categories.

(2) Violations against the right to marry or found a family listed by year

Type of act/ Year	Prohibition of marriage	Forced marriage	Forced divorce	Other	Total
1960's	0	1	3	0	4
	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	20.0%	5.9%	0.0%	6.0%
1970's	1	0	6	2	9
	11.1%	0.0%	66.7%	22.2%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	11.8%	33.3%	13.4%
1980's	3	2	8	1	14
	21.4%	14.3%	57.1%	7.1%	100.0%
	60.0%	40.0%	15.7%	16.7%	20.9%
1990's	0	1	18	1	20
	0.0%	5.0%	90.0%	5.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	20.0%	35.3%	16.7%	29.9%
2000-2005's	0	1	9	0	10
	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	20.0%	17.6%	0.0%	14.9%
2006-2009's	0	0	2	1	3
	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	16.7%	4.5%
Unspecified time	1	0	5	1	7
	14.3%	0.0%	71.4%	14.3%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	9.8%	16.7%	10.4%
Total	5	5	51	6	67
	7.5%	7.5%	76.1%	9.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The number of cases reported to have taken place in the 1990's was relatively high (20 incidents, 29.9%). However, due to the insufficient number of cases, these figures may not reflect the actual situation.

(3) Violations against the right to marry or found a family listed by region

Type of act/ Region	Prohibition of marriage	Forced marriage	Forced divorce	Other	Total
Pyongyang	3	3	6	2	14
	21.4%	21.4%	42.9%	14.3%	100.0%
	60.0%	60.0%	11.8%	33.3%	20.9%
North Hamgyong Province	0	0	22	1	23
	0.0%	0.0%	95.7%	4.3%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	43.1%	16.7%	34.3%
South Hamgyong Province	1	0	2	1	4
	25.0%	0.0%	50.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	3.9%	16.7%	6.0%
North Pyongan Province	0	0	2	0	2
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%	3.0%
South Pyongan Province	0	0	2	0	2
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%	3.0%
North Hwanghae Province	0	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.5%
Kangwon Province	0	1	3	0	4
	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	20.0%	5.9%	0.0%	6.0%
Other areas in North Korea	0	1	7	0	8
	0.0%	12.5%	87.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	20.0%	13.7%	0.0%	11.9%
Other	1	0	0	1	2
	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	3.0%
Unidentified	0	0	6	1	7
	0.0%	0.0%	85.7%	14.3%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	11.8%	16.7%	10.4%
Total	5	5	51	6	67
	7.5%	7.5%	76.1%	9.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The highest number of cases were reported to have taken place in North Hamgyong province (34.3%, 23 incidents) and followed by Pyongyang (20.9%, 14 incidents).

(4) Violations against the right to marry or found a family listed by location of incident

Type of act/Location of incident	Prohibition of marriage	Forced marriage	Forced divorce	Other	Total
State Security Agency or Police interrogation/ detention facility	0	0	5	0	5
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	7.5%
Prison	0	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.5%
Political prison camp	1	0	2	0	3
	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%	4.5%
Victim's home	0	0	27	1	28
	0.0%	0.0%	96.4%	3.6%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	52.9%	16.7%	41.8%
Victim's place of employment	1	2	0	1	4
	25.0%	50.0%	0.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	20.0%	40.0%	0.0%	16.7%	6.0%
Government office or service institution	1	1	4	1	7
	14.3%	14.3%	57.1%	14.3%	100.0%
	20.0%	20.0%	7.8%	16.7%	10.4%
Educational facility	1	0	0	2	3
	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	4.5%
Other	0	0	3	1	4
	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	16.7%	6.0%
Unidentified	1	2	9	0	12
	8.3%	16.7%	75.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	20.0%	40.0%	17.6%	0.0%	17.9%
Total	5	5	51	6	67
	7.5%	7.5%	76.1%	9.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The highest number of cases was reported to have taken place in victim's home (41.8%).

(5) Violations against the right to marry or found a family listed by charge against victim

Type of act/ Charge against victim	Prohibition of marriage	Forced marriage	Forced divorce	Other	Total
Political offense	1	1	6	1	9
	11.1%	11.1%	66.7%	11.1%	100.0%
	20.0%	20.0%	11.8%	16.7%	13.4%
Felony offense	2	4	20	2	28
	7.1%	14.3%	71.4%	7.1%	100.0%
	40.0%	80.0%	39.2%	33.3%	41.8%
Border-crossing offense	0	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.5%
Misdemeanor offense	0	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.5%
Guilt-by- association	1	0	19	2	22
	4.5%	0.0%	86.4%	9.1%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	37.3%	33.3%	32.8%
Other	0	0	2	1	3
	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	16.7%	4.5%
Unidentified	1	0	2	0	3
	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%	4.5%
Total	5	5	51	6	67
	7.5%	7.5%	76.1%	9.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- the most reported cases involved felony offense charges (41.8%), guilt-by-association (32.8%), and political offenses (13.4%).

(6) Violations against the right to marry or found a family listed by age of victim

Type of act/ Age	Prohibition of marriage	Forced marriage	Forced divorce	Other	Total
10-19	0	0	1	1	2
	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	16.7%	3.0%
20-29	1	1	5	1	8
	12.5%	12.5%	62.5%	12.5%	100.0%
	20.0%	20.0%	9.8%	16.7%	11.9%
30-39	0	0	10	1	11
	0.0%	0.0%	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	19.6%	16.7%	16.4%
40-49	0	0	5	0	5
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	7.5%
50-59	0	0	3	0	3
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%	4.5%
Unidentified	4	4	27	3	38
	10.5%	10.5%	71.1%	7.9%	100.0%
	80.0%	80.0%	52.9%	50.0%	56.7%
Total	5	5	51	6	67
	7.5%	7.5%	76.1%	9.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- In the 38 cases where age was confirmed, 11 of the victims were in their 30s.

(7) Violations against the right to marry or found a family listed by gender

Type of act/ Gender	Prohibition of marriage	Forced marriage	Forced divorce	Other	Total
Male	2	1	14	3	20
	10.0%	5.0%	70.0%	15.0%	100.0%
	40.0%	20.0%	27.5%	50.0%	29.9%
Female	2	4	28	3	37
	5.4%	10.8%	75.7%	8.1%	100.0%
	40.0%	80.0%	54.9%	50.0%	55.2%
Group	0	0	6	0	6
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	11.8%	0.0%	9.0%
Unidentified	1	0	3	0	4
	25.0%	0.0%	75.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	20.0%	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%	6.0%
Total	5	5	51	6	67
	7.5%	7.5%	76.1%	9.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Of the reported violations against the right to marry or found a family, the number of incidents involving females was higher than those involving males. The following are detailed accounts of the violations.

E10-I-6838 (Byun 00, Female, South Pyongan Province) *“In 2000, my friend’s father ran an antique shop. One day, he was forced to divorce with his wife. After the forced divorce no one knows where he was taken to.”*

E10-I-7973 (Song 00, Female, North Hamgyong Province) *“In 1999, my friend played a guitar at an art performance group. My friend’s mother used to visit China and gave Bibles to her son and daughter in law. They also watched South Korean drama at night. The mother and son were arrested for political crimes. The daughter in law went to SSA and asked for*

a visit, but was denied. She was forced to divorce her husband because she did not belong to the blood line. The rest of the family lives in North Korea.”

E10-I-1964 (Park 00, Female, North Hamgyong Province) *“The SSA forced the couple to divorce. They must be about 40 years old now. At first they were imprisoned for smuggling and released for ill health. Their background is not good, so they were arrested again for economic or political offense. The wife did not want to divorce because of the parents in law and daughter, but they were forced to divorce.”*