

WHITE PAPER
ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS
2010

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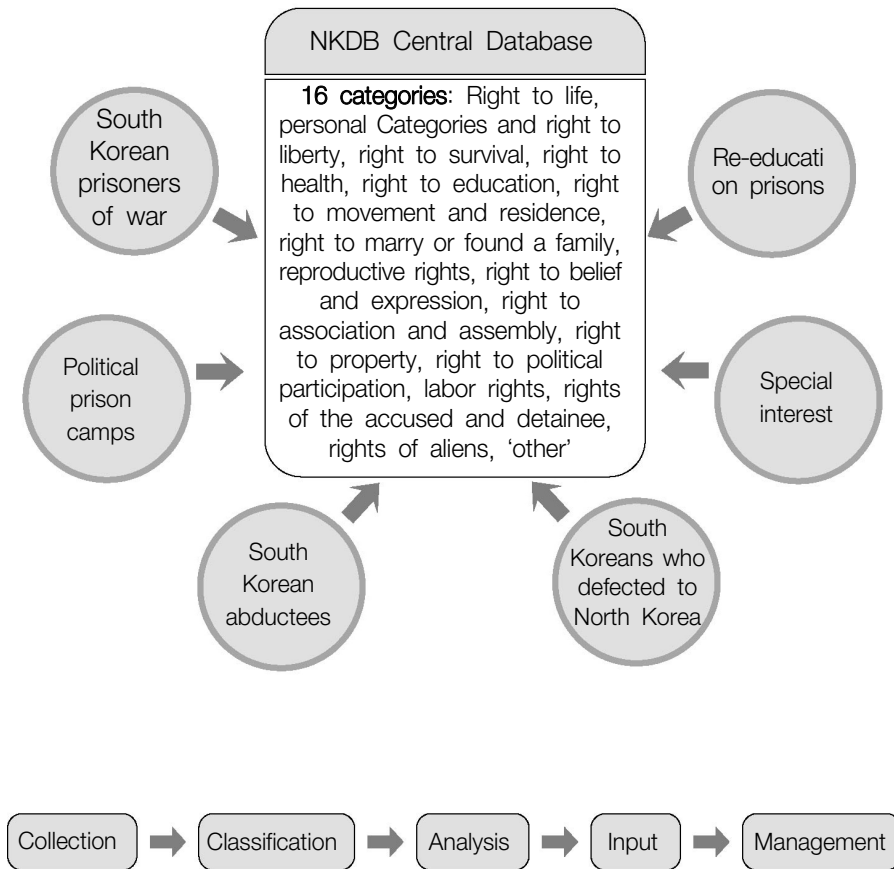


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II. NKDB DATABASE

1. Conceptual Map of NKDB Database

Conceptual Map of NKDB Database



2. NKDB Central Database

- a. The information is entered into a single central database and classified into 16 categories (types of human rights), 84 sub-categories (types of violations), 104 components and 191 indicators of violations.
- b. The classification is based on the “International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights” and the “International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.” Categories are composed of lists of human rights violations, which may occur frequently and reflect the actual conditions in North Korea.
- c. The Central Database can be accessed through office network computers to allow input of information into the database as well as analysis of the information stored on the database.

1) NKDB Sectors

Information is categorized under six top level sectors within the central database to help with more specific analysis. These sectors are respectively (1) POW sector, (2) political prison camp sector, (3) prison sector (human rights violations taking place in the judicial system and detention camps), (4) North Korean defector sector, (5) special interest sector (including women, children, the disabled, and religious groups), and (6) a sector devoted to South Koreans who defected to North Korea. These sectors are highly interrelated. Within these six sectors, lists of categories are shared with the central database. Specific personnel take charge of each sector and engage in in-depth data collection and specialized research.

Additional sectors may be created in future in case of need.

2) Maintenance of Combined Database and Its Sectors

- a. Data collection → Classification → Analysis → Input → Management
- b. NKDB is in charge of the process from collection to input, after which the NKHRA is responsible for management of the system.

3) Construction of Database

(1) Types of data

a. written materials include publications

Documentation refers to various types of related to North Korean human rights including books, magazines, newspapers, memoranda and recorded documents. NKDB regularly checks its own publication list, which consists of periodicals and documents, to ensure that it is updated. It also collects necessary items from bookstores, libraries and organizations related to North Korean human rights. Handwritten accounts, judicial documents, identification cards and government records are acquired from interviewees during the individual interview process and from other individuals with particular information and/or evidence to offer. This plays a significant role in resource and data collection.

b. Interview

Interviews are conducted with individuals who have lived in North Korea (defectors, South Korean POWs and abductees). For collecting materials related with North Korean human rights violations, we have interviewed with defectors who stay in Korea and a third country. Additional data is collected by conducting follow up interviews. In these cases the research is performed with the assistance of organizations that protect individual defectors and networks of defectors. Defectors who have been interviewed themselves often encourage their friends and family to be interviewed. Interviews and inquiries are carried out in Korea as well as abroad (China, Thailand, etc.).

c. Internet Data

NKDB regularly collects information released on the Internet, by the press or organizations related to North Korean human rights violations.

d. Photos, Video Footage and Tools

Individuals and organizations doing business with North Korea, as well as member of the press, continue to donate and help NKDB obtain photos, video footage, tools and other physical objects documenting or related to human rights violations (including tools of torture, lists of personal histories, personal identification and related documents).

4) Data and Categories for Analysis

(1) Current stage of analysis

The NKDB has completed an analysis of 154 books, major South Korean newspapers published from 2006 to 2008, write-ups on the Internet released from 2005 to 2008 pertaining to North Korean human rights and key magazines published from 2006 to 2008. In 2009, the analysis of 2,178 individuals' interviews was added to the Database. It has also finished analyzing interviews and questionnaires with 3,874 individuals. All of data analyzed has been entered into NKDB Central Database and maintained. At present (September 28, 2010), interviews and questionnaires with 3,752 individuals, 57 books and handwritten accounts await analysis and entry into the database. The amount of information waiting to be entered is larger than the amount of data already stored on NKDB Central Database. This reflects the NKDB's shortage of resources. The timeline for completion will therefore be dependent on the availability of trained personnel and budget.

Description	Data included in White Paper 2010	Number of unanalyzed data
Documentation	Books: 154	Books: 57 (published since 2005)
	Weekly and monthly magazines published in 2006 to 2007	Periodicals from 1950 to 2005 (55 bound books) Periodicals from 2009
	Newspapers: articles published in 2006 to 2008	articles from 1993 to 2005 (4 scrapbooks) articles from 2009
	Publications by related organizations (from 2005 to 2006)	Publications in 2004 (2 bound books) Publications in 2007 and 2009 (2 bound books)
	Handwritten account: 0	Research abroad and handwritten account : 7 individuals and 6 handwritten account
	Special research conducted by NKDB was included	Special research into situation of victims tortured and returned South Korean POWs
Internet	Internet (articles from 2005 to 2008)	Publications since 2009
Special data (Video footage, photograph, other evidence)	None	Several video footages, photographs, other pieces of evidence
Interviews and questionnaires	Interviews in 2002-2010: 3,874 individuals	Interviews and questionnaires conducted in 2002-2010.7: 3,752 individuals Total 3,385 individuals (interviews conducted abroad not included)

(2) Analysis of categories

The data related to human rights violations is divided into two main groups, either “incident” or “individual.” For each incident or individual, 200 separate categories of information are recorded. The database program developed by NKDB then records the incident under one of the 16 human rights categories which is then divided into 84 sub-categories of rights affected, 104 components and 191 methods and tools.

3. Utilization and Reliability of Data

1) Utilization

The level, range and manner of application of the data (Central Database, its sectors, evidence: photos, video footage, and recording) compiled in NKHRA are stated clearly in the center's own regulations. Information will be provided by the NKHRA to serve the needs of research institutions and their researchers, the media and the press, NGOs and other international organizations on the condition they adhere to NKDB's regulations. The Center's data will only be released with the agreement of individual information provider and, in accordance with strict rules related to their privacy. The protection of the safety and human rights of residents remaining in North Korea is crucial.

The use of data must be restricted to the improvement of human rights in North Korea, the examination of the truth, and protection and support for victims.

2) Data Access and Publication

- (1) Data will be released in the form of a White Paper and intermittent reports.
- (2) Information open to the public will be presented on the NKDB website (<http://www.nkdb.org>).
- (3) Restricted data will be available at the NKHRA to be viewed only with permission.
- (4) If the NKHRA receives a request for information from an organization or individual, it will only release results of database analysis if the purpose is for public benefit. A system of user membership will be set up to ensure proper vetting of users.

3) Reliability of Database

It is hard to estimate the reliability of data because of the impossibility of on-the-spot investigation in North Korea. The concreteness, logicity, frequency of incidents, existence of evidence, plural witnesses, cross-analysis and the situation in North Korea are all considered when assessing the reliability of the data. However, despite the growing number of witnesses and their testimonies, the verification of sources remains extremely difficult. Much of the data will therefore remain uncorroborated until sufficient data is available to conduct an

empirical study of actual conditions in North Korea.

(1) Estimation of reliability

The Central Database of NKHRA holds information of human rights. The database is designed to conduct a cross analysis of information in order to corroborate and verify the validity of the data collected. There are now a total of 22,346 incidents of human rights violations and details of 7,137 individuals involved in these incidents. As the amount of data included on the database increases, verification and corroboration will increase.

(2) Achieving Reliability

To improve the reliability of the data, work is ongoing to improve the methods of research and analysis. However, this will require acquisition of personnel with specific skills and experience alongside further development of the database to improve the input, search and analysis processes. As discussed, reliability and corroboration of the data will increase as the number of witnesses and information providers supplying testimony, photos, video footage, documentation, and other evidence grows.

4. Database Limitations and Challenges of Difficulties

1) Limitations of Data Collection

NKDB collects data on human rights violations for the period from the establishment of the DPRK to present day. There will be significant gaps in the data collected particularly in relation to earlier cases and violations which occurred abroad. In addition, interviews are often conducted in groups which may be less reliable than one-on-one interviews. Limitations in access to defectors due to time and resources means that questionnaires are often relied upon for collecting information rather than individual or group interviews. There are also limitations in accessing interviewees and defectors may not give comprehensive responses to questionnaires or may refuse to participate.

The data consists of interviews, documentation (books, magazines, newspapers, handwritten accounts, memoranda and recorded documents), Internet data, photos, video footage and other evidence. However, there are limitations in collecting documentary evidence and finding witnesses for example:

- (1) Refusal to testify for the fear of reprisals against his/her family and relatives remaining in North Korea.
- (2) Extreme difficulty in obtaining documents from North Korea.
- (3) Dimming of victim's memory as time passes since occurrence of incident(s).
- (4) Difficulties in collecting information from victims of extreme trauma (many of whom may be suffering from PTSD).

2) Limitation on Access to Data

While appropriate individuals and organizations can access information held on the database for research purposes, limitations must be placed on access to the data. First-hand information providers are usually North Korean defectors and information will not be released if the safety of relatives remaining in North Korea or the safety of any other third party is at risk. The use of NKHRA data for political purpose or commercial gain against the purpose of the organization and governing principles is strictly forbidden.

3) Limitations resulting from North-South Korean Relations and Social Constraints

NKDB is a non-governmental organization established to verify the truth about North Korean human rights violations and to protect and support victims. It aims to realize universal human rights in North Korea. As both a South Korean organization and an organization that monitors the actions of the North Korean government, access to North Korea is limited. NKDB hopes that its work will be able to continue unimpeded in case of any opposition from the North Korean government.

The issue of North Korean human rights can lead to deep conflicts of political ideology in South Korean society. an inability to reach compromise on these issues has created serious challenges for those trying to advance the aim of universal human rights for the people of North Korea. The NKDB therefore aims to work on a basis of political neutrality, systematically collecting and analyzing the data. It has the role of an objective information contributor and conservator of unbiased data. The NKDB cannot participate in the political discussion.