

WHITE PAPER
ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS
2010

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12. Right to Political Participation: 318 (272/46) Incidents

1) General Analysis of Violations of the Right to Political Participation

(1) Violations of the right to political participation

Types of acts	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment In the military)	Election threats	Deprivation of right to freedom of establishing political party	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
Number	7	207	93	0	0	11	318
Percentage (%)	2.2	65.1	29.2	0.0	0.0	3.5	100.0

- Of the 318 violations of the right to political participation, there were 207 violations of the right to join a political party (65.1%), 93 cases where the right to work in the civil in the civil service or enlist in the military was denied (29.2%) and 11 cases of cancellation of party membership (3.5%).

(2) Violations of the right to political participation listed by year

Types of acts/Year	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment in the military)	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
1950's	0	1	0	0	1
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
1960's	0	0	2	0	2
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.6%
1970's	0	12	10	0	22
	0.0%	54.5%	45.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	5.8%	10.8%	0.0%	6.9%
1980's	1	33	17	0	51
	2.0%	64.7%	33.3%	0.0%	100.0%
	14.3%	15.9%	18.3%	0.0%	16.0%
1990's	5	62	31	4	102
	4.9%	60.8%	30.4%	3.9%	100.0%
	71.4%	30.0%	33.3%	36.4%	32.1%
2000-2005's	1	29	11	4	45
	2.2%	64.4%	24.4%	8.9%	100.0%
	14.3%	14.0%	11.8%	36.4%	14.2%
2006-2009's	0	7	3	1	11
	0.0%	63.6%	27.3%	9.1%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.4%	3.2%	9.1%	3.5%
Unspecified time	0	63	19	2	84
	0.0%	75.0%	22.6%	2.4%	100.0%
	0.0%	30.4%	20.4%	18.2%	26.4%
Total	7	207	93	11	318
	2.2%	65.1%	29.2%	3.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Of the violations of the right to political participation, 102 cases (32.1%) took place in the 1990's and 51 cases (16.0%) in the 1980's.
- Reports of incidents related to the denial of the right to join a political party have increased since 1980's.

(3) Violations of the right to political participation listed by region

Types of acts/Region	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment in the military)	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
Pyongyang	1	5	0	1	7
	14.3%	71.4%	0.0%	14.3%	100.0%
	14.3%	2.4%	0.0%	9.1%	2.2%
North Hamgyong Province	2	69	35	4	110
	1.8%	62.7%	31.8%	3.6%	100.0%
	28.6%	33.3%	37.6%	36.4%	34.6%
South Hamgyong Province	4	14	4	0	22
	18.2%	63.6%	18.2%	0.0%	100.0%
	57.1%	6.8%	4.3%	0.0%	6.9%
Yanggang Province	0	14	5	0	19
	0.0%	73.7%	26.3%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	6.8%	5.4%	0.0%	6.0%
Chagang Province	0	1	0	0	1
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
North Pyongan Province	0	4	1	0	5
	0.0%	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.9%	1.1%	0.0%	1.6%
South Pyongan Province	0	6	5	0	11
	0.0%	54.5%	45.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.9%	5.4%	0.0%	3.5%
South Hwanghae Province	0	2	2	0	4
	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.0%	2.2%	0.0%	1.3%
Kangwon Province	0	4	2	0	6
	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.9%	2.2%	0.0%	1.9%

Types of acts/Region	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment in the military)	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
Other areas in North Korea	0	63	32	1	96
	0.0%	65.6%	33.3%	1.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	30.4%	34.4%	9.1%	30.2%
Unidentified	0	25	7	5	37
	0.0%	67.6%	18.9%	13.5%	100.0%
	0.0%	12.1%	7.5%	45.5%	11.6%
Total	7	207	93	11	318
	2.2%	65.1%	29.2%	3.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Among reported locations for violations of the right to political participation, North Hamgyong Province accounted for 110 cases (34.6%) and South Hamgyong Province accounted for 22 cases (6.9%). Of these reported cases, incidents of denial of the right to join a political party the most frequently took place in North Hamgyong Province.

(4) Violations of the right to political participation listed by location of incident

Types of acts/Location of incident	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment in the military)	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
Prison	1	0	0	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Military detention facility	0	8	1	0	9
	0.0%	88.9%	11.1%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.9%	1.1%	0.0%	2.8%
Victim's home	0	19	20	1	40
	0.0%	47.5%	50.0%	2.5%	100.0%
	0.0%	9.2%	21.5%	9.1%	12.6%
Victim's place of employment	0	1	0	0	1
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Home of colleague or neighbor	1	44	5	1	51
	2.0%	86.3%	9.8%	2.0%	100.0%
	14.3%	21.3%	5.4%	9.1%	16.0%
Government office or service institution	1	26	12	3	42
	2.4%	61.9%	28.6%	7.1%	100.0%
	14.3%	12.6%	12.9%	27.3%	13.2%
Educational Facility	0	13	15	0	28
	0.0%	46.4%	53.6%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	6.3%	16.1%	0.0%	8.8%
Other	0	24	3	1	28
	0.0%	85.7%	10.7%	3.6%	100.0%
	0.0%	11.6%	3.2%	9.1%	8.8%
Unidentified	4	72	37	5	118
	3.4%	61.0%	31.4%	4.2%	100.0%
	57.1%	34.8%	39.8%	45.5%	37.1%
Total	7	207	93	11	318
	2.2%	65.1%	29.2%	3.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- With regard to the location of incidents, victim's place of employment as well as government office of service institution is the common place where cases of violations of the right to political participation like denial of the right to join a political party, denial of the right to work in the civil service, cancellation of political party membership took place.

(5) Violations of the right to political participation listed by charge against victim

Types of acts/Type of charge	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment in the military)	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
Political offense	1	9	2	2	14
	7.1%	64.3%	14.3%	14.3%	100.0%
	14.3%	4.3%	2.2%	18.2%	4.4%
Felony offense	1	1	1	1	4
	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	14.3%	0.5%	1.1%	9.1%	1.3%
Economic offense	0	0	0	1	1
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.3%
Border-crossing offense	0	1	0	2	3
	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	18.2%	0.9%
Misdemeanor offense	0	4	1	2	7
	0.0%	57.1%	14.3%	28.6%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.9%	1.1%	18.2%	2.2%
Guilt-by-association	5	184	88	3	280
	1.8%	65.7%	31.4%	1.1%	100.0%
	71.4%	88.9%	94.6%	27.3%	88.1%
Other	0	2	1	0	3
	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.9%
Unidentified	0	6	0	0	6
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Total	7	207	93	11	318
	2.2%	65.1%	29.2%	3.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- the most incidents which resulted in victims' being denied the right to political participation were as a result of the 'guilt by association' system (280 incidents, 88.1%). Of the violations resulting from the charge of 'guilt by association', there were 184 incidents of denial of the right to join a political party and 88 incidents where the right to work in the civil service or enlist in the military was denied.
- This table shows that the 'guilt-by-association system' has prevented individuals from achieving party membership in a number of incident because of accompanying punishment with family or relatives despite innocent and discrimination due to the social class .

(6) Violations of the right to political participation listed by nature of information provider

Types of acts/ Nature of information provider	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment in the military)	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
Victim	4	31	38	4	77
	5.2%	40.3%	49.4%	5.2%	100.0%
	57.1%	15.0%	40.9%	36.4%	24.2%
Colleague or neighbor of Victim	0	13	2	1	16
	0.0%	81.3%	12.5%	6.3%	100.0%
	0.0%	6.3%	2.2%	9.1%	5.0%
Family or relative of victim	3	79	26	3	111
	2.7%	71.2%	23.4%	2.7%	100.0%
	42.9%	38.2%	28.0%	27.3%	34.9%
Witness (Eyewitness)	0	66	21	2	89
	0.0%	74.2%	23.6%	2.2%	100.0%
	0.0%	31.9%	22.6%	18.2%	28.0%
Other	0	18	6	1	25
	0.0%	72.0%	24.0%	4.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	8.7%	6.5%	9.1%	7.9%
Total	7	207	93	11	318
	2.2%	65.1%	29.2%	3.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The largest group reporting violations was the remainder of family or relative of victim (34.9%), followed by the witness (28.0%), victim (24.2%), Colleagues or neighbor of Victim (5.0%).

(7) Violations of the right to political participation listed by age of victim

Types of acts/Age	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment in the military)	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
10-19's	0	10	44	0	54
	0.0%	18.5%	81.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	4.8%	47.3%	0.0%	17.0%
20-29's	5	43	16	2	66
	7.6%	65.2%	24.2%	3.0%	100.0%
	71.4%	20.8%	17.2%	18.2%	20.8%
30-39's	1	24	3	0	28
	3.6%	85.7%	10.7%	0.0%	100.0%
	14.3%	11.6%	3.2%	0.0%	8.8%
40-49's	0	19	2	2	23
	0.0%	82.6%	8.7%	8.7%	100.0%
	0.0%	9.2%	2.2%	18.2%	7.2%
50-59's	0	5	0	0	5
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
60-69's	0	3	1	0	4
	0.0%	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.4%	1.1%	0.0%	1.3%
70-79's	0	1	0	1	2
	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	9.1%	0.6%
Unidentified	1	102	27	6	136
	0.7%	75.0%	19.9%	4.4%	100.0%
	14.3%	49.3%	29.0%	54.5%	42.8%
Total	7	207	93	11	318
	2.2%	65.1%	29.2%	3.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Among political participation violations, where the age of the victim could be identified, involved people in their teens and 20's. The 44 incidents involving teens related to denying them the right to enlist in the military or civil service after graduation from high school. Of the 59 incidents that affected victims in their 20's, included violations of the right to join a political party and right to work in the civil service or enlist in the military.

(8) Violations of the right to political participation listed by gender

Types of acts/ Gender	Denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship)	Denial of the right to join a political party	Denial of the right to work in the civil service (denial of enlistment in the military)	Cancellation of political party membership	Total
Male	5	151	72	7	235
	2.1%	64.3%	30.6%	3.0%	100.0%
	71.4%	72.9%	77.4%	63.6%	73.9%
Female	2	35	15	4	56
	3.6%	62.5%	26.8%	7.1%	100.0%
	28.6%	16.9%	16.1%	36.4%	17.6%
Group	0	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.3%
Unidentified	0	21	5	0	26
	0.0%	80.8%	19.2%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	10.1%	5.4%	0.0%	8.2%
Total	7	207	93	11	318
	2.2%	65.1%	29.2%	3.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- 73.9% of those who reported being denied the right to political participation were male (235 incidents). This may be as a result of males being more socially and politically active within North Korean society.

2) Detailed analysis of the Right to Political Participation

(1) Denial of the Right to Vote or Run for Office (Deprivation of Citizenship): 7 incidents (7/0)

There are seven reports of denial of the right to vote or run for office (deprivation of citizenship). The following are examples of the incidents.

E10-I-6470 (Gyun 00, Female, North Hamgyong Province) *“In 1993, after my father’s death in the SSA, an agent confiscated social security documents of all family members, including his.”*

E10-I-7102 (Kim 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“I was precluded from participating in the 8th Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League meeting in 1991, in 00 city, North Hamgyong province.”*

E04-R-10 (Lee Young-guk, 「I was Kim Jong-il’s Bodyguard), 2002, Zeitgeist, pp.63-64, summarized quotation) *“Kim Jong-il’s security guards cannot participate in elections. I worked as Kim Jong-il’s personal bodyguard from 1978-1988, during which three elections were held. I was not allowed to participate in any of them…according to the North Korean Constitution, anyone above 17 years of age have right to vote. However, since bodyguards are integral members of the regime, they take for granted our support for the current regime and think that it is unnecessary to vote.”*

(2) Denial of the Right to Join a Political Party: 207 incidents (173/34)

Types of acts/ Location of incident	Information type				Total
	Directly observed	Directly experienced	Reported second-hand	Witness's assumption	
Military detention facility	1	4	2	1	8
	12.5%	50.0%	25.0%	12.5%	100.0%
	0.7%	12.9%	6.1%	100.0%	3.9%
Victim's home	15	2	2	0	19
	78.9%	10.5%	10.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	10.6%	6.5%	6.1%	0.0%	9.2%
Home of colleague or neighbor	0	1	0	0	1
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Victim's place of employment	30	9	5	0	44
	68.2%	20.5%	11.4%	0.0%	100.0%
	21.1%	29.0%	15.2%	0.0%	21.3%
Government office or service institution	16	6	4	0	26
	61.5%	23.1%	15.4%	0.0%	100.0%
	11.3%	19.4%	12.1%	0.0%	12.6%
Educational Facility	5	1	7	0	13
	38.5%	7.7%	53.8%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.5%	3.2%	21.2%	0.0%	6.3%
Other	19	3	2	0	24
	79.2%	12.5%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
	13.4%	9.7%	6.1%	0.0%	11.6%
Unidentified	56	5	11	0	72
	77.8%	6.9%	15.3%	0.0%	100.0%
	39.4%	16.1%	33.3%	0.0%	34.8%
Total	142	31	33	1	207
	68.6%	15.0%	15.9%	0.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- the most of violations of denial of the right to join a political party occurred in government office or service institution.

The following are examples of the violation.

E09-I-3114 (Lee 00, Female, North Hamgyong Province) *“My younger sibling were discriminated against, because I lived in China for 13 years. My brother 00 worked extremely hard at the 000 power plant and earned numerous awards. All he had to do be a party member was to go to the army. However his membership in the party was denied because of me. It was 2000. He must resent me very much.”*

E10-I-8808 (Park 00, Male, Yangang Province) *“In 2006, I wanted to enter the Party after completing the military duty. I could not become a member because my family defected to the South.”*

E10-I-9063 (Lee 00, Female, South Hwanghae Province) *“My younger sibling wanted to enter the Party 2007, but was turned down because we have cousins in China and that is considered as a sign of bad foundation.”*

(3) Denial of the Right to Work in the Civil Service (Denial of Enlistment in the Military): 98 incidents (83/10)

E10-I-7589 (Chung 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“My brothers and I were denied from the military because our father is from the South. I enlisted and was rejected when I was 17.”*

E10-I-11085 (Lee 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“I enlisted in the military because I wanted to protect myself and build a foundation for my career ambition to be an officer. However I was rejected by a recruitment office in North Hamgyong province because my brother was a political offender. I objected and confronted the recruitment officer that “the fact that my brother is like that does not mean that I will turn out like him.” However he gave me a hostile look and reproached me. At the time, our family was*

politically weak and I was afraid that we might get hurt. Hope disappeared from then and I no longer had ambition in life.”

E10-I-2295 (Choi 00, Male, North Pyongan Province) *“My brother graduated 00 Engineering School and made engineering inventions. He continuously applied for the Party membership but was never allowed because his father was a political offender. Also, he was never allowed into the military.”*

(4) Election Threats: 0 incidents (0/0)

There is no reported incident of election threats.

(5) Deprivation of Right to Freedom of Establishing Political Party: 0 incidents (0/0)

There is no reported incident of deprivation of right to freedom of establishing political part

(6) Cancellation of political party membership: 11 incidents (9/2)

There are two reports of cancellation of political party membership.

E10-I-10509 (Park 00, Male, Pyongyang) *“One of my friends was a policeman. In 2000 he was expelled from the Party and forced to leave his post because his father was arrested for having antisocialist ideology. At the time, his father was a head of a police station in Pyongyang.”*

David Hawk, 『The Hidden Gulag:』 2003, Zeitgeist, p.108 (summarized quotation) *“When Lee Soon-ok monitored food distribution in 1986, a Party member was dissatisfied with his share of the distribution and reported her. Lee was arrested under the charge of theft and bribery. She was imprisoned in the Onsung SSA prison for 7 months, expelled from the Party and transferred to a local police interrogation facility for another 7 months of imprisonment.”*