

WHITE PAPER
ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS
2010

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11. RIGHT TO PROPERTY: 211 incidents (185/26)

1) General Analysis of Right to Property

(1) Violations of the right to property

Types of acts	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
Number	105	27	79	211
Percentage (%)	49.8	12.8	37.4	100.0

- 211 cases related to right to property were reported, of which Looting/ theft (by government agent) was the most frequently reported with 49.8% (105 incidents), followed by extortion followed by extortion (12.8%, 27 incidents) and confiscation of property by state (37.4%; 79 incidents).

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

Types of acts/ Year	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
1950's	0	0	1	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.5%
1960's	1	0	1	2
	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	1.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.9%
1970's	4	1	2	7
	57.1%	14.3%	28.6%	100.0%
	3.8%	3.7%	2.5%	3.3%
1980's	5	5	3	13
	38.5%	38.5%	23.1%	100.0%
	4.8%	18.5%	3.8%	6.2%
1990's	27	10	32	69
	39.1%	14.5%	46.4%	100.0%
	25.7%	37.0%	40.5%	32.7%
2000-2005's	31	5	18	54
	57.4%	9.3%	33.3%	100.0%
	29.5%	18.5%	22.8%	25.6%
2006-2009's	22	2	13	37
	59.5%	5.4%	35.1%	100.0%
	21.0%	7.4%	16.5%	17.5%
Unspecified time	15	4	9	28
	53.6%	14.3%	32.1%	100.0%
	14.3%	14.8%	11.4%	13.3%
Total	105	27	79	211
	49.8%	12.8%	37.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The largest number of incidents occurred in 1990's, which accounted for 32.7% with 69 incidents. The second largest number of incidents occurred in 2000-2005's and accounted for 17.5% with 37 incidents.
- It suggests that after 1980's, when the long-term economic depression began, violations of the right to property started taking place by agents who were close to the lives of residents, and it was at its the worst in the 1990's and continued to take place these days (2006-2009's).

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

Detailed acts/ Region	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
Pyongyang	7	6	1	14
	50.0%	42.9%	7.1%	100.0%
	6.7%	22.2%	1.3%	6.6%
North Hamgyong Province	47	8	46	101
	46.5%	7.9%	45.5%	100.0%
	44.8%	29.6%	58.2%	47.9%
South Hamgyong Province	6	4	6	16
	37.5%	25.0%	37.5%	100.0%
	5.7%	14.8%	7.6%	7.6%
Yanggang Province	3	1	10	14
	21.4%	7.1%	71.4%	100.0%
	2.9%	3.7%	12.7%	6.6%
Chagang Province	1	0	1	2
	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	1.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.9%
North Pyongan Province	5	1	0	6
	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	100.0%
	4.8%	3.7%	0.0%	2.8%
South Pyongan Province	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.5%
North Hwanghae Province	0	0	1	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.5%
Kangwon Province	3	0	3	6
	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	2.9%	0.0%	3.8%	2.8%
Other areas in North Korea	3	0	1	4
	75.0%	0.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	2.9%	0.0%	1.3%	1.9%

Detailed acts/ Region	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
China	12	0	0	12
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%
Soviet Union (Russia)	3	2	0	5
	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	2.9%	7.4%	0.0%	2.4%
Other	6	0	0	6
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%
Unidentified	9	4	10	23
	39.1%	17.4%	43.5%	100.0%
	8.6%	14.8%	12.7%	10.9%
Total	105	27	79	211
	49.8%	12.8%	37.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The number of violations of the right to property was the largest in North Hamgyong Province (47.9%).
- 56.4% of original charges against victims were of the economic crime. Of the reported cases, violations of the right to property by government agents can be said to have taken place the most frequently in Pyongyang, where commodities are relatively plentiful, and North Hamgyong Province, which is near the border and in which informal economic activities frequently occurred

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

Types of acts/ Location of incident	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by an organ of the state)	Total
State Security Agency or police interrogation /detention facility	11	4	0	15
	73.3%	26.7%	0.0%	100.0%
	10.5%	14.8%	0.0%	7.1%
Labor training camp	1	0	1	2
	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	1.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.9%
Police holding camp	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.5%
Political prison camp	1	0	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Military detention facility	7	1	0	8
	87.5%	12.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	6.7%	3.7%	0.0%	3.8%
Victim's home	24	1	69	94
	25.5%	1.1%	73.4%	100.0%
	22.9%	3.7%	87.3%	44.5%
Home of colleague or neighbor	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.5%
Victim's place of employment	9	3	2	14
	64.3%	21.4%	14.3%	100.0%
	8.6%	11.1%	2.5%	6.6%
Government office or service institution	14	8	0	22
	63.6%	36.4%	0.0%	100.0%
	13.3%	29.6%	0.0%	10.4%
Educational facility	0	2	0	2
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	0.9%

Types of acts/ Location of incident	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by an organ of the state)	Total
Public space	6	0	1	7
	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%	100.0%
	5.7%	0.0%	1.3%	3.3%
Transport and connecting site (Road; highway, bridge, transport vehicle, transport center or office)	5	1	0	6
	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	100.0%
	4.8%	3.7%	0.0%	2.8%
While riding on transportation	1	1	0	2
	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	1.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.9%
Detention facilities in China	2	0	0	2
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Other	13	3	4	20
	65.0%	15.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	12.4%	11.1%	5.1%	9.5%
Unidentified	11	1	2	14
	78.6%	7.1%	14.3%	100.0%
	10.5%	3.7%	2.5%	6.6%
Total	105	27	79	211
	49.8%	12.8%	37.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Violations of property rights the most frequently took place at victim's homes (44.5%), followed by at government offices or service institutions (10.4%). Of the cases that took place in State Security Agency or police interrogation / detention facilities (7.1% of cases), they primarily involved the looting of possessions from defectors. These are North Koreans being forcibly repatriated from China to North Korea, who have their personal items confiscated while staying in interrogation and detention centers.
- While appropriating possessions from defectors is illegal, to many North Koreans it is accepted as part of the consequence of being held in detention centers.

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

Types of acts/ Type of charge	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
Political offense	5	0	14	19
	26.3%	0.0%	73.7%	100.0%
	4.8%	0.0%	17.7%	9.0%
Felony offense	11	0	1	12
	91.7%	0.0%	8.3%	100.0%
	10.5%	0.0%	1.3%	5.7%
Economic crime	59	24	36	119
	49.6%	20.2%	30.3%	100.0%
	56.2%	88.9%	45.6%	56.4%
Border-crossing offense	16	2	7	25
	64.0%	8.0%	28.0%	100.0%
	15.2%	7.4%	8.9%	11.8%
Misdemeanor offense	8	1	2	11
	72.7%	9.1%	18.2%	100.0%
	7.6%	3.7%	2.5%	5.2%
Guilt-by-association	2	0	9	11
	18.2%	0.0%	81.8%	100.0%
	1.9%	0.0%	11.4%	5.2%
Other	3	0	2	5
	60.0%	0.0%	40.0%	100.0%
	2.9%	0.0%	2.5%	2.4%
Unidentified	1	0	8	9
	11.1%	0.0%	88.9%	100.0%
	1.0%	0.0%	10.1%	4.3%
Total	105	27	79	211
	49.8%	12.8%	37.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The violations of the right to property according to the charge against victim, economic crimes was the most commonly reported with 56.4% (119 incidents)
- The term “Economic Crime” can be understood as referring to violations of the right to property such as incidents related to smuggling near the border and informal economic activities in Pyongyang.

(6) Violations of the right to property listed by information type

Types of acts/ Information type	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
Directly observed	40	4	44	88
	45.5%	4.5%	50.0%	100.0%
	38.1%	14.8%	55.7%	41.7%
Directly experienced	55	21	21	97
	56.7%	21.6%	21.6%	100.0%
	52.4%	77.8%	26.6%	46.0%
Reported second-hand	10	2	14	26
	38.5%	7.7%	53.8%	100.0%
	9.5%	7.4%	17.7%	12.3%
Total	105	27	79	211
	49.8%	12.8%	37.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- In terms of information type, 46.0% were directly experienced, 41.7% were directly observed and 12.3 % were reported second-hand.

(7) Violations of the right to property listed by nature of information provider

Types of acts/Nature of information provider	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
Victim	55	21	21	97
	56.7%	21.6%	21.6%	100.0%
	52.4%	77.8%	26.6%	46.0%
Colleague or neighbor of victim	9	1	4	14
	64.3%	7.1%	28.6%	100.0%
	8.6%	3.7%	5.1%	6.6%
Family or relative of victim	14	1	18	33
	42.4%	3.0%	54.5%	100.0%
	13.3%	3.7%	22.8%	15.6%
Colleague of perpetrator	1	0	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Relative of perpetrator	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.5%
Witness (Eyewitness)	17	0	23	40
	42.5%	0.0%	57.5%	100.0%
	16.2%	0.0%	29.1%	19.0%
Other	9	3	13	25
	36.0%	12.0%	52.0%	100.0%
	8.6%	11.1%	16.5%	11.8%
Total	105	27	79	211
	49.8%	12.8%	37.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The victims themselves were the the most common sources of information about violations of the right to property (46.0%).

(8) Violations of the right to property listed by age of victim

Types of acts/Age	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
10-19's	6	2	6	14
	42.9%	14.3%	42.9%	100.0%
	5.7%	7.4%	7.6%	6.6%
20-29's	16	0	8	24
	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%	100.0%
	15.2%	0.0%	10.1%	11.4%
30-39's	22	2	16	40
	55.0%	5.0%	40.0%	100.0%
	21.0%	7.4%	20.3%	19.0%
40-49's	13	4	8	25
	52.0%	16.0%	32.0%	100.0%
	12.4%	14.8%	10.1%	11.8%
50-59's	4	0	7	11
	36.4%	0.0%	63.6%	100.0%
	3.8%	0.0%	8.9%	5.2%
60-69's	1	1	2	4
	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	1.0%	3.7%	2.5%	1.9%
70-79's	2	0	1	3
	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%	100.0%
	1.9%	0.0%	1.3%	1.4%
Unidentified	41	18	31	90
	45.6%	20.0%	34.4%	100.0%
	39.0%	66.7%	39.2%	42.7%
Total	105	27	79	211
	49.8%	12.8%	37.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Violations of the right to property occurred across all age ranges, involving all those who engage in any economic activity
- Those in their 20's and 30's were the most commonly reported as being victims of these types of violations.

(9) Violations of the right to property listed by gender of victim

Types of acts/Gender	Looting/ theft (by government agent)	Extortion	Confiscation of property (by state)	Total
Male	41	17	37	95
	43.2%	17.9%	38.9%	100.0%
	39.0%	63.0%	46.8%	45.0%
Female	52	7	31	90
	57.8%	7.8%	34.4%	100.0%
	49.5%	25.9%	39.2%	42.7%
Group	1	0	5	6
	16.7%	0.0%	83.3%	100.0%
	1.0%	0.0%	6.3%	2.8%
Unidentified	11	3	6	20
	55.0%	15.0%	30.0%	100.0%
	10.5%	11.1%	7.6%	9.5%
Total	105	27	79	211
	49.8%	12.8%	37.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Reported violations of the right to property were reported to have involved more males (45.0%) than females (42.7%).

2) Detailed analysis of the Right to Property

(1) Looting / Theft (by Government Agent): 105 incidents (95/10)

there are 105 reports of looting and theft by government agents. The following are examples of the incidents.

E10-I-4408 (Park 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“After arriving in South Korea I called my family in the North. The SSA searched my house for three days after my disappearance. They discovered radio and over 10,000 RMB. The Agency confiscated all our money, so my family now*

makes living by selling goods. They are having a very difficult time since the confiscation. My wife has been sick ever since.”

E10-I-10516 (Kim 00, Female, North Hamgyong Province) *“I had sheltered a couple once. I did not know them personally, but it was a favor for someone. However the couple defected; my husband as well as our two daughters suffered at the SSA because of the incident. My husband was there for 6 months. Our house was searched first; they confiscated all our money, record tapes and radios.*

(2) Extortion: 27 incidents (25/2)

there are 27 reports about extortion by government agents. The following is an example of the incidents.

E10-I-1262 (Park 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“My uncle made an international phone call and was wiretapped by the SSA. The Agency knew all about the contents of the call. To avoid persecution, my uncle had to bribe 000 province counter-intelligence team and a director of the SSA, named Lee 00. They first asked two boxes of ramen. My uncle complied, and asked to settle the case within the director’s line of administration. But a couple months later, the Agents visited my uncle again because of the 65th birthday of Kim Jong-il. Park 00 said to give them 2,000 USD. At the time the amount was equivalent to 16,000 RMB. My uncle told them the amount was beyond his capacity. He received a call the next day from Park, who said that the amount of bribery could be reduced. My guess was that Park meant to take the money for himself, not the Agency, and was asking for whatever amount he liked.”*

(3) Confiscation of Property (by state): 79 incidents (65/14)

there are 79 cases of confiscation of property by state. The following are examples of the incidents.

E08-I-4691 (Kwon 00, Female, South Hamgyong Province) *“My younger sibling worked at the 00 mine. The new low level Party secretary gave the workers a very hard time. The secretary sent those miners who wanted to change their occupation due to danger to other jobs, in exchange of bribery. My brother was married in 00. Our family already had two deaths in the line of duty and a brother who works at a mine; we should have received priority housing but did not. My mother was even expelled from the house she lived in. They said she was old and lived long enough. My brother bought a house for 10,000 Won because he could not live in mother’s house. But the house was taken away and given to someone else.”*

E10-I-10477 (Lee 00, Female, South Hamgyong Province) *“in 1999 my older brother was arrested by the SSA for assisting family reunion for 9 months. He disappeared after a preliminary hearing. By the end of April in year 00, the Agency confiscated my brother’s house and sent his wife back to her family. His house was a very nice once.”*