

WHITE PAPER
ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS
2010

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8. Reproductive Rights: 168 incidents (126/42)

1) General Analysis of Violations of Reproductive Rights

(1) Violations of reproductive rights

Type of act	Involuntary sterilization	Forced abortion	Total
Number	1	167	168
Percentage (%)	0.6%	99.4%	100.0%

- 167 of the 168 cases of reproductive rights violations (99.4%) were forced abortions. The remaining cases involved 1 victim of involuntary sterilization.

(2) Violations of reproductive rights listed by year

Type of act/Year	Involuntary sterilization	Forced abortion	Total
1980's	1	1	2
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	0.6%	1.2%
1990's	0	29	29
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	17.4%	17.3%
2000-2005's	0	98	98
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	58.7%	58.3%
2006-2009's	0	27	27
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	16.2%	16.1%
Unspecified time	0	12	12
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	7.2%	7.1%
Total	1	167	168
	0.6%	99.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- 98 cases (58.3%) were reported to take place in 2000-2005's and 29 cases (17.3%) during the 1990's.

(3) Violations of reproductive rights listed by region

Type of act/Region	Involuntary sterilization	Forced abortion	Total
Pyongyang	0	4	4
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%
North Hamgyong Province	0	99	99
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	59.3%	58.9%
South Hamgyong Province	0	3	3
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%
Yanggang Province	0	8	8
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%
Chagang Province	0	3	3
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%
North Pyongan Province	0	31	31
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	18.6%	18.5%
South Pyongan Province	0	5	5
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Kangwon Province	0	2	2
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%
Other areas in North Korea	0	4	4
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%
China	0	3	3
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%

Type of act/Region	Involuntary sterilization	Forced abortion	Total
Unidentified	1	5	6
	16.7%	83.3%	100.0%
	100.0%	3.0%	3.6%
Total	1	167	168
	0.6%	99.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The largest number of reported incidents took place in North Hamgyong Province (58.9%, 99 incidents).
- The police holding camps near the border with China were the location of many of the cases of forced abortion carried out in North Hamgyong Province (99 incidents, 59.3%) and North Pyongan Province (31 incidents, 18.6%), where forcibly repatriated North Korean defectors are detained temporarily.

(4) Violations of reproductive rights listed by location of incident

Type of act/Location of incident	Involuntary sterilization	Forced abortion	Total
State Security Agency or Police interrogation and detention facility	0	45	45
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	26.9%	26.8%
Labor training camp	0	21	21
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	12.6%	12.5%
Police holding camp	0	38	38
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	22.8%	22.6%
Prison	0	4	4
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%
Political prison camp	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Victim's home	0	3	3
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%
Government office or service institution	0	43	43
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	25.7%	25.6%
Public space	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
While riding on transportation	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Unidentified	0	5	5
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%

Type of act/Location of incident	Involuntary sterilization	Forced abortion	Total
Other	1	5	6
	16.7%	83.3%	100.0%
	100.0%	3.0%	3.6%
Total	1	167	168
	0.6%	99.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Among the received reports, forced abortions occurred the most often to female defectors forcibly repatriated and detained at the police holding camps located in the city of Ch'ongjin, North Hamgyong Province and the city of Shinūiju city, North Pyongan Province.

(5) Violations of reproductive rights listed by charge against victim

Type of act/ Charge against victim	Involuntary sterilization	Forced abortion	Total
Political offense	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Felony offense	0	119	119
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	71.3%	70.8%
Border-crossing offense	0	31	31
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	18.6%	18.5%
Misdemeanor offense	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Guilt-by-association	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Other	1	8	9
	11.1%	88.9%	100.0%
	100.0%	4.8%	5.4%
Unidentified	0	6	6
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	3.6%	3.6%
Total	1	167	168
	0.6%	99.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Violations of reproductive rights the most likely occurred to victims charged with felony offenses (70.8%). This was followed by border-crossing offenses (18.5%), political offenses (0.6%), misdemeanor offenses (0.6%) and the guilt-by-association system (0.6%).
- The high percentage of victims of this violation charged with felony offenses (70.8%) explains why there is a high frequency of these types of incidents in detention facilities.

(6) Violations of reproductive rights listed by age of victim

Type of act/Age	Involuntary sterilization	Forced pregnancy	Total
10-19's	0	9	9
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	5.4%	5.4%
20-29's	1	58	59
	1.7%	98.3%	100.0%
	100.0%	34.7%	35.1%
30-39's	0	34	34
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	20.4%	20.2%
40-49's	0	8	8
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%
Unidentified	0	58	58
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	34.7%	34.5%
Total	1	167	168
	0.6%	99.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Violations of reproductive rights were the most often carried out on victims in their 20's (35.1%) and 30's (20.2%) and followed by 10's (5.4%).
- In the significant portion of cases (34.5%, 58 incidents), the age of the victim was not identified due to the high number of cases carried out in police holding camp, where detainees do not know detailed information about other detainees.

(7) Violations of reproductive rights listed by gender

Type of act/Gender	Involuntary sterilization	Forced abortion	Total
Male	1	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Female	0	167	167
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	100.0%	99.4%
Total	1	167	168
	0.6%	99.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Reported violations of reproductive rights involved the most ly females (99.4%). Also, there was a report of forced abortion of a defector woman who returned to North Korea after gaining South Korean citizenship.

E09-I-1486 (Park 00, Female, South Hamgyong Province) *“I was forced to repatriate in 2005. I arrived in the 00 police station in 2006. I was forced to abortion in the morning of the arrival day. I was eight months into pregnancy, so they were in a hurry to take me to a hospital. A police officer called Jin 00 took me to a hospital that day. It was clear that my baby was Chinese, so my opinion does not count. Chinese baby are never to be born. I did not even get anesthesia during the operation. All I had was a shot of Ringer’s solution, which was taken out once the labor began. The baby died inside the womb. I gave a birth, and they said it was a girl.”*

E10-I-7575 (Byun 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“A girl named Lee 00 was lured into human trafficking in China when she was offered 700,000 Won. She later learned that she was sold into marriage. Her resistance was in vain. She became pregnant and voluntarily returned to North Korea. The border guards let her go but higher officials ordered to*

detain her. When she reported stomach pain, she was sent to the 00 county hospital. She was forced to abort because the baby was Chinese. Even though she resisted, the abortion took place. It happened in September 2007. She was only 23 years old at the time.”

E10-I-4443 (Yang 00, Female, South Hamgyong Province) *“In 2007 after forced repatriation I was held at custody in the 00 county in 00 district. I was suddenly ill and went to the 00 county hospital, to learn that the embryo was in a reverse position. I was seven months into pregnancy. The hospital reported to the police that 7 months of pregnancy cannot be put into abortion. They said the baby should be killed after it is born. The police took me to a provincial hospital instead. I had no idea that I was on my way to abortion; I was told that it was for examination for some infection. The police said the baby should be killed because it was Chinese. At the hospital they have me a shot on the stomach. Then I gave a birth to a dead baby.”*

E09-I-2541 (Shin 00, Female, Yangang Province) *“While I was confined in the SSA, someone who gained South Korean citizenship came over to North Korea and was arrested. She later learned that she was pregnant, and was forced to abortion in the custody of SSA. They brought a doctor and covered her with clothes, and then scraped out the embryo. It was 2007 and she was 24 years old. Her name was something like Shin 00. Though I don't remember her name clearly, I witnessed the abortion with my own eyes.”*