

WHITE PAPER
ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS
2010

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3. Right to Survival: 869 incidents (782/87)

1) Detailed analysis of the Right to Survival

(1) Right to Adequate Food: 869 incidents (782/87)

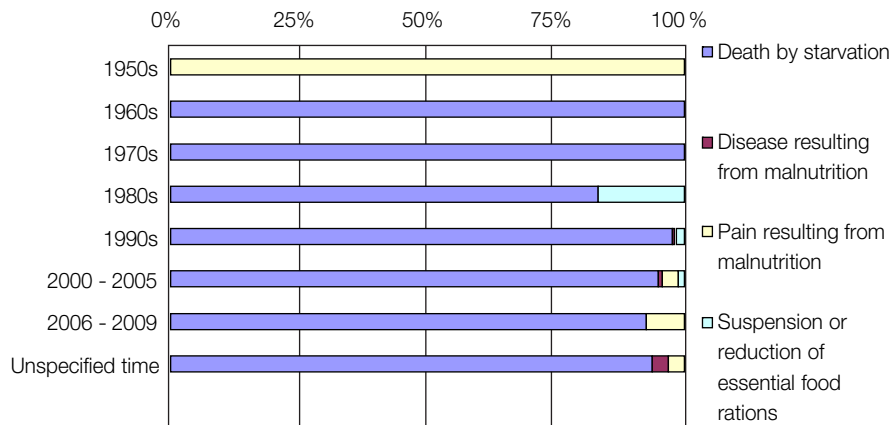
a. Analysis of violations related to the right to adequate food

Detailed act	Death by starvation	Disease resulting from malnutrition	Pain resulting from malnutrition	Suspension or reduction of essential food rations	Total
Number of incidents	842	4	12	11	869
Percentage (%)	96.9	0.5	1.4	1.3	100.0

- Out of the total 869 violations of the right to survival, the vast majority of cases (96.9%) were classed as death by starvation, followed by pain resulting from malnutrition (1.4%), and suspension or reduction of essential food rations (1.3%).

① Violations which affected the right to survival listed by year

Detailed act/ Year	Death by starvation	Disease resulting from malnutrition	Pain resulting from malnutrition	Suspension or reduction of essential food rations	Total
1950's	0	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.1%
1960's	4	0	0	0	4
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
1970's	3	0	0	0	3
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
1980's	5	0	0	1	6
	83.3%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	100.0%
	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.7%
1990's	647	1	4	9	661
	97.9%	0.2%	0.6%	1.4%	100.0%
	76.8%	25.0%	33.3%	81.8%	76.1%
2000-2005's	94	1	3	1	99
	94.9%	1.0%	3.0%	1.0%	100.0%
	11.2%	25.0%	25.0%	9.1%	11.4%
2006-2009's	26	0	2	0	28
	92.9%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.1%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	3.2%
Unspecified time	63	2	2	0	67
	94.0%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	7.5%	50.0%	16.7%	0.0%	7.7%
Total	842	4	12	11	869
	96.9%	0.5%	1.4%	1.3%	100%
	100.05	100.05	100.05	100.05	100.0%



- The majority of deaths caused by starvation were reported to have taken place in the 1990's (76.8%). The number of these cases reported was low before 1990's, spiked in the 1990's and then sharply decreased to 11.2% in 2000-2005's. The number of deaths caused by starvation is also very low in 2006-2009's (3.1%).
- In 1950's, only one case of pain resulting from malnutrition and no cases of death by starvation, disease resulting from malnutrition or suspension or reduction of essential food rations were reported.
- In the 1990's, instances of each category of the right to adequate food were reported.

② Violations against the right to survival by listed region

Detailed act/Region	Death by starvation	Disease resulting from malnutrition	Pain resulting from malnutrition	Suspension or reduction of essential food rations	Total
Pyongyang	3	0	0	0	3
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
North Hamgyong Province	511	4	4	8	527
	97.0%	0.8%	0.8%	1.5%	100.0%
	60.7%	100.0%	33.3%	72.7%	60.6%
South Hamgyong Province	131	0	0	0	131
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	15.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.1%
Yanggang Province	29	0	0	0	29
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%
Chagang Province	7	0	1	1	9
	77.8%	0.0%	11.1%	11.1%	100.0%
	0.8%	0.0%	8.3%	9.1%	1.0%
North Pyongan Province	10	0	1	0	11
	90.9%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	100.0%
	1.2%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	1.3%
South Pyongan Province	25	0	3	0	28
	89.3%	0.0%	10.7%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.0%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	3.2%
North Hwanghae Province	12	0	0	0	12
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
South Hwanghae Province	5	0	0	0	5
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Kangwon Province	19	0	2	0	21
	90.5%	0.0%	9.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	2.3%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	2.4%
Other areas in North Korea	29	0	0	0	29
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%

Detailed act/Region	Death by starvation	Disease resulting from malnutrition	Pain resulting from malnutrition	Suspension or reduction of essential food rations	Total
Unidentified	61	0	1	2	64
	95.3%	0.0%	1.6%	3.1%	100.0%
	7.2%	0.0%	8.3%	18.2%	7.4%
Total	842	4	12	11	869
	96.9%	0.5%	1.4%	1.3%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- The vast majority of reports related to death by starvation took place in North Hamgyong Province and South Hamgyong Province (75.7% of all cases).

③ Violations against the right to survival listed by gender

Detailed act/Gender	Death by starvation	Disease resulting from malnutrition	Pain resulting from malnutrition	Suspension or reduction of essential food rations	Total
Male	374	2	6	7	389
	96.1%	0.5%	1.5%	1.8%	100.0%
	44.4%	50.0%	50.0%	63.6%	44.8%
Female	219	2	6	3	230
	95.2%	0.9%	2.6%	1.3%	100.0%
	26.0%	50.0%	50.0%	27.3%	26.5%
Group	29	0	0	0	29
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%
Unidentified	220	0	0	1	221
	99.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	100.0%
	26.1%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	25.4%
Total	842	4	12	11	869
	96.9%	0.5%	1.4%	1.3%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- This chart suggests that males (44.8%) were more likely to be the victims of food shortages than females (26.5%)

In reported cases, victims of death by starvation and suspension or reduction of essential food rations were more likely to be male. Hence, malnutrition seems to inflict suffering to both genders similarly.

④ Violations against the right to survival listed by age of victim

Detailed act/Age	Death by starvation	Disease resulting from malnutrition	Pain resulting from malnutrition	Suspension or reduction of essential food rations	Total
0-9's	25	0	0	0	25
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%
10-19's	38	0	2	2	42
	90.5%	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%	100.0%
	4.5%	0.0%	16.7%	18.2%	4.8%
20-29's	58	1	0	2	61
	95.1%	1.6%	0.0%	3.3%	100.0%
	6.9%	25.0%	0.0%	18.2%	7.0%
30-39's	39	0	3	3	45
	86.7%	0.0%	6.7%	6.7%	100.0%
	4.6%	0.0%	25.0%	27.3%	5.2%
40-49's	59	1	0	3	63
	93.7%	1.6%	0.0%	4.8%	100.0%
	7.0%	25.0%	0.0%	27.3%	7.2%
50-59's	33	0	0	0	33
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%
60-69's	23	0	1	0	24
	95.8%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	100.0%
	2.7%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	2.8%
70-79's	8	0	0	0	8
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
80's +	3	0	0	0	3
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Unidentified	556	2	6	1	565
	98.4%	0.4%	1.1%	0.2%	100.0%
	66.0%	50.0%	50.0%	9.1%	65.0%
Total	842	4	12	11	869
	96.9%	0.5%	1.4%	1.3%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Violations of right to food appear evenly in all age groups. Those in their 40's have the highest rate of 7.2%. The distribution of incidents of violation is even because food shortage affects all family members.
- This reflects that food shortages usually affect whole families.

⑤ Violations against the right to survival listed by location of incident

Detailed act/ Location of incident	Death by starvation	Disease resulting from malnutrition	Pain resulting from malnutrition	Suspension or reduction of essential food rations	Total
State Security Agency or Police interrogation and detention facility	3	1	2	0	6
	50.0%	16.7%	33.3%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.4%	25.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.7%
Labor training camp	4	0	0	0	4
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Police holding camp	0	0	1	0	1
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.1%
Prison	3	0	1	0	4
	75.0%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.4%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.5%
Military detention facility	7	0	1	0	8
	87.5%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.8%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.9%
Psychiatric hospital	1	0	0	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Victim's home	511	2	4	7	524
	97.5%	0.4%	0.8%	1.3%	100.0%
	60.7%	50.0%	33.3%	63.6%	60.3%
Home of colleague or neighbor	4	0	0	0	4
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Victim's place of employment	26	1	3	2	32
	81.3%	3.1%	9.4%	6.3%	100.0%
	3.1%	25.0%	25.0%	18.2%	3.7%
Government office or service institution	19	0	0	1	20
	95.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	100.0%
	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	2.3%

Detailed act/ Location of incident	Death by starvation	Disease resulting from malnutrition	Pain resulting from malnutrition	Suspension or reduction of essential food rations	Total
Public space	78	0	0	0	78
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	9.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.0%
Transport and connecting site (road; highway, bridge, vehicle, parking lot, station)	6	0	0	0	6
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
While riding on transportation	2	0	0	0	2
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Other	44	0	0	0	44
	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%
Unidentified	134	0	0	1	135
	99.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	100.0%
	15.9%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	15.5%
Total	842	4	12	11	869
	96.9%	0.5%	1.4%	1.3%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Violations of the right to adequate food most frequently occurred in the victim's own home (60.3%) or in a public space (9.0%).
- The most frequently reported violation of the right to adequate food - death by starvation - occurred in a victim's home (60.7%) or a public space (9.3%).

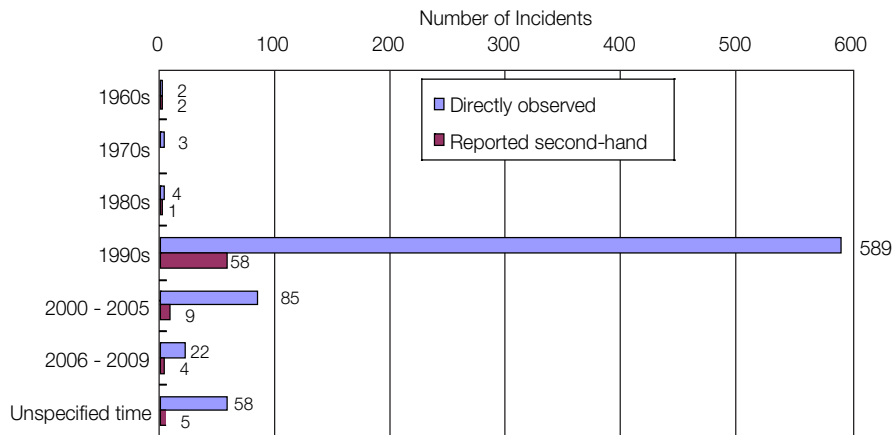
b. Detailed analysis of violations against the right to adequate food

① Death by starvation: 842 incidents (763/79)

Ⓐ Cases classified as starvation as a method of killing listed by year

Year	Death by starvation		Total
	Directly observed	Reported second-hand	
1960's	2	2	4
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	0.3%	2.5%	0.5%
1970's	3	0	3
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%
1980's	4	1	5
	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	1.3%	0.6%
1990's	589	58	647
	91.0%	9.0%	100.0%
	77.2%	73.4%	76.8%
2000-2005's	85	9	94
	90.4%	9.6%	100.0%
	11.1%	11.4%	11.2%
2006-2009's	22	4	26
	84.6%	15.4%	100.0%
	2.9%	5.1%	3.1%
Unspecified time	58	5	63
	92.1%	7.9%	100.0%
	7.6%	6.3%	7.5%
Total	763	79	842
	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Of total cases of death by starvation, 763 cases, were observed directly (90.6%) and 79 cases were second-hand reports (9.4%).
- Of the observed cases, 77.2% occurred in the 1990s with only 14.0% cases reported since 2000's. This peak in reported incidents coincides with the food shortages reported in North Korea in the 1990's.
- There have been fewer reports of death by starvation in the 2000's (2000-2005's: 94 cases, 2006-2009's: 26 cases). The drop since 2000's suggests that North Korea's food situation has improved.

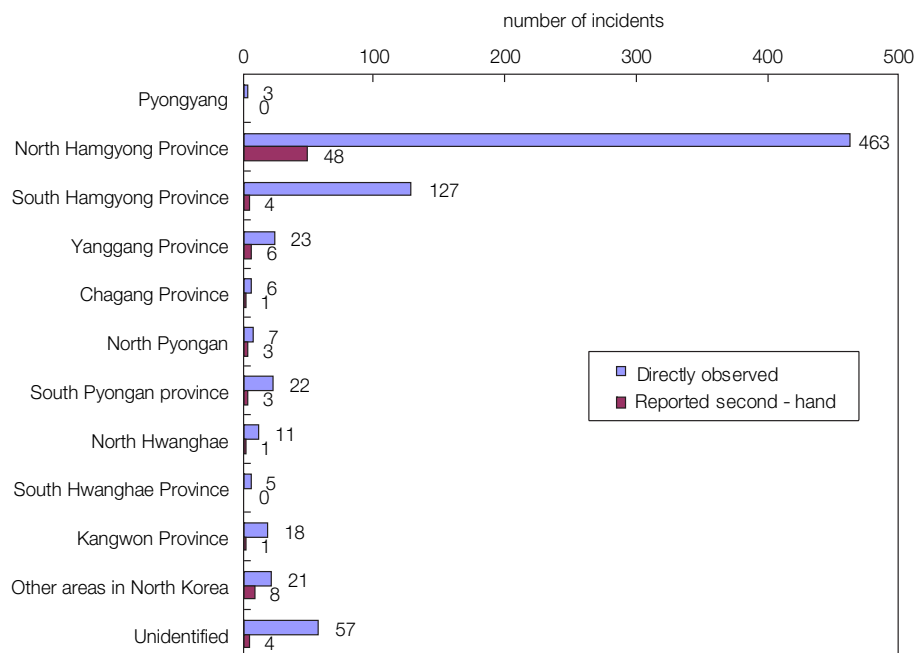


⑥ Cases classified as death by starvation listed by region

Information type/ Region	Death by starvation		Total
	Directly observed	Reported second-hand	
Pyongyang	3	0	3
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%
North Hamgyong Province	463	48	511
	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
	60.7%	60.8%	60.7%
South Hamgyong Province	127	4	131
	96.9%	3.1%	100.0%
	16.6%	5.1%	15.6%
Yanggang Province	23	6	29
	79.3%	20.7%	100.0%
	3.0%	7.6%	3.4%
Chagang Province	6	1	7
	85.7%	14.3%	100.0%
	0.8%	1.3%	0.8%
North Pyongan Province	7	3	10
	70.0%	30.0%	100.0%
	0.9%	3.8%	1.2%
South Pyongan province	22	3	25
	88.0%	12.0%	100.0%
	2.9%	3.8%	3.0%
North Hwanghae Province	11	1	12
	91.7%	8.3%	100.0%
	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%
South Hwanghae Province	5	0	5
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.7%	0.0%	0.6%
Kangwon Province	18	1	19
	94.7%	5.3%	100.0%
	2.4%	1.3%	2.3%

Information type/ Region	Death by starvation		Total
	Directly observed	Reported second-hand	
Other areas in North Korea	21	8	29
	72.4%	27.6%	100.0%
	2.8%	10.1%	3.4%
Unidentified	57	4	61
	93.4%	6.6%	100.0%
	7.5%	5.1%	7.2%
Total	763	79	842
	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

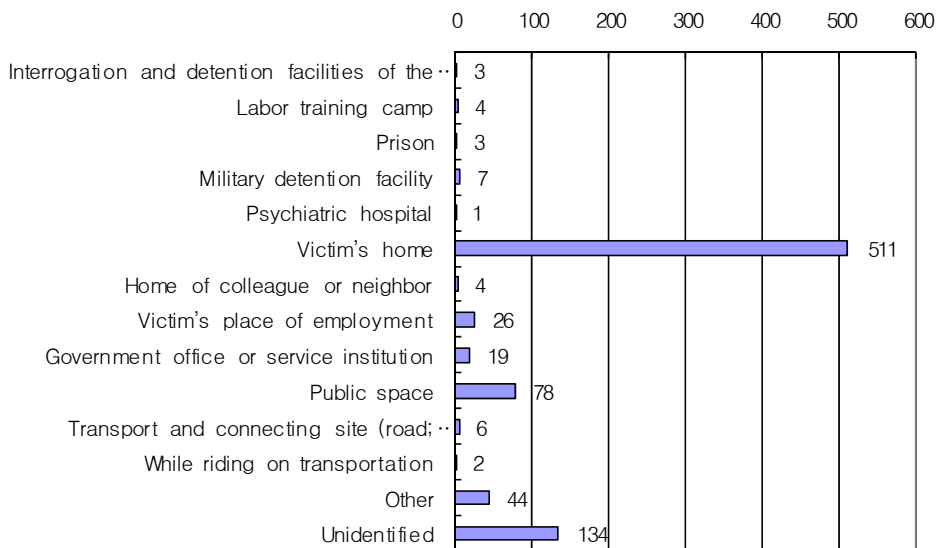
- The largest number of death by starvation was recorded in North Hamgyong province (60.7%), followed by South Hamgyong Province (15.6%). This may be attributed to the fact that the majority of witnesses are from Hamgyong Province.



© Cases classified as death by starvation listed by location of incidents

Location	Death by starvation		Total
	Directly observed	Reported second-hand	
Interrogation and detention facilities of the State Security Agency ofr Police	1	2	3
	33.3%	66.7%	100.0%
	0.1%	2.5%	0.4%
Labor training camp	4	0	4
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Prison	2	1	3
	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
	0.3%	1.3%	0.4%
Military detention facility	2	5	7
	28.6%	71.4%	100.0%
	0.3%	6.3%	0.8%
Psychiatric hospital	1	0	1
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Victim's home	471	40	511
	92.2%	7.8%	100.0%
	61.7%	50.6%	60.7%
Home of colleague or neighbor	4	0	4
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Victim's place of employment	23	3	26
	88.5%	11.5%	100.0%
	3.0%	3.8%	3.1%
Government office or service institution	15	4	19
	78.9%	21.1%	100.0%
	2.0%	5.1%	2.3%
Public space	70	8	78
	89.7%	10.3%	100.0%
	9.2%	10.1%	9.3%

Location	Death by starvation		Total
	Directly observed	Reported second-hand	
Transport and connecting site (road; highway, bridge, vehicle, parking lot, station)	6	0	6
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.8%	0.0%	0.7%
While riding on transportation	2	0	2
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Other	41	3	44
	93.2%	6.8%	100.0%
	5.4%	3.8%	5.2%
Unidentified	121	13	134
	90.3%	9.7%	100.0%
	15.9%	16.5%	15.9%
Total	763	79	842
	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



- Victims reported to have died from starvation were most likely to be found in the victims' own houses (61.7%) or public spaces (9.2%).
- Other places include victims' workplaces and government offices or service institutions.

E09-I-1542 (Kang 00, Female, North Hamgyong Province) *"Lee 00 was a son of my aunt. He had tuberculosis even before he was drafted, but he had to go to military because of the order. Lee 00 grew up not knowing hardship. He did not adjust to the army very well. He was 75kg before the draft. But when he returned 4 months later, he was only 15kg. He looked like a doll. Even the officer who carried him dropped him off at his house and left without a word, probably because he was scared too. He could not even talk and barely opened his eyes. He died three days later. My aunt still cries when she talks about it. She says "Kim Jong-il killed my son."*

② Disease resulting from malnutrition: 4 incidents (3/1)

There are 3 eyewitness reports and 1 second-hand report of diseases resulting from malnutrition and one report, 4 in total.

E10-I-10023 (Park 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *"Lee 00 was from South Korea and worked at a mine. In the North he had two sons and a daughter. The household is very poor. His wife is blinded due to malnutrition. They are all in North Korea. Lee 00 also has malnutrition."*

E08-I-3850 (Sung 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *"Lee 00 had to report to work without eating. He fell ill but never received medical attention. The 00 mine traded with a local farm to get food. The mine gave one meal per day (lunch) to a miner who worked underground 8 hours per day. Without medical treatment, Lee went to work just so that he can eat that one meal. In the end the mine stopped distributing the lunch. Lee died inside the mine."*

③ Pain resulting from malnutrition: 12 incidents (10/2)

10 out of 12 reports of pain resulting from malnutrition were eyewitnessed and 2 were second-hand reports.

E10-I-5363 (Park 00, Male, Kangwon Province) *"In 1990, my father was arrested and sentenced for a year for problems with wild fire. He was imprisoned at the 00 prison but was released in 8 months because the lower half of his body was paralyzed. He could not eat well; the meal at the prison was one scoop of grain and corn powder. Also, because he was over 60 years old, he did relatively easier work. However, the labor was still too much for him, because he was over 60 years old). During the preliminary hearings, regardless of the seriousness of one's crime, every prisoner has to sit for 6 months. That is why his legs were paralyzed. When he went to the prison he could barely walk. He was completely paralyzed soon after he was transferred to the prison. I carried him out of the prison when he was released. He was very light. He had lost a lot of weight. So I carried him out of the prison."*

E09-I-1969 (Lee 00, Female, North Hamgyong Province) *"I was sentenced to three years, but was released in 8 months due to amnesty. I was extremely ill for three months due to diarrhea and pellagra. We received three meals per day, but the noodle had absolutely no seasoning. I could not even move or digest food. I had to make a backpack and carry coals to the market for sale. But I was diagnosed pleurisy. I needed medical treatments but they did not even treat me like a human. To them, someone like me could just be dead and they would not care."*

④ Suspension or reduction of essential food rations: 11 incidents (6/5)

There are six eyewitness reports and 5 second-hand reports of suspension or reduction of essential food rations, 11 in total.

E08-I-3848 (Kim 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“Shin 00 used to work at a mine. In 1998 due to food shortage Shin did not even think about receiving food ration. Shin did not get breakfast or lunch. In the evening, Shin said the mine workers had corn power with water.”*

E08-I-4947 (Ku 00, Female, North Hamgyong Province) *“Between 1991-1998, I never received food ration at the 체신소 in Hamgyong province.”*

E06-H-97 (Lee 00, Male, Chagang Province) *“In 1998, food distribution in 00 munitions factory contracted from 15 days’ worth of food to 5 days’.”*

E06-H-65 (Kim 00, Male, North Hamgyong Province) *“In 1997, due to the lean year Kim’s family (father, mother, Kim, sister, brother, etc) received only 40% of the annual food ration (480kg). Furthermore, they were forced to surrender 250kg to the military.”*