



North Korea

Article 5 - Everyone has the right not to be hurt, tortured, or treated cruelly

Torture and ill treatment are widespread in prisons and labour camps, as well as in detention centres where North Koreans (who were forcibly returned from China) are held for interrogation pending transfer to other places. Conditions in the prisons and labour camps are reported to be extremely harsh. Inmates are made to work from early morning until late at night on farms or in factories, and not following rules will result in severe beatings.

Article 13 - Everyone has the right to travel within and outside their own country

People of North Korea are not allowed to leave their country to visit their families in South Korea. Many North Koreans continue to cross the border into China to seek asylum in diplomatic compounds and foreign schools in China. Many have tried travelling to South Korea via third countries. Those forcibly returned are held for interrogation in detention centres or police stations, operated by North Korean security agencies. Anyone who confesses to meeting a missionary or a South Korean faces even more extreme punishments from the security services.