

# **U.S. COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 18, 2006

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## **UN Vote by South Korea is a Step in the Right Direction**

**Washington** – In response to the UN General Assembly vote calling on North Korea to fully respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, Debra Liang-Fenton, executive director of the U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, issued this statement:

“The actions taken today in the UN General Assembly, and particularly the vote by the South Korean government to support the resolution, should be applauded by everyone who cares about international human rights. The support of the South Korean government is important to any advancement to be made on the peninsula, especially when it comes to human rights.

“While this vote is an important first step, we recommend that soon after the new Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki Moon, assumes office in January, he personally brief the UN Security Council on the human rights situation in North Korea.

“The U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea continues to work toward the alleviation of the suffering of the North Korean people – even as the world has been focused on the nuclear threat posed by the government of Kim Jong Il. Our reports over the last few years have shed light on the vast and inhumane gulag system for political prisoners; the discriminatory food policy of the government, while those deemed “hostile” go hungry; and, most recently, the need for UN action, particularly within the Security Council.

“Because North Korea is one of the most closed societies in the world, the Committee remains committed to gathering and sharing information about the status of its people – despite the many challenges. Our hope is that this UN resolution will focus more attention on the North Korean people, and drive world demand for action to alleviate their suffering. They deserve no less.”

**Reports on the human rights abuses committed by North Korea against its own people can be found on <http://www.hrnk.org>.**