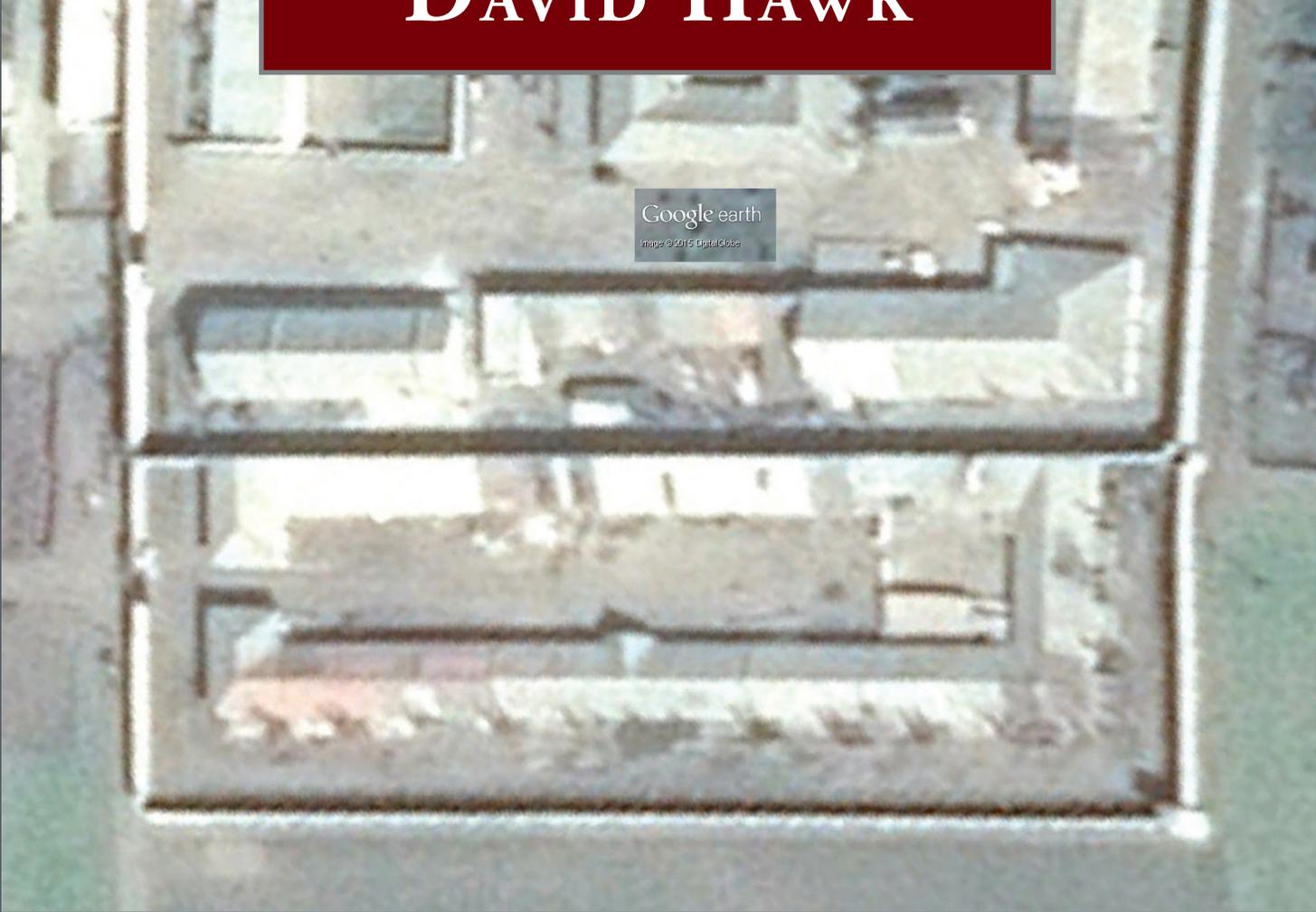




Committee for Human Rights in North Korea

THE HIDDEN GULAG IV
**GENDER REPRESSION &
PRISONER DISAPPEARANCES**

DAVID HAWK

A satellite image showing a large, rectangular, multi-story building complex, identified as the new women's section in Jongno-ri Prison. The building has a complex, somewhat maze-like layout with several courtyards and internal structures. The image is framed by a white border.

Google earth
Image © 2015 DigitalGlobe

Satellite image of the new women's section in Jongno-ri Prison

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 9780985648046

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015947712

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**GENDER REPRESSION &
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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA (HRNK)

HRNK is the leading U.S.-based bipartisan, non-governmental organization in the field of North Korean human rights research and advocacy, tasked to focus international attention on human rights abuses in that country. It is *HRNK's* mission to persistently remind policy makers, opinion leaders, and the general public in the free world and beyond that more than 20 million North Koreans need our attention.

Since its establishment in 2001, *HRNK* has played an important intellectual leadership role on North Korean human rights issues by publishing twenty-one major reports (available at <http://hrnk.org/publications/hrnk-publications.php>). *HRNK* became the first organization to propose that the human rights situation in North Korea be addressed by the UN Security Council. *HRNK* was directly, actively, and effectively involved in all stages of the process supporting the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry. On many occasions, HRNK has been invited to provide expert testimony before the U.S. Congress.



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I. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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On North Korea, Hawk has researched and authored the following reports: the first and second editions of *Hidden Gulag: Exposing Prison Camps in North Korea* (Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK)), which were translated into Korean and Japanese and also published in Seoul and Tokyo; *North Korea's Hidden Gulag: Interpreting Reports of Changes in the Prison Camps* (HRNK); *Thank You Father Kim Il Sung: Eyewitness Accounts of Severe Violations of Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion in North Korea* (U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)); *Concentrations of Inhumanity: An Analysis of the Phenomena of Repression Associated with North Korea's Political Prison Camps* (Freedom House); *Pursuing Peace While Advancing Rights: The Untried Approach to North Korea* (U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies—SAIS); “International Human Rights Law and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,” *China's Internal and External Relations and Lessons for Korea and Asia*, eds. Jung-ho Bae and Jae Ku (Korea Institute for National Unification—KINU); and “North Korea’s Response to the UN Commission of Inquiry Report on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK,” *Law and Policy on Korean Unification: Analysis and Implications*, eds. Jong-chul Park and Jeong-ho Roh (KINU and the Center for Korean Legal Studies of the Columbia Law School).

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II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank the following people for their work in assisting with this report:

Thank you very much to the ten former North Korean *kwan-li-so* and *kyo-hwa-so* prisoners I interviewed in Seoul in April 2015. Without their willingness to recount their experiences in North Korea's prison camps, I could not have documented and discussed the details of abuse that North Korean prisoners face.

Thank you to Mr. Jung Gwang-il, Founder and Executive Director of *No Chain: The Association of North Korean Political Victims and Their Families*, for arranging the interviews and accompanying me in Seoul. Mr. Jung also prepared a list and biographies of Sorimchon prisoners, which is appended to this report, on the basis of his three-year imprisonment in the Sorimchon section of *Kwan-li-so* No. 15 Yodok and his impressive memory. Mr. Jung graciously agreed to allow HRNK to reprint this list of prisoners.

Thank you to Ms. Jeonghyun Kang, a former intern at HRNK, who translated during these interviews and assisted me during my research in Seoul.

Thank you to *AllSource Analysis*, and specifically Mr. Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., for providing satellite imagery and analysis of North Korea's prison camps.

I appreciate the work of the *Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK)* in Washington, D.C., specifically: Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu for overseeing this report and ensuring its publication; Co-Chair Roberta Cohen for reviewing and editing the report; Project Officer Amanda Mortweht Oh, who edited the report and assisted the author; Rosa Park, Director of Programs and Editor, who designed the computer-generated version of hand-drawn prison sketches and overall layout and cover of this report; Raymond Ha, Office Manager, for his translation and research assistance; Min Baek, *HRNK* intern, who translated the Minjok TV interview of the North Korean Ministry of People's Safety police generals into English; Eun Si Lee and Dam Young Hong, *HRNK* interns, for checking the translation of the list of Sorimchon prisoners; and Hee Jong Choi, *HRNK* intern, for her research on arbitrary detention.

Special thanks to Joan Libby Hawk, for her unflagging patience, valued advice, and editing assistance during the research and writing of this report.

David Hawk

III. PREFACE

The title of this report includes “Hidden Gulag IV” as it is the fourth in a series of *Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK)* reports on arbitrary detention and forced labor in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea). This title is dated in some respects. In 2003, when the first edition of *Hidden Gulag* was published, the existence of a multifaceted network of large-scale political prison camps was indeed *hidden*—known primarily to a small number of Korea specialists, mostly scholars who tried to track Kim Il-sung’s purges of the party, the army, the government ministries, and the general population of North Korea.

Hidden Gulag sought to expose North Korea’s prison camp system to a much larger international public by providing descriptions of the prisons and labor camps based on the interview testimonies of 30 former prisoners who fled North Korea and resettled in South Korea. And, for the first time in a human rights report, satellite photographs of the prison camps, in which the former prisoners identified their residence units, work sites, and other landmarks, buttressed the prisoners’ testimony.

Nowadays, North Korea’s network of political prisons and labor camps is not so *hidden*, notwithstanding the on-going denials by DPRK officials that the political prison camps exist. Many of the prison camps are plainly visible on Google Earth. Former North Korean prisoners have testified to various UN panels, the U.S. Congress, British and Canadian Parliaments, and numerous public gatherings in North America, Western and Eastern Europe, and several parts of Asia. Former North Koreans have written well-received memoirs. The phenomena of repression associated with the prison camps were a core element in persuading an overwhelming majority of Member States at the 2014 UN General Assembly to recommend that the Security Council refer North Korea to the International Criminal Court to be prosecuted for crimes against humanity. In discussions of North Korean violations at the UN Security Council, Member States even cited the North Korean term *kwan-li-so* (political prison), a core element of the prison camp system.

In another sense, the title *Hidden Gulag* is not at all dated. What remains *hidden* are the scores of thousands of North Korean persons who continue to be deprived of their liberty and subjected to forced labor under extremely brutal conditions. Thousands of those arbitrarily deprived of their liberty are subjected to incommunicado detention, many for the rest of their lives. Likewise, the deaths in detention of scores of thousands of North Korean citizens remain *hidden*. For that reason, *HRNK* continues to use the name *Hidden Gulag*.

IV. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the founding of North Korea, its system of arbitrary detention and forced labor has been subject to constant changes. And owing to the extreme secrecy in which North Korea envelops itself, our information about the prison camps and detention facilities is often subject to a two- to five-year lag between the time when the changes occur and the moment the international community learns of them.

This report first provides the history and process behind the *Hidden Gulag* series followed by background information about North Korea's prison camp system, in particular the differences and similarities between the *kwan-li-so* (political prison) and the *kyo-hwa-so* (labor camp). It then describes two changes in North Korea's system of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and forced labor:

- The recent addition of a women's section at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri in North Hamgyong Province, and
- The demolition of the Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri section of *Kwan-li-so* No. 15 Yodok in South Hamgyong Province and the double disappearance of prisoners.

A. THE RECENT ADDITION OF A WOMEN'S SECTION AT *KYO-HWA-SO* NO. 12 JONGO-RI, NORTH HAMGYONG PROVINCE

One of the components of North Korea's vast system of arbitrary detention is termed in Korean as *kyo-hwa-so*, where scores of thousands of North Koreans are subjected to forced labor under extremely harsh conditions. Many thousands of those detainees are arbitrarily detained for essentially political offenses.

Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Jongo-ri has existed for decades as a labor camp for men. It is described in the first edition of *Hidden Gulag* (2003) and can be seen in satellite photos in the second edition of *Hidden Gulag* (2012).

Sometime after December 2008, *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 was expanded to include, for the first time, a women's section that holds upwards of a thousand women. The expansion reflected a wave of arbitrary detention of thousands of North Korean women, a large majority of whom were imprisoned after being forcibly repatriated from China. The imprisonment of those women stands in violation of their right to leave their country of origin—a right guaranteed by conventions to which North Korea has acceded. Their forced return also is in contravention of international laws to which China has acceded that forbid the return of persons to countries where they will be persecuted. At Jongo-ri, these women political prisoners are subjected to forced labor under brutally harsh conditions.

This report tells the story of the expansion of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri to accommodate the large influx of women. Their wrongful imprisonment is emblematic of the contemporary oppression against women in North Korea.

B. THE DOUBLE DISAPPEARANCE OF PRISONERS IN THE SORIMCHON SECTION OF *KWAN-LI-SO* NO. 15 YODOK, SOUTH HAMGYONG PROVINCE

Located at the southwest periphery of *Kwan-li-so* No. 15 (often referred to as “Camp 15”), Sorimchon was one of several “revolutionizing zones” within the sprawling prison camp, often called by the name of a nearby city, Yodok. While located deep within North Korea, a sign above the main gate read, “Border Patrol of the Korean People, Unit 2015.” “Revolutionizing zones” are, or were, areas or “villages” within the prison camp where the prisoners were considered to be eligible for eventual release back into North Korean society once they were deemed cured of their perceived “counter-revolutionary” tendencies, ideas, or associations. This is in contradistinction to the “total control zones” within the political prison camps that hold prisoners deemed irremediably tainted by their “counter-revolutionary” tendencies or associations and who are imprisoned for life.

The Sorimchon “revolutionizing zone” differed from the other “revolutionizing zones” within the prison camp in that many persons imprisoned in Sorimchon were often released after three years, whereas prisoners in the other revolutionizing zones were frequently detained for as long as nine or ten years.

The Sorimchon section of *Kwan-li-so* No. 15 Yodok was set up in the late 1990s. Several former Sorimchon prisoners, who fled to China and travelled on to South Korea after release from the prison camp, were interviewed for the second edition of *Hidden Gulag* (2013). That 229-page report also contains a satellite photograph of Sorimchon, along with satellite images of other sections of the Yodok prison camp.

In late 2014, satellite photographs of *Kwan-li-so* No. 15, available in an *HRNK* and *AllSource Analysis (ASA)* report,¹ showed that the buildings within the Sorimchon area of the prison camp had been demolished. In fact, over the last fifty years, North Korea’s prison camps have undergone a continuing series of consolidations, during which time a number of camps have been closed and/or relocated. In all of these consolidations, closures, and relocations, the world outside North Korea has practically no knowledge of the fates or whereabouts of the former and present prisoners. What is different about the closure of Sorimchon is that we have the names and biographies of many of the former prisoners.

This report examines the demolition of Sorimchon and provides the names of many of the former prisoners, whose fate and present whereabouts remain largely unknown. These North Koreans are doubly disappeared: first, in their deportation without trial or judicial process into incommunicado detention; and second, in regards to their fate and whereabouts following the demolition of the Sorimchon section of Camp 15.

1 Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Andy Dinville, and Mike Eley, North Korea: Imagery Analysis of Camp 15 “Yodok”—Closure of the “Revolutionizing Zone” (Washington, D.C.: HRNK, 2015).

V. BACKGROUND

This present report follows a 2013 *HRNK* report, *North Korea's Hidden Gulag: Interpreting Reports of Changes in the Prison Camps*, which describes the closure of *Kwan-li-so* No. 22 in North Hamgyong Province and the unknown, unaccounted for fate and whereabouts of thousands of former prisoners there. It also discusses the dismantlement and decommissioning (*madang haeje* or “broad clearance”) of *Kwan-li-so* No. 18 Bukchang, South Pyongan Province, with the exception of a group of prisoners moved to an area north of the Taedong River known as Tonglim-ri, just west of *Kwan-li-so* No. 14.² Additionally, that report covers a revision of the estimates of the number of *kwan-li-so* prison camp population owing to the large numbers of deaths in detention over the past two and a half decades.

North Korea does not allow the *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as *Amnesty International* or *Human Rights Watch*, United Nations human rights experts, or any foreign diplomats or journalists to have access to its places of detention, even those places of detention that are posited in the North Korean criminal and criminal procedure codes. Nor does North Korea allow the overwhelming majority of its citizens to have telephone or Internet contact with the outside world.

Apart from what can be observed from satellite imagery, the international community learns about the general or particular situation of North Korea's brutal prison camp system only after a prisoner is released and then flees from North Korea to China, and following that, when he or she then makes his or her way to South Korea. But it may take a released prisoner several months or several years to plan and organize the journey from North Korea to China. Although escapes facilitated by paid brokers reportedly take less time than before, it can still take the former prisoners several months or even years in China to make the connections necessary for the multi-month underground travel. They travel from northeast China, either via Mongolia, or much more frequently through central and southwest China, and then down through Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia, before claiming *de facto* asylum at the South Korean consulate in Bangkok.

Only after the former prisoner has arrived in South Korea, and subsequently graduated from the three-month Hanawon training program, is he or she accessible to journalists, scholars, and human rights investigators. An example of this delay can be seen in the research and publication of *Hidden Gulag Second*

2 The 2014 KINU White Paper on Human Rights regards Camp 18 as operational, despite a dramatic reduction in the prison population and the transfer of prisoners to Dongrim-ri, Kaechon, South Pyongan. See Center for North Korean Human Rights Studies, ed., *White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2014* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU), 2014), 186-87. Also, “Dongrim-ri” is the way this area is written under the latest South Korean “Revised System of Romanization.” “Tonglim-ri” above, however, is more common under the older system, as names of North Korean cities/provinces/administrative areas are more commonly Romanized in English under the older system.

Edition.³ The research for this report was done in Seoul, Tokyo, and Osaka in 2010 and 2011. The report was published in 2012. Information about political imprisonment in this report covered a time frame from 1970 to 2006, which was the latest date that a former prisoner interviewed for that report was released from detention.

Hence, there is the need for periodic updates on the phenomena and circumstances of severe repression in North Korea, specifically based on the information provided by former victims of repression who have arrived in South Korea most recently. It is only they who can update the international community on the continuing systematic and severe violations of internationally-recognized human rights, including those now recognized as crimes against humanity by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (henceforth the "Commission of Inquiry").⁴

The present report describes ongoing crimes against humanity that have been and are currently being committed in North Korea, subsequent to the research for the second edition of *Hidden Gulag*: the second unaccounted for "enforced disappearance" of prisoners in the Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri section of *Kwan-li-so* No. 15 Yodok, and the harsh brutalities and serial atrocities inflicted on women imprisoned in the post-2008 women's section of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri for previously having exercised their right to leave their country of origin.

KWAN-LI-SO AND KYO-HWA-SO PRISON CAMPS

North Korea has a complex variety of facilities for detention and forced labor. The two large-scale facilities that are both usually termed "prison camps" in English are termed in Korean as *kwan-li-so* and *kyo-hwa-so*.

3 David Hawk, *Hidden Gulag Second Edition*, (Washington, D.C.: HRNK, 2012), available at http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/HRNK_HiddenGulag2_Web_5-18.pdf.

4 The UN Commission of Inquiry stated in its February 2014 detailed findings report: [I]nhumane acts perpetrated in the DPRK's political prison camps occur on a large scale and follow a regular pattern giving rise to the inference that they form part of an overarching State policy. Across the various political prison camps in the DPRK and over a timespan of six decades, hundreds of thousands of inmates have suffered a very similar pattern of starvation, forced labour and other inhumane acts. Today, between 80,000 and 120,000 prisoners are detained in political prison camps. This represents approximately 1 in every 200 citizens of the DPRK.

United Nations, General Assembly, *Report of the detailed findings of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, A/HRC/25/CRP.1 (7 February 2014), available from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoIDPRK/Pages/ReportoftheCommissionofInquiryDPRK.aspx>.

Kwan-li-so are, with one exception,⁵ sprawling encampments, encompassing mountain ranges and valleys, located deep in the interior of central and north-central North Korea, which are surrounded by barbed wire fences and guard towers.⁶ These detention and forced labor facilities are administered by the powerful State Security Department (or Agency).

There is no standard English translation for the Korean term *kwan-li-so*, which is variously translated as “concentration camp,” “political penal labor colony,” or most commonly, “political prison camp” or “prison camp.” The literal translation of *kwan-li-so* is “a managed place.” According to former prisoners, prison guards and officials used the term *ju-min* (resident) or *e-ju-min* (migrant) to the extent that prisoners were not called dehumanizing expletives.

Irrespective of the terminology, North Korea has long, formally and officially, denied that these political prison camps even exist, most recently in a 2015 letter from the DPRK Permanent Representative to the UN to the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council.⁷ North Korea has never provided an explanation for any of the well-documented detention facilities easily recognizable on Google Earth⁸ and other satellite imagery.⁹

But based on ample and credible testimony from former prisoners, prison camp guards, and former North Korean police officials who defected to South Korea, there were initially eight or more *kwan-li-so* prison camps. Over time, several of these were consolidated into larger facilities. One large prison camp, Camp 22 near Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province, was closed in 2014, with the prisoners transferred to other camps. And Camp 18, often called Bukchang, in South Pyongan, was progressively dismantled with most

5 The exception is *Kwan-li-so* No. 25 Chongjin (Camp 25), located nearby Chongjin city, North Hamgyong Province, which appears in satellite photographs as a typical walled penitentiary, not a sprawling encampment.

6 See pages 25 to 82 of *Hidden Gulag, Second Edition* (2013) for detailed descriptions of the *kwan-li-so* prison camps, based on, and including, the accounts of fourteen former prisoners and additional former prison guards and workers at the camps.

7 Letter of 5 February 2015, signed by So Se Pyong, Permanent Representative of the DPRK to the United Nations/Geneva, to the President of the UN Human Rights Council, A/HRC/28/G/5, 18 February 2015.

8 Geo coordinates of the four known operational political prison camps: Camp 14: 39.55781, 126.011499; Camp 15: 39.671450, 126.852357; Camp 16: 41.231091, 129.412216; and Camp 25: 41.50061, 129.433434.

9 HRNK has published numerous reports with satellite imagery and escapee testimony showcasing North Korea's prison camps. For more information, see HRNK's publications, available from <http://hrnk.org/publications/hrnk-publications.php?page=1>.

prisoners released-in-place except for a small number of unreleased prisoners transferred to a new prison camp facility located nearby still existing Camp 14.¹⁰

In the 1990s, the *kwan-li-so* prison camp population numbered between 150,000 and 200,000 persons. Owing to the very high numbers of deaths in detention and including the dismantlement of Camp 18, the most recent estimate of *kwan-li-so* prisoners ranges between 80,000 and 120,000.¹¹

In addition to *kwan-li-so* political prison camps, North Korea also operates prison labor camps called *kyo-hwa-so*. *Kyo-hwa-so* labor camps are long-term “serious crimes” penitentiaries or prison camps, sometimes appearing in satellite photographs as a number of buildings surrounded by typical prison walls, and sometimes appearing as prison camps with widely separated prison sections surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers. *Kyo-hwa-so*, literally translated as “a place to make a good person through education,” can also be translated as “labor correctional facilities.”¹²

The *kyo-hwa-so* penitentiaries and prison camps differ from *kwan-li-so* prison camps in a number of ways. To begin, imprisonment in a *kyo-hwa-so* is not incommunicado, as it is in a *kwan-li-so*, which means the families and friends know of the fate and whereabouts of the detained. Families can bring food to the prisoner. Indeed, this is frequently a primary factor protecting the prisoner from severe malnutrition or death in detention.

Additionally, North Korea does not deny the existence of its *kyo-hwa-so* prison system. To the contrary, correctional labor facilities are specified in Article 30 of the *Criminal Law of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea*.¹³ Another difference is that many, though by no means all, of the persons sent to the *kyo-hwa-so* have been subjected to a (sometimes rather perfunctory) judicial process. Most, or at least many, persons sent to *kyo-hwa-so* prisons have been investigated, charged, convicted, and sentenced.

Kyo-hwa-so prisons also differ from the *kwan-li-so* political prison camps in that the *kyo-hwa-so* contain persons charged and convicted of what would be criminal offenses in any UN Member State, as well as

10 These changes are described in David Hawk, *North Korea’s Hidden Gulag: Interpreting Reports of Changes in the Prison Camps* (Washington, D.C.: HRNK, 2013), 24-29, available at [http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/NKHiddenGulag_DavidHawk\(2\).pdf](http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/NKHiddenGulag_DavidHawk(2).pdf).

11 The *kwan-li-so* prison population decreases are also discussed in David Hawk, *North Korea’s Hidden Gulag: Interpreting Reports of Changes in the Prison Camps* (Washington, D.C.: HRNK, 2013), 22, 34, available at [http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/NKHiddenGulag_DavidHawk\(2\).pdf](http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/NKHiddenGulag_DavidHawk(2).pdf).

12 Less serious offenders are sent for shorter periods of time to “labor training centers” (*ro-dong dan-ryeon-dae*), which are akin to locally designated mobile labor brigades.

13 Citizens’ Alliance for North Korean Human Rights, trans., *The Criminal Law of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea* (2009).

persons charged and convicted of “crimes that are not really crimes,” as former North Koreans frequently put it. In contrast, all the prisoners in the *kwan-li-so* prison camp system were “forcibly disappeared” and are political prisoners as considered by international norms.¹⁴

Further, a person imprisoned in a *kyo-hwa-so* has the possibility of release back into North Korean society once his or her sentence is complete. In fact, many prisoners are released before their sentences are complete, often because of severe malnutrition, so that the prison authorities do not have to dispose of so many dead bodies. Additionally, North Korea has issued amnesties to commemorate events such as the birthday of a Kim Family leader or the founding of the Korean Workers’ Party. These releases are meant to demonstrate the magnanimity of the Kim “leaders,” but likely also in part to relieve the severe overcrowding in the North Korean prison system.

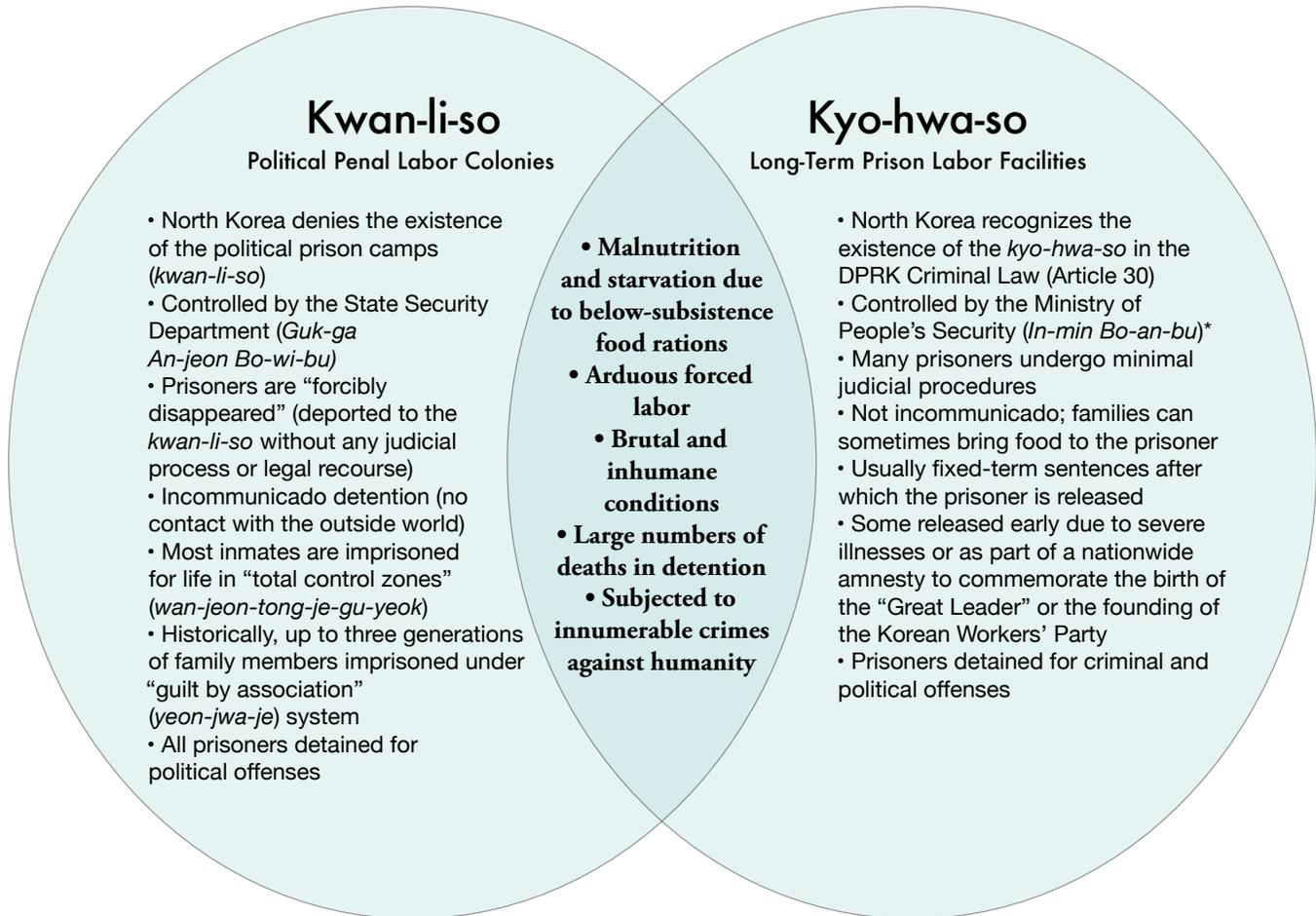
It is open to speculation whether full citizenship rights (however severely limited they may be) are restored upon release. Many released former prisoners are given a certificate noting their release rather than their North Korean citizen identification card.

Many released prisoners conclude that they have no possibility of a good future in North Korea. After spending time with their families or relatives to regain their health, many again cross the border into China because of the discrimination they report after being released in North Korea. This time, however, they do not escape to China in search of food or employment. Rather, knowing that they are unsafe in China, the former prisoners are now determined to flee to South Korea. A Seoul-based government-related think tank, the *Korean Institute of National Unification (KINU)*, has interviewed 81 former prisoners from *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri, all of whom entered South Korea between 2010 and 2014.¹⁵

What the *kyo-hwa-so* prison camps share with the *kwan-li-so* prison camps is extremely brutal conditions. The brutality affects both those convicted of legitimate offenses and those sentenced for essentially political offenses. A state can deprive its citizens of their liberty for what are universally regarded as criminal acts. A state may not, under contemporary international norms and standards, fail to provide food to those unjustly, or even justly, deprived of their liberty or subject them to forced labor so intense and dangerous that it leads to widespread deaths in detention.

14 “[E]nforced disappearance’ is considered to be the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State...followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law.” *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance*, Article 2 (20 December 2006), available from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx>.

15 Keum-Soon Lee, “Human Rights Conditions of the Ordinary Prison Camps (*Kyohwaso*) in North Korea,” in *The 4th Chaillot Human Rights Forum 2014: North Korean Human Rights and Happiness for a Unified Korea*. (Seoul: KINU, 2014), 16. KINU publishes annually, in Korean and in English, a “White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea.”



Venn diagram of the kwan-li-so versus the kyo-hwa-so

VI. THE EXPANSION OF *KYO-HWA-SO* No. 12 JONGO-RI: WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT AND THE OPRESSION OF NORTH KOREAN WOMEN

The first edition of *Hidden Gulag* (2003) contains an interview with a former prisoner from *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri in North Hamgyong Province. During the North Korean famine in the 1990s, when there was no food being provided by the North Korean Public Distribution System in North Hamgyong Province along the China-North Korea border, this former prisoner took to trading back and forth across the border to survive and feed his family. Arrested in late 1997 for transporting goods and money across the border, he was sentenced to three years at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, including the year or more he had already spent in police jails prior to sentencing.¹⁶

The second edition of *Hidden Gulag* (2012) contains a satellite photograph and a prisoner-provided sketch of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12.¹⁷ The information in *Hidden Gulag Second Edition*, however, only extends up to 2006. As noted above, this is because there is a delay between the time human rights violations occur and the time the outside world can find out about them.

Up to 2006, *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 was a men's prison, centered on copper mining and processing, woodworking (a furniture factory), and agricultural cultivation, mostly for food products to be shipped to Pyongyang.

Sometime after 2008, however, a women's section was added to *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, reflecting the huge increase of *refouled* (forcibly repatriated) North Korean women from China. Five additional former prisoners from *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri interviewed in Seoul in March 2015 update this enlargement of the Jongo-ri prison. This reflects North Korea's ongoing policy to wrongfully imprisoned persons for reasons not permitted under contemporary international law. Many of the North Koreans who are deprived of their liberty and subjected to forced labor and inhumane conditions suffer this punishment for having taken actions that are explicitly provided for and protected in international law, including conventions that North Korea has acceded to.¹⁸

16 David Hawk, *The Hidden Gulag First Edition* (Washington, D.C.: HRNK, 2003), 54, available at http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/The_Hidden_Gulag.pdf.

17 Hawk, *The Hidden Gulag Second Edition*, 87, 227.

18 Deprivation of liberty is arbitrary if “the deprivation of liberty results from the exercise of the rights or freedoms guaranteed by articles 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 10 [sic] and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, insofar as States parties are concerned, by articles 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Category II).” UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Resolution 1991/42, as clarified by resolution 1997/50, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet26en.pdf>.

A. CLAIMS ABOUT PRISONS BY NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS: “WARM LOVE,” “EXTRA CARE,” AND “A TV IN EVERY ROOM”



Credit: Minjok TV

While this current report was being prepared, three identified high-ranking officials from the *An-jeon-bu* (Ministry of People’s Safety)¹⁹ were interviewed on Minjok TV²⁰ making a series of claims about the North Korean *kyo-hwa-so* prison system. Eschewing even the term “prisoner,” the interviewed generals used the term “*kyo-hwa-persons*” instead. *An-jeon-bu* Colonel General (three-star general) Jung Young-kwon stated:

Although the country is in a poor economic condition, Marshall Kim Jong-un, with warm love and consideration of the people, takes extra care to feed the *kyo-hwa-persons* and provide summer and winter clothes, necessities of life, medicines, and other supplies to them... We conduct

19 *An-jeon-bu* is shorthand for *In-min-bo-an-seong*, which is North Korea’s Ministry of People’s Safety. The Ministry of People’s Safety is also referred to as the Ministry of People’s Security.

20 *Minjok TV* is the video section of *Minjok Tongshin*, a California-based, Kim Il-sung prize-winning online news outlet operated by Korean-Americans that takes positions favorable to or closely aligned with the viewpoint of North Korean state media.

monthly health checkups to find any disease and provide the right treatment at the right time. We also distribute workload according to the checkups.²¹

Lieutenant General (two-star general) Kim Sung-il stated, “When they have dinner we let them study and watch TV. About twice a week we also show them interesting TV soap operas or films.” Colonel General Kim Kyul added, “Now there is a TV in every room. We also provide newspapers, magazines, and *Rodong Sinmun*...”²²

There are literally hundreds of former *kyo-hwa-so* prisoners who defected to South Korea following their release. These statements by North Korean officials starkly contradict the testimony of countless former prisoners, including those in this report.²³

B. PRISONER TESTIMONY ON CONDITIONS AT *KYO-HWA-SO* NO. 12 JONGO-RI

As summarized in a recently published book on North Korea by two British journalists with extensive experience on the Korean peninsula:

Life in a *gyohwaso*²⁴ is exceptionally tough. Testimony from former prisoners of *Gyohwaso* Number 12, located at Jonggo-ri in North Hamgyong Province (near the Chinese border), reveals that food rations there are so pitiful as to be below subsistence level, forcing inmates to eat whatever insects and rodents they are able to trap for themselves... *Gyohwaso* Number 12, which houses around 3,000 to 4,000 inmates, including 1,000 women, is far from the exception in this regard.

At the same time, *gyohwaso* prisoners must also endure forced labor. Men at *Gyohwaso* Number 12 may be sent to work for 14 hours per day in the camp’s copper mine. Safety equipment is non-existent, and thus fatalities and severe injuries are common. There is also an on-site furniture factory,

21 *Minjok TV*, June 1, 2015. The Korean language interview is accessible on YouTube.

22 Ibid.

23 The former *kyo-hwa-so* prisoners interviewed for this current HRNK report talked in such detail about the chronic lack of food and medical care, that, frankly, it did not occur to the present author to ask them if there was “a TV in every room.” Nor did it occur to the present author to ask them to confirm Colonel General Jung Young-kwon’s assertion that, “[w]hen our Great General Kim Jong-il passed away... *Kyo-hwa-persons* showed their grief fasting, weeping, hitting the ground, and bleeding in their hands.”

24 The present report has adhered to the transliteration introduced by the first edition of the *Hidden Gulag* report; i.e. *kyo-hwa-so*.

in which accidents are very frequent. Prisoners sleep for five hours per night, so the combination of tiredness and antiquated equipment results in around one death every few days.²⁵

The first edition of *Hidden Gulag* (2003) cited the testimony of a former prisoner on the deplorable conditions and high rates of death in detention at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12.²⁶ Between December 1998 and July 1999, “Out of twenty-three prisoners who entered on the same day... only two survived. The rest died within eight months of arrival, from hard labor and sub-subsistence food rations—small mixtures of corn and beans, with rice added only on holidays.” A former prisoner interviewed for that report believes that eight hundred prisoners died while he was there; so many, according to what another prisoner told him, that the guards had to burn the corpses.

This former prisoner reported that he weighed 50 kilograms (kg) (110 pounds (lb)) prior to his arrest and only 30 kg (66 lb) upon his release from *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12.²⁷ This was fifteen years ago during North Korea’s “great famine.” Reportedly, not all that much has changed in this regard at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12. Tudor and Pearson, publishing in 2015, wrote that “it is common for men serving time there to lose 30 kilograms [66 lb] in body weight. Many end up starving to death.”²⁸

One of the former women prisoners at Jongjo-ri interviewed for this present report in March 2015, Ms. Kim Min-ji, reported that during her time in *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 from 2009 to 2011, nearly all people lost weight and many died of malnutrition and related diseases.²⁹

Another former female prisoner at Jongjo-ri interviewed for this report in March 2015, Ms. Choi Min-gyang, went from 57 kg (125 lb) to 27 kg (60 lb) during her time at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongjo-ri (mid-2008 to September 2010). She was put in the *ho-yak-ban* (severely sick) unit and lost consciousness. Her condition was so severe that prison officials called her family to come get her rather than deal with her death. It took her a year to regain her health, after which she fled to China and on to South Korea.³⁰

25 Daniel Tudor and James Pearson, *North Korea Confidential: Private Markets, Fashion Trends, Prison Camps, Dissenters and Defectors* (China: Tuttle Publishing, 2014), 117.

26 This former prisoner was imprisoned from 1998 to 1999, and testified that the prison was sometimes also referred to as “Onsong-kun *Kyo-hwa-so*.”

27 Hawk, *Hidden Gulag First Edition*, 55.

28 Tudor and Pearson, *North Korea Confidential*, 117.

29 See Ms. Kim Min-ji’s testimony below on page 20.

30 See Ms. Choi Min-gyang’s testimony below on page 18.

Another woman prisoner interviewed for the present report stated that she weighed 79 kg (174 lb) while in China, but her weight during pre-trial detention in North Korea dropped to 34 kg (74 lb). She arrived at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jongo-ri in 2010 already so weak that the prison authorities initially did not want to accept her. Nonetheless, even though she was clearly weak and sick, she was assigned to the logging work unit and fed only rotten corn. She never regained her weight until she was released in 2012.³¹

Two male former prisoners at Jongo-ri interviewed for this report in March 2015 indicate that, for men, *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 has operated almost the same for several decades.³²

C. GENDER AND REPRESSION: *KYO-HWA-SO* NO. 12 EXPANDS IN ORDER TO IMPRISON WOMEN

The major change to Jongo-ri was the addition of a women's section to imprison the large number of forcibly repatriated women from North Hamgyong Province. Women prisoners were introduced in late 2007 and soon numbered roughly 1,000, about 80% of whom, according to the former prisoners interviewed for this report, were "border crossers."

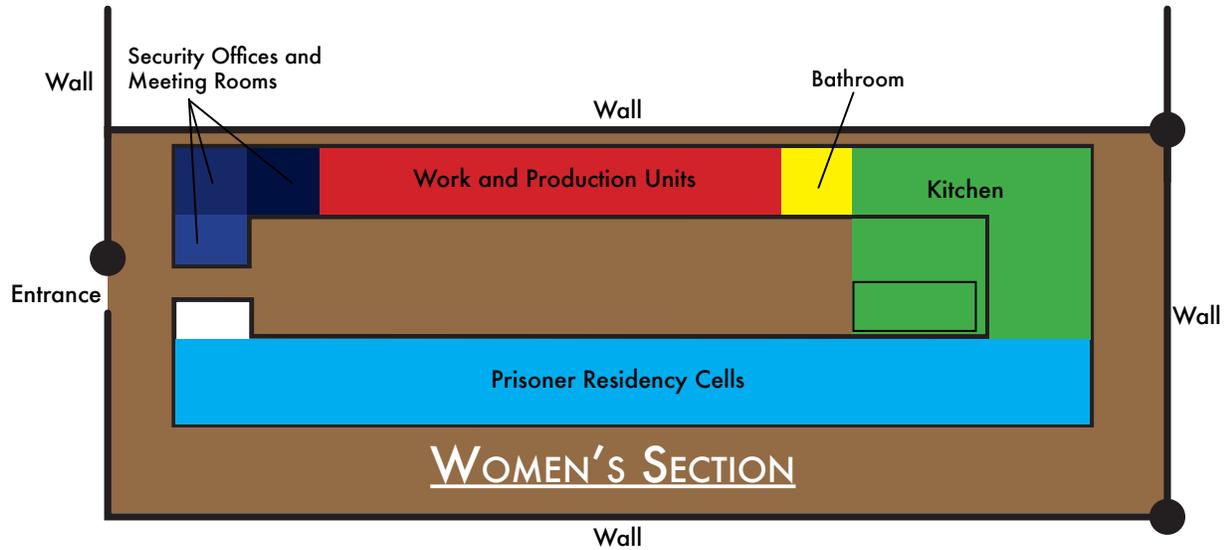
According to a report by the Seoul-based *Database Center for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB)*, "Women prisoners were generally interned at Kaechon, Hamheung, Cheung-san and Oro prisons, but a Kim Jong-il order in 2007 made it so prisoners were imprisoned in prisons located within the county of their origin."³³

At *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jongo-ri, women prisoners were apparently initially held in one of the previously male work unit cells and spilled over into the halls. As more and more women prisoners arrived, a new building entirely for women was constructed by prison labor and expanded to accommodate more and more women. Hand-drawn sketches of the women's building by former prisoners indicate the L-shaped structure was extended to a U-shaped structure with a large gate opening at the mouth of the U. The rooms along the sides of the building were devoted to prison cells, rooms for work units, a kitchen, eating area, meeting rooms, and guards' offices. Satellite imagery with identifications made by former prisoners are enclosed below, together with a computer-generated composite sketch. (See page 47 for satellite imagery.)

31 See Anonymous Former Prisoner's testimony below on page 21.

32 Former male and female prisoners at other *kyo-hwa-so* interviewed for the present report indicate that Jongo-ri prison is not atypical.

33 NKDB, *Prisoners in North Korea Today* (Seoul: NKDB, 2011), 66.



Key

● : Guard Tower

Composite graphic of Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Jongo-ri women's section

The women's section was divided into work units for tree and log cutting, agricultural production (beans, potatoes, and corn), livestock or animal husbandry, cooking (for the prisoners), which are the typical prison work units,³⁴ plus a wig-making unit and an eyelash-making unit. The younger women (in their twenties and thirties) were assigned to wig and eyelash making, while the older women were assigned to the tree and log cutting, livestock, and agricultural production. "About 100 women were in the wig-making work unit."

One of the former prisoners interviewed for this report worked in the wig-making unit. Unlike the agricultural and tree and log-cutting work units, the wig unit had no fixed schedule. A box of hair would arrive from Pyongyang, but the hair, she thought, came from China. The boxes contained a mixture of hairs of various colors and lengths. The hairs would be sorted by color and length, threaded through needles, and sewn into the fabric that would become the base of the wig. "About 80% of the wigs were for women; 20% for men." The hairpieces were not finished but were packed and sent to Pyongyang (and then perhaps somewhere else) for "finishing."

When they had a "production order," the wig-sewers would work non-stop day and night until the order was completed. The former prisoner described this as "mentally exhausting work." In-between orders, the best and fastest wig sewers were allowed to rest. Other sewers were assigned to assist the tree and log-cutting and agricultural production work units.

³⁴ The women's prison at Kaecheon had a textile production unit.

When the agricultural work units were not planting or harvesting, they would make fertilizer by collecting refuse from the prison toilets and mixing it with dirt.

The work units of women prisoners had weekly mutual self-criticism sessions, where the prisoners would confess their production shortcomings and criticize the shortcomings and inadequacies of other workers in their production unit. Larger groups of the women prisoners were gathered for what is termed “re-education.” Examples of prisoners from other *kyo-hwa-so* who worked hard and well, and were purportedly released early in reward for their exemplary labor were read aloud to the women prisoners. The literal translation for this *saeng-hwal-chong-hwa* is “daily life re-education,” but “ideology struggle sessions” or “struggle for ideology sessions” better captures the intent.³⁵ The women would read aloud and then chant slogans taken from the New Year’s Day Joint Editorials.³⁶ Asked for an example, one of the former prisoners interviewed for this report, Ms. Kim Min-ji, cited the slogan, “Let us build power plants throughout the country”—an admirable national goal, no doubt, but one that had little to do with these wrongfully imprisoned women. And the women had very little to do with it, too.

This brief account of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri, however, does not convey the succession of misfortunes endured by the North Korean citizens who enter its gates. Most of these North Korean women have not committed acts recognized as crimes under contemporary international law.³⁷ Serial atrocities can be seen in the personal accounts below of those who end up at Jongo-ri and have already suffered multiple human rights violations at the brutal and inhumane *ku-ryu-jang* (detention-investigation facilities) and *jip-kyul-so* (collection-detention facilities) before being sent to *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12.

1. Mrs. Choi Min-gyang (Imprisoned mid-2008 to late 2010)

Mrs. Choi Min-gyang was born in Kyongwon, North Hamgyong Province.³⁸ In 1998, she fled to China owing to the acute famine conditions in North Hamgyong Province. She lived in Yanbian, the Korean Autonomous Prefecture in China, for ten years. Caught as an illegal immigrant by the Chinese police in

35 Each and every person in North Korea must participate in *saeng-hwal-chong-hwa* sessions, whether on the job or at the place of residence, through the local *in-min-ban* (neighborhood watch unit).

36 Kim Jong-un has returned to the practice of his grandfather, Kim Il-sung, in making a major address on New Year’s Day. Kim Jong-il, on the other hand, rarely spoke in public. During his years in power, the North Korean newspapers would publish a New Year’s Day Joint Editorial. In these speeches and editorials, the Leader’s outlook and goals for the coming year were set forth, often in the form of slogans, which the populace then studied (through repetition and recitation) during their workplace and neighborhood ideological guidance meetings.

37 One of the former prisoners interviewed for this report mentioned that some of the North Korean police tasked with ushering the prisoners to the prison camp told her that they did not think that “border-crossing”—leaving North Korea without the written permission of the Korean Workers’ Party—was really a crime either.

38 Gyungwon was formerly called Saebyul.

2008, she was forcibly repatriated to the Onsong *Bo-wi-bu* (State Security Department) *Ku-ryu-jang* (detention-investigation facility) and held for twenty-five days.

At that time, according to Mrs. Choi, there were about 300 *refouled* persons under detention and investigation by the Onsong *Bo-wi-bu*, about 80% of whom were women suspected to have been en route to South Korea. A few of the detainees were in single cells, but most were held in very crowded cells spilling into the hallways. Mrs. Choi reports no personal mistreatment but recalls that there was very little to eat.

As Mrs. Choi had lived in China for ten years, it seemed she was not in the process of defecting to South Korea. As a result, she was transferred to the Chongjin *An-jeon-bu* (Ministry of People's Safety) *Jip-kyul-so* (collection- detention facility) awaiting charges of “border crossing”—leaving North Korea without permission. During the month she was held there, there were, she reports, some 400 to 500 persons detained. Again, about 80% were women. And again, there was very little to eat.

Mrs. Choi spent an additional 100 days at the Ranam *Gu-yeuk* District *Ku-ryu-jang* (detention-investigation facility) in Chongjin awaiting “trial,” a lawyer-less five minute proceeding where the judge merely asked her if she admitted to the crime. She did and affixed a thumbprint to her confession. She was sentenced to three years at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri.

Arriving at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 in mid-2008, there were already about 1,000 women and 4,000 men, although the women had just been introduced the year before. Mrs. Choi's cell was so crowded that the women could barely sit down. Her first work assignment was at a construction unit to build more cells for the women prisoners. She worked in the construction unit for a year and had to sleep sitting on the floor during that time.

Mrs. Choi was then assigned to the “corn work unit,” which made fertilizer in the winter time by mixing the frozen toilet waste with dirt. She was able to eat only watery soup made with beans and corn stalks. While Mrs. Choi weighed 57 kg (125 lb) before being forcibly repatriated, food deprivation, hunger, and weight loss began immediately upon repatriation. This continued during “pre-trial” detention and at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri, resulting in significant weight loss. Due to starvation, Mrs. Choi was transferred to the *ho-yak-ban* (sick unit) and then to the *byung-ban* (very sick unit). The prison authorities eventually sent for her family to come get her once she lost consciousness when they believed she was near death. At that point, Mrs. Choi had served two years and three months of her three-year sentence. She weighed 27 kg (59.5 lb) upon release and was unable to walk. It took her a full year to regain her health.

Fed up with North Korea, Mrs. Choi's husband successfully fled to South Korea and used his resettlement grant from South Korea to hire a broker to bring his wife to Seoul, where she arrived in October 2012.³⁹ Mrs. Choi was interviewed by *HRNK* in April 2015.

39 A “broker” is a person, often Korean-Chinese, who receives a fee in China and then picks up an escaping North Korean at the China-North Korea border to arrange the escapee's clandestine travel from Northeast China to South Korea. Korean-Chinese brokers are also hired as agents to clandestinely carry letters and funds from China to persons inside North Korea.

2. Ms. Kim Min-ji (Imprisoned late 2008 to late 2011)

Ms. Kim Min-ji went to China in July 2005 at the age of 19. She was caught by human traffickers and sold to a rural Chinese man. Ms. Kim lived with him in Liaoning Province in northeast China until late 2008. Knowing what would happen to her if repatriated to North Korea, she more-or-less accepted her fate. Her former trafficker, however, was arrested and gave the Chinese police her name and location. As a result, Ms. Kim was arrested and sent to Dandong, China, where “illegal immigrants” were held for repatriation (often monthly) to Sinuiju.

She was held for a month at the Sinuiju *Bo-wi-bu* (State Security Department) *Ku-ryu-jang* (detention-investigation facility). Living in China for three and a half years as a trafficked bride, her case had no ostensible political connection, such as meeting South Koreans or participating in a Korean-Chinese church while in China. So, Ms. Kim was transferred to the *An-jeon-bu* (Ministry of People’s Safety) *jip-kyu-so* (collection-detention facility) to wait for the police from Hoeryong to take her back to her hometown for trial. She was held for only ten days at a *bo-wan-so ku-ryu-jang* (detention-investigation police station) before a judge told her that since she spent three and a half years in China, she would be sentenced to two and a half years at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jonggo-ri.

In late 2008/early 2009, there were about 1,000 women prisoners at Jonggo-ri, according to Ms. Kim. Soon after, 200 additional women prisoners were detained there as well. Then, in 2010, a number of women were released because they had contracted a communicable disease. In October 2010, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Korean Workers’ Party, a large-scale amnesty brought the women prisoner population down to about 800.

At Jonggo-ri, Ms. Kim was assigned to the wig-making work unit (described above on page 17). Because she was one of the better wig sewers, Ms. Kim was allowed to eat more food than the other prisoners. Therefore, she was much better off than other women prisoners at Jonggo-ri. “Lots of women lost weight,” and “many died of malnutrition.” Ms. Kim was held for two years and one month, and released in September 2011. Upon release, rather than being given back her North Korean citizen ID card, she received a document certifying that she had been released from the *kyo-hwa-so*. This document would let any police or other official know immediately that she was formerly imprisoned as a “serious crime” lawbreaker.

Ms. Kim waited just two months before fleeing again to China. She returned to the man who had bought her six years earlier, but someone in the village reported her to the Chinese police and she was again arrested and sent to Dandong for repatriation to Sinuiju. She was again turned over to the Sinuiju *An-jeon-bu* (Ministry of People’s Safety) *Jip-kyul-so* (collection-detention facility) to await the Hoeryong police who would take her back to Hoeryong by train.

In China, Japan, or South Korea, traveling the distance from Sinuiju to Hoeryong by train would take several hours. In North Korea, however, it can take up to ten days. En route, while waiting three days for a railroad bridge to be repaired and fearing what she would face if convicted of leaving North Korea without

permission for a second time, Ms. Kim talked the police into removing the handcuffs from the group of women prisoners being taken back to Hoeryong. While the police guards were sleeping off a night of drinking, she and another woman prisoner escaped and immediately fled to China. In April 2014, Ms. Kim arrived in South Korea. In April 2015, she was interviewed by *HRNK*.

Ms. Kim witnessed forced abortions at the Sinuiju *An-jeon-bu* (Ministry of People's Safety) *Jip-kyul-so* (collection- detention facility) during both of her forcible repatriations. The first time, in 2008, a pregnant woman was forced to take some medicine, after which the baby was aborted. The second time, in 2012, the holding center authorities had a baby surgically removed from the womb of a woman who was in the "last days of pregnancy." The baby was killed.

3. Anonymous Former Female Prisoner (Imprisoned March 2010 to November 2012)

A third former female prisoner at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jonggo-ri asked to remain anonymous.⁴⁰ In 1998, she first went to China to earn money. At that time, however, her children remained in North Korea, so she would travel back and forth to see them and share her earnings. One of her daughters later fled to China and defected to South Korea. This anonymous former prisoner was arrested by Chinese police and repatriated to Sinuiju with a group of thirty other North Koreans in 2010.

The *Bo-wi-bu* (State Security Department) police beat her and banged her head against a wall because her daughter had "defected" to South Korea. After fifteen days, this former prisoner was sent to the Sinuiju *An-jeon-bu* (Ministry of People's Safety) *jip-kyul-so* (collection-detention facility), where she was held for two months with about twenty men and about fifty women. At Sinuiju, she collected feces for fertilizer and developed severe frostbite due to the extreme cold. This former prisoner was transferred to Chongjin *Jip-kyul-so* (collection-detention facility) and held for another two months. She received food only once every five days. After Chongjin, she was transferred to the Songpyong district *An-jeon-bu* (Ministry of People's Safety) *Ku-ryu-jang* (detention-investigation facility) for another three months and was sentenced to five years at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jonggo-ri. Based on her recollection, there may have been lawyers and sentencing at her 30-minute trial, but she was too malnourished and sick to talk to them. Further, "only people with money could talk to lawyers," she said.

The former prisoner weighed 79 kg (174 lb) at the time she was forcibly repatriated from China to North Korea. But after these successive detentions, her weight dropped to just 34 kg (74 lb). Because of this, the authorities did not want to take her in when she first arrived at Jonggo-ri. They changed their minds, however, when bribed with a gift of some fish by the *an-jeon-bu* agents who brought her in. This former prisoner had a son who had previously been sent to *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jonggo-ri. She found out, though, that he had died there before she arrived.

40 Many North Korean refugees or "defectors" adopt a new name when they obtain South Korean citizenship papers in order to protect their relatives remaining in North Korea. Other "defectors" do not want even their "South Korean name" to be used, lest they can be traced by North Korean authorities to their family members in North Korea.

Fed only rotten corn and watery soup, she was unable to regain weight. Nonetheless, she was initially assigned to the tree and log-cutting work unit where she dragged cut logs to be used as firewood for the prison authorities. At the time, there were about ten work units of roughly 100 or more female prisoners—just over 1,000 women prisoners overall. She was then assigned to one of the agricultural work units. She said that the male prisoners mined copper to be sold in China and farmed wheat to be sold locally to buy food for the prisoners.

Her daughter in South Korea sent money to brokers so relatives could bring food to her mother in prison. Her daughter also sent more money to a broker to arrange the former prisoner's release. The prison authorities gave the broker a list of tools they needed at the prison, and upon the delivery of shovels and other tools, they released her. After release, she was kept under police surveillance because she had not completed her sentence. Fearful of re-arrest, she donned a wig to disguise herself and again fled to China. Her daughter sent money to a broker to bring her mother to South Korea, but the broker tricked the former prisoner, now again in China, and ran off with the money. Her daughter sent more money, and this time, an honest broker arranged her trip to South Korea via Laos and Thailand.

Arriving in South Korea in July 2014, this former prisoner now lives in suburban Seoul, close by the daughter who kept her alive and rescued her. She still has thrombosis, a circulatory ailment, stemming from the severe frostbite incurred while in detention in North Korea. She was interviewed by *HRNK* in April 2015.

Two former male prisoners from *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jonggo-ri were interviewed for this report, as were persons from two other *kjo-hwa-so*. As this report focuses on the women's section of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, their testimonies are not included herein, but the three testimonies briefly presented above are entirely typical. The second edition of *Hidden Gulag* (2012) has some 60 prisoner interviews. Hundreds of former North Koreans testified to the UN Commission of Inquiry. Many of these testimonies are available online.⁴¹

D. RECOMMENDATION

The *Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK)* and many others have long recommended that North Korea allow the *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)* access to its prison camps. Thus far, North Korea has explicitly rejected this recommendation.⁴² Considering the huge discrepancy between recent statements of North Korean prison officials cited above and the testimony from recently released prisoners, *HRNK* renews its recommendation for North Korea's cooperation with the *ICRC*.

41 "Human Rights Council: Commission of Inquiry Hearings," UN Web TV, accessed June 19, 2015, <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/human-rights-council/commissions-of-inquiry-hearings/watch/human-rights-in-north-korea-excerpts-from-the-public-hearings-of-the-commission-of-inquiry-23mins/3339582047001>.

42 In 2014, North Korea rejected the 2009 recommendation by other UN Member States (as part of a UN Human Rights Council procedure known as the Universal Periodic Review) that it "Provide unlimited access to ICRC to all detention facilities in the country" by stating that this was one of fifteen "[r]ecommendations which do not enjoy the support of the DPRK." *Annex to the National Report, A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRK/1*, http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/korea_dpr/session_19_-_april_2014/a_hrc_wg.6_19_prk_1_annex_e.pdf.

Without on-site confirmation of the accuracy of the statements made by North Korean prison system officials—corroboration by the *ICRC*, by reputable human rights organizations such as *Amnesty International* or *Human Rights Watch*, by UN human rights experts, or by a group of ambassadors residing in Pyongyang—the voluminous and consistent testimony of the former prisoners stands.

E. THE POST-2007 ADDITION OF THE WOMEN’S SECTION OF *KYO-HWA-SO* NO. 12: EMBLEMATIC OF NORTH KOREA’S OPPRESSION OF WOMEN

The expansion of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri, to include a section for women prisoners, is emblematic of a core element of North Korea’s systematic persecution of women wherein human rights violations are piled on top of one another.⁴³

The root cause of this component of oppression of women is North Korea’s blatant violation of Article 13 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his [her] own, and to return to his [her] country.

This fundamental right was codified into positive international law in Article 12 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which North Korea acceded in 1981:

Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.⁴⁴

Global labor migrations that affect scores of countries in today’s world also impact North Korea. Workers migrate from areas of their country with lower income and few jobs to higher-income areas with more plentiful job prospects.

Many of these labor flows have a significant gender component. Just as large numbers of women from Southeast Asia travel to Hong Kong and the Persian-Arabian Gulf in search of employment, within Northeast Asia, women from China’s impoverished northeast rust belt migrate to the immense manufacturing zones in China’s southern coastal areas. Following the breakdown of North Korea’s public food distribution system

43 For a complete description of these phenomena of severe repression, *see* David Hawk, “Part Four: Detention Facilities and Punishments for North Koreans Forcibly Repatriated from China: Violence Against Women,” in *Hidden Gulag Second Edition* (Washington, D.C.: HRNK, 2013), 111-154.

44 This right can be restricted only as is necessary to protect national security, public health and order, morals, or the rights and freedoms of others, and is consistent with other rights posited in the ICCPR. The repressions depicted herein are obviously injurious to public health and morals and inconsistent with other rights prescribed in international law. It would seem hard to argue, by any normal consideration of national security, that a few thousand women from North and South Hamgyong Province working or living in China threaten the security of a state armed with nuclear weapons and fielding a million-soldier army.

in the 1990s, women from North Korea's impoverished northeast provinces went to China in search of food and any income for the survival of their families back in North Korea. Korean-Chinese women go to South Korea where the wage scale is higher than in China. And South Korean women have gone to North America, Europe, and Australia for higher education or temporary employment at higher-wage scales than in South Korea. North Korea treats the right to leave one's country of origin as a criminal offense.

North Korea has a large-scale program to export labor to earn hard currency. In these state-organized labor export programs, men and women deemed very loyal to the Kim Regime (what North Koreans term "high *songbun*") are sent abroad to work. Men often work in construction, mining, or logging. Women work in textile or other manufacturing or service trades. In these state-run labor export schemes, the official North Korean agency in charge of the worker dispatch⁴⁵ is paid directly in hard currency and the participating individual workers receive wages, usually at a very small percentage of the wage scale paid directly to the state. North Korean women who seek employment in China as individual workers are usually of "middle" or "low *songbun*," and hence, are ineligible to participate in the state-run labor-export schemes. However, bribery has reportedly eroded the influence of the *songbun* system.

There is, it should be noted, no right to enter another (not just the next) neighboring country, corresponding to the right to leave one's country of origin; nation states regard control over the borders of their territory as a core element of sovereignty. Thus, were it not for the way North Korea severely mistreats forcibly repatriated North Koreans, China could be justified at times in claiming that the North Koreans who crossed into China without entry visas are "illegal immigrants" or "economic migrants," which is what China continues to claim.

However, in reality, a significant number of North Koreans who cross the border into China qualify as asylum seekers—refugees with a well-founded fear of persecution should they remain in or return to their country of origin—under international law and hence are entitled to international protection.⁴⁶ And, as has been long recognized and documented in multiple NGO reports, legal analyses, the reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the DPRK, and most authoritatively by the Commission of Inquiry, virtually all North Koreans in China without entrance visas qualify as "*refugees sur place*"—persons who may not have left their country of origin out of a fear of persecution, but who would, irrespective of their

45 North Korea's Central Labor Administrative Guidance Committee reports directly to the Cabinet. It reportedly deals with occupational safety (including educational programs) and working hours, decides on recipients of safety supplies, and is tasked with conducting scientific research relevant to labor protection. However, the agency in charge of the worker dispatch differs based on the nature of the work. For example, the Forestry Agency (*Rim-up-bu*) is in charge of dispatching loggers to the Russian Far East.

46 See the following: Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, which recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries; the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees.

reasons for leaving, face persecution if forcibly returned to their country of origin.⁴⁷ Indeed, the Commission of Inquiry states, “[M]any such nationals of the Democratic Peoples [sic] Republic of Korea should be recognized as refugees fleeing persecution, or refugees sur place. They are thereby entitled to international protection.”⁴⁸ For North Korean women without visas in China, brutal repression upon repatriation to North Korea is not a fear but—unless mitigated by bribery or exceedingly good luck—a reality.

Nonetheless, the migration of North Koreans to northeast China continues. This is driven by the “supply push” of food and job shortages for Korean women in its northeast provinces and the “demand pull” in rural northeast China, from where Chinese women have flocked to Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, resulting in a gender imbalance. There is also a long-term gender imbalance throughout China owing to its decades-long “one child” policy, which favored the male child, creating a “demand pull” for the purchase of trafficked North Korean brides.

Economic rationality would seem to welcome the remittances to families in North and South Hamgyong provinces from wages earned in China. That is the case of most nation states whose citizens seek employment abroad. However, North Korean policy is to severely punish those North Koreans, including a large portion of women, who see getting food or earning wages in China as essential to their families’ survival. The post-2007 expansion of a women’s section in Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Jongo-ri exemplifies the ongoing imprisonment of more and more women, whose core “offense” was to have exercised their basic human right to leave their country of origin.

Furthermore, these expanded women’s prisons, such as *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, even if regarded as “labor correction facilities,” are a gross violation of Article 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

“All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.”

In addition to this gross violation of internationally recognized human rights, other egregious violations include: systematic torture and beatings during investigation and interrogation immediately following forced repatriation; severe deprivation of food; the sexual humiliation of naked strip searches and the naked compulsory exercises (“squat thrusts” and “jumping-jacks”) to dislodge money or valuables that might be

47 See the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, available from <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>.

48 United Nations, General Assembly, *Report of the detailed findings of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea*, A/HRC/25/63 (7 February 2014), 10, available from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoIDPRK/Pages/ReportoftheCommissionofInquiryDPRK.aspx>.

hidden in anal or vaginal cavities; and the barbaric practices of forced abortions or infanticides committed against repatriated pregnant North Korean women suspected of carrying babies fathered by Chinese men.⁴⁹

The Commission of Inquiry concluded:

42. The State imposes a virtually absolute ban on ordinary citizens travelling abroad, thereby violating their human rights to leave the country. Despite the enforcement of this ban through strict border controls, nationals still take the risk of fleeing, mainly to China. When they are apprehended or forcibly repatriated, officials from the Democratic Peoples [sic] Republic of Korea systematically subject them to persecution, torture, prolonged arbitrary detention, and in some cases, sexual violence, including during invasive body searches. ...

44. Discrimination against women and their vulnerable status in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as the prospect of refoulement, make women extremely vulnerable to trafficking in persons. Many women are trafficked by force or deception from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into or within China for purposes of exploitation in forced marriage or concubinage, or prostitution under coercive circumstances. ...⁵⁰

Scant wonder the UN Commission of Inquiry found the severe mistreatment and serial atrocities against such women to amount to criminal inhumanity:⁵¹

1068. ... the Commission finds that crimes against humanity extend to the ordinary prison system, in particular the ordinary prison camps (*kyohwaso*) and, to a lesser degree, the various types of short-term forced labor detention.

1083. ... The Commission finds that, across the vast prison system inhumane acts follow regular patterns that victimize tens of thousands of inmates at any point in time.

1055. The imposition of forced abortions on female inmates who become pregnant without authorization not only results in immediate physical harm, [*sic*] it also interferes with the victim's reproductive rights and causes severe emotional suffering. Systematic or widespread forced abortions must therefore be considered a form of sexual violence of a gravity amounting to crimes against humanity.

49 See *Hidden Gulag Second Edition* for a fuller description of these gross violations and serial atrocities, available from http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/HRNK_HiddenGulag2_Web_5-18.pdf.

50 United Nations, *Report of the commission of inquiry*, 9, 10.

51 United Nations, *Report of the commission of inquiry*, 3.

1056. The severe pain and suffering of the incarcerated victims of rape and forced abortion, who are targeted on discriminatory political and gender grounds, regularly reach the threshold of torture as defined under the Rome Statute and customary international criminal law.

1077. ...The forced abortions to which pregnant inmates have been subjected constitute a form of sexual violence of a gravity that meets the threshold required for crimes against humanity.⁵²

The international community should continue to press North Korea to rectify these policies and practices, beginning with allowing the ICRC to have access to the places of detention en route to and including North Korea's *kyo-hwa-so* prisons.

52 United Nations, *Report of the detailed findings*, 328, 330, 331, 333.

VII. THE DEMOLITION OF THE SORIMCHON/KUMCHON-RI SECTION OF *KWAN-LI-SO* No. 15 YODOK, SOUTH HAMGYONG PROVINCE: THE FATE AND WHEREABOUTS OF THE FORMER PRISONERS

A. THE DEMOLITION OF SORIMCHON/KUMCHON-RI

Sorimchon, a small *hyeok-myong-hwa-koo-yeok* (“revolutionizing processing zone”), was established in or around 1999 in the southern corner of Camp 15. Camp 15 is 365 square kilometers and is the most well-documented *kwan-li-so* political prison camp in North Korea. (See a satellite image of Sorimchon in relation to Camp 15 on page 48.)

Sorimchon held a smaller number of single prisoners for shorter periods of incarceration and forced labor compared to the much larger “revolutionizing” sections for incarcerating families deeper within Camp 15. Prisoners in the Sorimchon section were released back into North Korean society after enduring roughly three years of forced labor. Sorimchon was fenced off from the immediately adjacent *wan-jeon-tong-je-ku-yuk* (“total control zone”), from which prisoners deemed irremediably tainted by real or imagined “counter-revolutionary” thoughts or affiliations were held for forced labor for the rest of their lives.

Sorimchon held 300-400 prisoners, including a mixture of “high-level people,” former officials and diplomats, students previously studying abroad, and “common citizens” forcibly repatriated from China for “illegal border crossing” (leaving North Korean territory without official permission) whose cases had political implications—often for contact with South Koreans or Korean-Chinese Christian churches while in China.⁵³

The men and women detained at Sorimchon lived in dormitories and performed agricultural labor and animal husbandry. Sorimchon contained two clusters of buildings, one of dormitories and prison official offices, and another comprised of animal pens, stables, and sheds for agricultural equipment. For unknown reasons, Sorimchon was renamed, or also called, Kumchon-ri.⁵⁴

53 As described above, North Korean “border crossers” whose cases do not involve political implications, such as those North Korean citizens deemed by North Korean police authorities to have gone to China for food, trading business, or employment, are usually sent to *kyo-hwa-so* prisons or to *ro-dong dan-ryeon-dae* (“labor training centers”), which are akin to locally designated mobile labor brigades.

54 The Korean word *chon* means a little river or creek.

The second edition of *Hidden Gulag* (2012) contains interviews with three former prisoners in the Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri section of Camp 15: Mr. Jung Gwang-il; Mr. Kim Eun-chol; and a young woman, “Former Prisoner #28,” whose testimony to HRNK was provided under conditions of anonymity to protect her family members still in North Korea. *Hidden Gulag Second Edition* also contains satellite imagery of Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri with building identifications provided by the former prisoners.⁵⁵

B. PREVIOUS SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SORIMCHON

1. Mr. Kim Eun-chol (Imprisoned 2000–2003)

Mr. Kim Eun-chol explained that he had been arrested in Ussuriysk, Russia, along with other North Koreans, all deemed illegal immigrants. Deported by Russia to China, Kim then voluntarily returned to North Korea to see his father. Arrested by the *An-jeon-bu* (Ministry of People’s Safety), he was turned over to the Musan *Bo-wi-bu* (State Security Department), the more powerful political police, where he was held for six months and severely beaten until he confessed that he met with South Koreans in China. While he did not have a “trial” with a judge, he did have a “session” with a *Bo-wi-bu* “prosecutor” he called a “*kom-sa dam-hwa*,” who said he would be placed under three years of “revolutionizing process.” Deported to Camp 15 in June 2000, doubting he would ever be released, he was assigned to reside in a small, new section for single men and women prisoners called Sorimchon, where his work unit built the farm sheds for chickens and pigs and the homes for prison officials. During his three years in Sorimchon, two persons were executed for escape attempts, three died after being released from nearby punishment cells (one for “stealing honey,” one for eating corn intended for the animals, and one for having sex with another prisoner), and several others died in detention from starvation and malnutrition-related disease. Everyone was constantly hungry.

After his release from Camp 15, Mr. Kim fled to China and then to South Korea.

2. Mr. Jung Gwang-il (Imprisoned 2000–2003)

Mr. Jung Gwang-il had been engaged in exporting high quality mushrooms, which he sold directly to South Korean businessmen in China, cutting out Korean-Chinese middlemen. He was suspected of having become a South Korean spy for meeting with South Koreans. Picked up by the Heoryong *Bo-wi-bu* (State Security Department), he was beaten for ten months, subjected to systematic torture, and denied food. After his weight dropped from 75 kg (165 lb) to 38 kg (84 lb), driven by hunger, he confessed to spying in exchange for food. After satisfying his chronic hunger pains, he recanted his confession but was subsequently deported to the Sorimchon section of Camp 15, where he was initially assigned agricultural labor and then to assist in the administration of Sorimchon. During his short time in this small section of the prison camp, he observed twenty-six persons die in detention and another six taken away for execution elsewhere, he

55 See Hawk, *Hidden Gulag Second Edition*, 63–69. The satellite photograph is on page 198.

believed. Of the twenty-six victims, two were executed, one died as a result of torture, and twenty-three from malnutrition-related disease.

Upon release, Mr. Jung fled to China and then to South Korea.

3. Former Prisoner #28 (Imprisoned 2002–2006)

Former Prisoner #28 fled to China in 1998, initially in search of food and employment. In December 2002, she and eight other North Koreans were caught trying to enter Mongolia to defect to South Korea. Repatriated to Onsong, she was held by the *Bo-wi-bu* (State Security Department) for six months. Not initially, but upon the arrival of *Bo-wi-bu* officials from Pyongyang, she was systematically tortured until the members of the group admitted they were attempting to flee to South Korea. In mid-2002, she was sent to Camp 15 where the Sorimchon section was then called Kumchon-ri. There were then about 200 persons in the singles' barracks, many of whom were "border crossers." After 2003, most of the incoming detainees were "high-level people," including *An-jeon-bu* police officials who had been overheard and picked up for making comments against the regime. She was assigned to a work unit growing corn and beans. Ten persons out of about 200 in her barracks died of malnutrition.

Former Prisoner #28 was released in 2006 and again fled to China and then to South Korea.

The Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri "village" of single prisoners differed from the much larger "revolutionizing zones" detaining families within Camp 15, such as Ipsok-ri, Kuup-ri, or Taesuk-ri. Prisoners in the Sorimchon "revolutionizing zone," as noted above, were eligible for release back into North Korean society after three years, whereas internment and forced labor in the larger "revolutionizing zones" within Camp 15 was usually much longer.⁵⁶

56 It is important to note that it is not known if there are any areas of Camp 15 functioning in 2015 as "revolutionizing zones" from which prisoners can be released. The last known release was in 2006. Although it is dangerous for North Koreans to talk to people in South Korea over illegal cell phones smuggled in from China with international calling capacity, former North Korean prisoners now residing in South Korea remain in touch with enough friends and family members still in North Korea. Thus, it is believed that if releases were still taking place the former prisoners would hear and know of it. The "revolutionizing zones" differed from the "total control zones" within Camp 15, such as Pyongchon-ri and Yongpyong-ri, from which no prisoners were ever released. If it is the case that there are no longer any prisoners being released from the "revolutionizing zones," then the entire prison camp is, in effect, now a "total control zone."

Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri is also marked by the fact that one of the former prisoners there, Mr. Jung, has a photographic memory. At Camp 15 he became the manager of his large work unit, assigning tasks to others in his unit. He talked at length to the other prisoners in his unit to relieve the boredom of his own detention. After he was released and escaped to South Korea, consulting in Seoul with other former prisoners and South Korean human rights specialists, he produced a list of more than 180 names of his fellow prisoners at Camp 15, along with biographical information on many of them. The listing was first published by a non-governmental organization, *Free the NK Gulag*, comprised of former North Korean political prisoners.⁵⁷

This list and information provides a snapshot of the perceived, suspected, or actual political offenses that sent these North Koreans to the labor camp for their “revolutionizing” process. A large number were repatriated from China and deemed to be in the process of defecting to South Korea.⁵⁸ Many others were suspected or known to have had contact with South Koreans while in China. Seven prisoners, who had entered Russia from China and were sent back to China, were then subsequently repatriated to North Korea. Several were apprehended by North Korean security police agents operating in China and taken back to North Korea.

Several were “lightly punished” Christian believers who were part of an unauthorized “home church,” a Bible reading group, the leader of which was executed. The more ardent members received a lifetime sentence and were confined within the “total control zone” at Camp 15. Two were imprisoned for the presumed political offense of their mother. Quite a few were punished for having been overheard and reported for making critical comments on food policy or the Kim regime more generally. Some were apparently caught up in bureaucratic disputes between the state security police and other ministries or bureaucratic entities. Reportedly, Kim Jong-il reviewed such cases and personally ordered several released. One such case was Shim Cheol-ho, who had been a vice minister of information and communication. Upon release, he was returned to his ministry and became minister of information and communication.

Several had been studying in East Germany at the time of its collapse and were ordered to return to North Korea. Quite a few were punished for making personal gains from state trading enterprises, for unauthorized sales of state property, or taking bribes—possibly criminal offenses but deemed political in nature for damaging the dignity of the Korean Workers’ Party. Others were punished for the failure of their state trading enterprises. And a few were accused of listening to South Korean radio broadcasts or meeting Christian

57 The name of this former prisoner’s NGO was also sometimes translated as *NK Gulag for Democracy*. The group divided in late 2014. One section became NK Watch, focusing on a broader range of human rights related issues. The other section continued as a network of former prisoners under the name of *No Fence: Association of North Korean Victims and their Families*. *NK Gulag/No Fence* assisted the current author in interviewing other former prisoners for the second (2012) edition of *Hidden Gulag*, the follow-up August 2013 *HRNK report, Interpreting Reports of Changes in the Prison Camps* (available from [http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/NKHiddenGulag_DavidHawk\(2\).pdf](http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/NKHiddenGulag_DavidHawk(2).pdf)), and the present report.

58 North Koreans forcibly repatriated from China who were deemed to have crossed the China border in search of food or employment, rather than defection to South Korea, are sent to other prison facilities such as *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 Jongo-ri, as described earlier in this report.

believers in China. One low-ranking police official was accused of concealing the death of a suspect during interrogation. One was suspected of being a “broker,” helping other North Koreans flee to China. Another was punished for receiving money from a sister in South Korea.

Of the 181 former prisoners whose names begin on page 35 below, two were executed and one died from torture and beatings. Twenty-three died of malnutrition or starvation. Five were taken away, and their fate is unknown.⁵⁹ Fifteen are known to be alive. Several are in South Korea. One is believed to be in the United States. Seven are believed to have been personally ordered released by Kim Jong-il. The status, fates, and whereabouts of 121 are completely unknown.

In fact, none of these prisoners, like all the persons detained in the *kwan-li-so* political prison camps, had been subjected to formal charges or any judicial process. The prisoners deduce their perceived or presumed wrong-doing, wrong-thinking, wrong knowledge, or wrong associations from the questions asked during their interrogations prior to being deported—“forcibly disappeared” in technical human rights terminology—into the prison camps. In the case of family members, they deduce their perceived political offenses based on the prior disappearance of the head of the family. All the former *kwan-li-so* prisoners interviewed by the author confirm that they and their fellow prisoners devoted considerable mental and emotional energy to trying to figure out what they had done that resulted in such brutal and severe punishment.

Satellite photographs from 2009 and 2012 show the Sorimchon area of Camp 15 to be intact and as this area had appeared for the preceding decade. (See satellite image from 2009 on page 49.) More recent satellite images of Sorimchon show the partial demolition of facilities between April and September of 2013, and that the remaining prisoner-related buildings were demolished between September 2013 and October 2014.⁶⁰ (See satellite image on page 50.)

C. THE FATE AND WHEREABOUTS OF THE FORMER PRISONERS

This leaves, of course, the question of the fate and whereabouts of the former prisoners. Were they released back into North Korean society? Were some or all transferred to other sections of the sprawling prison camp? Were some executed? Did others die in detention?

There were also rumors and brief press accounts that the demolition of the Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri section was the first step in the closing of Camp 15 in its entirety. However, high resolution satellite imagery as recent as December 2014 shows the rest of Camp 15 to be fully operational, with the camp perimeter

59 They could have been executed secretly, transferred to a “total control zone,” or released.

60 Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Andy Dinville, and Mike Eley, *North Korea: Imagery Analysis of Camp 15 “Yodok”—Closure of the “Revolutionizing Zone”* (Washington, D.C.: HRNK, 2015).

barriers and the guard towers still in place, and the interior of the camp showing ongoing activity.⁶¹ Speculation followed in Seoul that Camp 15 may be kept open to accommodate purged elements of Jang Song-taek's⁶² network of supporters, as Camp 15 is the prison camp where "high-level" people and other purged officials from the capital are deported.⁶³

HRNK's August 2013 publication, *North Korea's Hidden Gulag: Interpreting Reports of Changes in the Prison Camps*, reported on the closure of *Kwan-li-so* No. 22, near Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province. In that case, according to local residents from Hoeryong, an unknown number of prisoners from Camp 22 were trucked at night to the Hoeryong train station. From there the train departed south. It is believed that the train went to *Kwan-li-so* No. 14 in Kaechon and *Kwan-li-so* No. 16 in Hwasong.⁶⁴ Also, according to Hoeryong residents, leftover supplies from Camp 22 were being sold at local markets by the family members of Camp 22 guards, who had not yet been transported to the places where the former prisoners and guards were sent. Thus far, the number and names of transferred prisoners are unknown.

In the case of the small, demolished section of Camp 15, the names of many of the persons formerly imprisoned there have been recorded and reported by other former prisoners, especially Mr. Jung. These persons, like all prisoners in the *kwan-li-so* political penal labor colonies, were deprived of their liberty without any of the formal judicial processes outlined in North Korea's criminal law and criminal procedure code and subjected to forced labor under conditions so harsh as to result in high rates of death in detention. The Commission of Inquiry determined that the operation of these prison camps constitutes crimes against humanity:

1033. ... the Commission finds that DPRK authorities have committed and are committing crimes against humanity in the political prison camps, including extermination, murder, enslavement,

61 Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Andy Dinville, and Mike Eley, *North Korea: Imagery Analysis of Camp 15*, (Washington, D.C.: HRNK, 2015), 2, http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/ASA_AnalysisReport_HRNK_Camp15_Final.pdf. Note: In Seoul, March 2015, large high resolution satellite photographs of Camp 15 (courtesy of AllSource Analysis) were shown to former Camp 15 prisoners, including Kang Chul-hwan, the protagonist of the biography, *Aquariums of Pyongyang* and current head of the NGO *North Korea Strategy Group*. Kang pointed out many new buildings and dramatically improved roads and bridges within Camp 15 compared to the ten years he spent there.

62 Note: Jang Song-taek was Kim Jong-un's uncle by marriage and widely thought to be the second most powerful official in North Korea. His public humiliation and rushed, brutal execution, attracted considerable worldwide attention.

63 According to noted North Korea historian Andrei Lankov, "In the last three years the North Korean military, political and security police bureaucracy have been subjected to a purge on a scale not seen since at least the late 1960s." Andrei Lankov, "No one is safe in Kim Jong Un's court: When it comes to ruthlessness, North Korea's leader surpasses his father and grandfather," *NK News*, June 23, 2015, www.nknews.org/2015/06/no-one-is-safe-in-kim-jong-uns-court/.

64 However, satellite photographs of those camps did not indicate at the time sufficient new buildings to accommodate the numbers of prisoners possibly transferred from Camp 22.

torture, imprisonment, rape and other grave sexual violence and persecution on political, religious and gender grounds.

1066. ... [DPRK] authorities continue to devote considerable energy to concealing the existence of political prison camps and to prevent information about the crimes committed in them from reaching the international community....

1067. The Commission finds that the closest analogies, although with shorter duration and different destructive features, are the camps of totalitarian states of the twentieth century. That such political prison camps continue to exist at present in the DPRK is an affront to universally shared human rights values and a crime against humanity. It is the duty of the DPRK and the international community to ensure that these camps are dismantled and the surviving prisoners released without further delay.⁶⁵

D. PURSUING ACCOUNTABILITY

The missing persons from the Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri section of Camp 15 are doubly disappeared: first, into the prison camp, and again, upon the demolition of the section of the camp where they were subjected to forced labor and political “re-education.”

The international community needs to continue to press North Korean authorities for an explanation of the facilities described in great detail by the former prisoners and guards. Further, there is concern that, owing to the growing international recognition and condemnation of these unlawful and brutal detention facilities—the term *kwan-li-so* itself was mentioned during the discussion of the North Korean human rights situation at the December 22, 2014 meeting of the UN Security Council—North Korea may now close and/or relocate the encampments that the regime denies exist at all. In this case, the international community needs to insist on an accounting of the fate and whereabouts of the North Korean persons formerly deprived of their liberty for reasons not permitted under contemporary international law, including conventions to which North Korea has subscribed. In this process, the North Korean authorities may attempt to erase evidence and eliminate witnesses. In order to protect the prisoners, it is essential that the international community insist on accountability.

In the case of the demolished Sorimchon/Kumchon-ri section of Camp 15, such an accounting should include information regarding the fate and whereabouts of the individually named prisoners detailed and attached to this report. The names follow:

65 United Nations, *Report of the detailed findings*, 330. Note: Subsequently, the UN Member States on the Human Rights Council and General Assembly voted in overwhelming numbers to recommend the referral of these matters to the International Criminal Court for further investigation and prosecution.

VIII. LIST OF 181 FORMER PRISONERS AT SORIMCHON

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Huh Young-il	M	38	Gilju, North Hamgyong Province	None	June 2000	Unknown
Lee Dong-myung	M	27	Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang	Worker at a sports equipment factory	July 2000	Unknown
Jang Ho-young	M	27	Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang	None	July 2000	Unknown
Kim Eun-cheol	M	18	Musan, North Hamgyong Province	Student	July 2000 (imprisoned at 20)	Unknown
Kim Chul-beom	M	26	Musan, North Hamgyong Province	None	June 2001	Unknown
Kim Il-tae	M	43	Pungsan-gun, Yanggang Province	Laborer at the Fishery Department in Rason	April 2000	Unknown
Choi Kyung-hee (Wife of Kim Il-tae)	F	40	Saetbyul-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Propaganda Unit of Rason Staff	April 2000	Unknown
Son Young-ok	F	36	Hwasong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Housewife	February 2000	Unknown
Lee Seol-hwa	F	26	Unknown	Laborer in a Convenient Cooperative Store in Secheon-dong, Hoeryong	November 1999	Unknown
Kim Young-chun	M	28	Junghwa-gun, Pyongyang	Border guard for the MPAF	July 2001	Unknown
Eom Cheol-su	M	40	Musan, North Hamgyong Province	Company Commander in the MPAF First Corps	July 2000	Unknown
Kim Myung-cheol	M	43	Hyesan, Yanggang Province	Driver	November 1999	Unknown
Kim Gwang-jin	M	24	Buyun District, Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	Student	March 2000	Unknown
Noh Young-ki	M	37	Hyesan, Yanggang Province	Unknown	March 2000	Unknown
Ahn Sung-chul	M	16	Ontan Workers' District, Onseong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Student	December 2001	Unknown
Kim Young-chun	F	36	Sinheung-gun, South Hamgyong Province	Laborer at the Sinheung Machinery Factory	February 2000	Unknown
Son Gi-bok	M	43	Wawodo District, Nampo, South Pyongan Province	Crew member of the "Jeonjin" ship under the Ministry of Marine Transport	September 2000	Unknown
Yu Jong-cheol	M	37	Nampo	Laborer of the Forestry Mission stationed in Russia	December 2000	Unknown
Kim Chul-min	M	35	Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province	None	2000	Unknown
Cha Jeong-cheol	M	27	Unknown	KPA Soldier	June 2003	Unknown

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Jeon Man-su	M	44	Seungho District, Pyongyang	Staff at the Seungho Cement Factory in Pyongyang	April 2000	Unknown
Noh Gwang-cheol	M	37	Namyang Workers' District, Onseong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	None	September 2001	Unknown
Kim Seung-cheol	M	35	Musan, North Hamgyong Province	Test engineer at Musan Station	July 2001	Unknown
Eom Yong-yeon	M	45	Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province	Driver at the Hoeryong Hotel	November 1999	Unknown
Kim Nam-cheol	M	36	Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	None	March 2000	Unknown
Yang Myung-sung	M	22	Unknown	Laborer in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province	September 2003	Unknown
Lee Chun-ki	M	48	Unknown	Laborer in Gyeongseong County, North Hamgyong Province	May 2003	Unknown
Seo Jae-suk	M	42	Sansong Workers' District, Onsong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Agricultural worker	December 2003	Unknown
Lee Chul-ho	M	35	Unknown	Laborer for the Farmland Construction Group in Hoeryong City, North Hamgyong Province	February 2000	Unknown
Lee Eun-ju	F	28	Gwanhae-dong, Sinam District, Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	None	December 2000	Unknown
Seo Myung-ok	F	38	Namyang Workers' District, Onseong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Telephone operator at the Namyang Telecommunication Office	December 2001	Unknown
Kim Young-suk	F	48	Daedong-gun, South Pyongan Province	Housewife	September 2000	Unknown
Ham Sun-jeong	F	25	Unknown	Laborer at the Deokcheon Coal Mine in Deokcheon-gun, South Pyongan Province	February 2002	Unknown
Park Myung-hee	F	35	Songpyeong District, Cheongjin, North Hamgyong Province	Housewife	November 1999	Unknown
Lee Geum-nam	F	35	Dancheon, South Hamgyong Province	Housewife	December 1999	Unknown
Kang Mi-sook	F	35	Bongsan-gun, North Hwanghae Province	None	November 1999	Unknown
Unknown (Kang Mi-sook's mother)	F	56	Unknown	Housewife	November 1999	Unknown
Hwang Mi-ran	F	38	Unknown	Housewife	January 2003	Unknown
Kim Yeon-hee	F	28	Unknown	Laborer in Eundeok-gun, North Hamgyong Province	January 2004	Unknown

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Kim Kyung-ok	F	28	Unknkown	Laborer in Eundeok-gun, North Hamgyong Province	January 2004	Unknown
Cho Sung-hye	F	35	Eundeok-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Housewife	February 2004	Unknown
Bang Eun-suk	F	39	Eundeok-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Housewife	January 2004	Unknown
Kim Guk-hwa	F	Un-known	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yu Sung-geum	F	24	Unknown	Laborer at the Musan Mine in North Hamgyong Province	November 2002	Unknown
Heo Eun-sook	F	35	Songpyeong District, Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	Housewife	February 2004	Unknown
Bang Geum-seon	F	42	Eundeok-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Housewife	April 2004	Unknown
Jeon Young-sook	F	58	Pyeongseong, South Pyongan Province	Housewife	May 2004	Unknown
Kim Chun-ok	F	60	Anju, South Pyongan Province	Housewife	April 2004	Unknown
Kim Seong-hee	F	30	Unknown	Laborer in the Seong Cheongang District, Hamheung, South Hamgyong Province	May 2004	Unknown
(50) Kim Hye-ok	F	28	Unknown	Laborer in Uiju-gun, North Pyongan Province	June 2004	Unknown
Kim Hye-young	F	30	Unknown	Laborer in the Fishing Department in Sinpo, South Hamgyong Province	July 2004	Unknown
Woo Mok-lan	F	25	Unknkown	Laborer in a pottery factory	January 2005	Unknown
Kim Sun-hee (2nd generation Korean Japanese)	F	40	Unknown	Instructor at the Korean Children's Union of the Ohsandeok People's School (elementary school) in Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province		Unknown
Kim Young-soon	F	28	Unknown	Laborer in the Musan Mine, North Hamgyong Province	January 2004	Unknown
Lee Gwang-myung	M	25	Unknown	Farmer in Musan	February 2002	Unknown
Park Kyung-soo	M	50	Pyongyang	Director of the KWP 414 Liaison Office	June 2000	Unknown
Kim Jong-min	M	48	Pyongyang	Instructor at the KWP 414 Liaison Office	June 2000	Unknown
Ahn Won-kil	M	50	Nampo	Secretary for Seo Yun-seok, a Chief Secretary of the Party Committee in South Pyongan Province	May 2002	Unknown

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Kim Young-gil	M	43	Ganggye, Jagang Province	Sports instructor of the Eighth Division, People's Security Forces	March 2000	Unknown
Kim Chang-wan	M	40	Pyongyang	Instructor at the Second Division of the SSD and interpreter for the North Korean mission to the UN until 1999	August 2001	Unknown
Kim Sung-joon	M	40	Deokcheon, South Pyongan Province	Instructor at the Second Division of the SSD	May 2001	Unknown
Park Sun-hyup	M	58	Hamheung, South Hamgyong Province	Chief of a construction material company in Hamheung	April 2000	Unknown
Kim Eun-ho	M	52	Yeonggwang-gun, South Pyongan Province	Director of the Ministry of Trade	March 2000	Unknown
Yeom Jun-shik	M	60	Pihyeon-gun, North Pyongan Province	Laborer	July 2000	Unknown
Hwang Jong-ho	M	47	Unknown	Medical doctor in the First Aid Division of the Municipal People's Hospital, Kaesong	November 1999	Unknown (released after 3 years of detention)
Shin Young-sook	F	38	Sinpo, South Hamgyong Province	Announcer at the Sinpo Fishery Department	November 1999	Unknown
Cho Cheol-shik	M	48	Unknown	Instructor at the Business Management Office in Pyongyang	September 2002	Unknown
Kim Ran-young	F	35	Unknown	Laborer in Onseong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	May 2004	Unknown
Shim Cheol-ho (Son of Shim Chang-han, a former Minister of People's Security)	M	42	Pyongyang	Vice Minister of the Ministry of Information and Communication	September 2001	Alive and the incumbent Minister of Information and Communication
Kim Seung-gon	M	44	Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province	Chief of the MPAF Reconnaissance Division	February 2000	Alive
Maeng Gyung-nam	M	43	Jeongju, North Pyongan Province	MPAF Foreign Business Division	May 2000	Alive
Kim Gwang-shik	M	46	Pyongyang	Secretary of the North Korean Embassy in Australia	May 2000	Unknown
Kim Seok-cheol	M	40	Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province	Colonel of the KPA Reconnaissance Division	June 2000	Unknown
Kang	M	62	Daeam District, Nampo	Director of the MPS in Daeam District	October 2000	Unknown
Cho Seok-cheon	M	65	Pyongyang	Director of the SSD in charge of the Ministry of Railways	September 2001	Unknown
Jang Chi-eok	M	44	Nampo	Preliminary Judge of the Preliminary Investigation Department of the MPS in Nampo	October 2000	Unknown

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Han	M	59	Ryonggang-gun, South Pyongan Province	Vice Director of the People's Safety Ministry in Ryonggang-gun	October 2000	Unknown
Yoo Soon-cheol	M	44	Nampo	Preliminary Judge of the Preliminary Investigation Department of the MPS in Ryonggang-gun	November 2000	Unknown
Park Myung-cheol	M	40	Nampo	Official of the Resident Registration Department of the MPS in Ryonggang-gun	October 2000	Unknown
Kim Bong-seon	F	65	Pyongyang	SSD Vice Director of the Conspiracy Research Office	December 2001	Unknown
Yeom Jeong-je	M	52	Hyesan, Yanggang Province	Chief Prosecutor of Morangbong District, Pyongyang	February 2000	Alive
Kim Yun-sik	M	52	Pyongyang	Chief Prosecutor of Jung District, Pyongyang	February 2000	Alive
Kang Hak-geun	M	67	Pyongyang	Chief Prosecutor of Sosong District, Pyongyang	February 2000	Alive
Shim Eun-taek	M	65	Gapsan-gun, Yanggang Province	Yanggang Province Chief Prosecutor	November 2000	Alive
Kim Byung-nam	M	66	Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	Organizational Secretary of the Party in Yanggang Province	February 2000	Alive
Jang Chun-kwon	M	66	Gangdong-gun, South Pyongan Province	Brigade Commander of the Seventh Division in the People's Security Forces	November 1999	Alive
Lee Myung-ho	M	68	Hwangju, North Hwanghae Province	Political Director of the SSD, the Forestry Mission to Russia	November 1999	Alive
Kang Young-seon	M	45	Nampo	Agent of the SSD in Nampo	February 2000	Alive
Kim Cheol-jun (Son of the Vice Director of the General Bureau of Reconnaissance)	M	43	Pyongyang	Representative of the Civil Aviation of North Korea Mission to Russia	September 2001	Alive
Choi Young-kil	M	50	Pyongyang	Instructor at the Yukyung Branch Office of the Chosun Pyongyang Trade Company	November 1999	Alive
Ahn Chang-nam	M	51	Ganggye, Jagang Province	Director of the Justice Department in the KWP Central Committee	November 1999	Alive
Lee Myung-hak	M	36	Hamheung	Laborer in the No. 66 Company in South Hamgyong Province	October 2001	Unknown
Kim Jong-seok	M	60	Pyeongseong, South Pyongan Province	President of the Seokyung Trading Company affiliated with the FAD in the KWP Central Committee	February 2000	Unknown
Unknown	M	59	Unknown	Director of the SSD in Rangnang District, Pyongyang	September 2002	Unknown

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Han Myung-cheol	M	58	Unknown	Director of the MPS	May 2004	Unknown
Cha Bok-soon	F	58	Pyongyang	Manager of Buheung Company's Pyongyang Branch of the Second Economic Committee, which deals with the military economy	November 1999	Unknown
Cho Bong-ae	F	42	Unknown	Office worker in the business center in Suncheon, South Pyongan Province	September 2000	Unknown
Yun Yang-kwon	M	54	Nampo	Counselor of the Trade Representative in France	November 1999	Alive
Jang Pa	M	40	Chongam District, Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	None	March 2000	Unknown
Kang Chul-ho	M	39	Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province	Instructor at the Trade Division in North Pyongan Province	February 2000	Alive
Park Soo-hyun	M	45	Musan, North Hamgyong Province	Miner in the Musan Mine	November 1999	Unknown
Kim Cheol-yong	M	38	Hyesan, Yanggang Province	Interpreter at the Trade Division in Yanggang Province	November 2000	Unknown
Kim Gwang-ho	M	44	Hamheung, South Hamgyong Province	Instructor in Division 2 of the MPS	September 1999	Unknown
Park Si-ae	F	38	Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang	Choreographer at the Pyongyang Students' and Children's Palace	February 2000	Unknown
Kwak Gwang-ho	M	40	Dongmyung-dong, Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province	None	June 2000	Died of malnutrition
Kim Jeong-soo	M	38	Chollima District, Nampo	Vice Director of the Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League in the Chollima District	February 2000	Unknown
Yeom Young-cheol	M	38	Chollima District, Nampo	Chair of the Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League of the City Construction Office in Chollima District	February 2000	Unknown
Jang Gwang-ok	F	35	Chollima District, Nampo	Housewife	February 2000	Unknown
Kim Young-hwa	F	35	Chollima District, Nampo	Housewife	February 2000	Unknown
Goh Eun-hee	F	24	Chollima District, Nampo	Laborer at the City Construction Business Center	February 2000	Unknown
Kim Ik-soo	M	58	Japan	Instructor at the Maebong Trade Company in the General Staff of the MPAF	February 2000	Unknown
Kim Deok-won	M	55	Japan	Instructor at the Weolmyungsan Trading Company in the KWP Central Committee	November 2000	Unknown
Kim Yun-gil	M	43	Unknown	Senior Officer at the Food Supply Office in Pyongyang	February 2000	Unknown

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Kim Jong-myung	M	46	Unknown	Engineer at the Communication Maintenance Bureau in Pyongyang	February 2000	Unknown
Kim Young-il	M	48	Unknown	Agent of KWP Office 35	February 2000	Unknown
Jin Cheol-kwon	M	25	Kaesong	Unknown	November 2000	Unknown
Kim Il-hyun	M	40	Kimchaek, North Hamgyong Province	Miner at the Musan Mine	December 1999	Escaped from North Korea
Kim Yeol-mo	M	58	Unknown	Colonel of the KPA	September 2003	Unknown
Yu Guk-jin	M	55	Kimchaek, North Hamgyong Province	Director of Foreign Affairs, SSD in North Hamgyong Province	February 2000	Released in February 2002
Jang Hyun-soo	M	48	Unknown	Laborer for the Forestry Business Center in Russia	May 2003	In South Korea
Shin Jeong-ae (Japanese-Korean)	F	50	Unknown	Housewife	April 2000	In the U.S.
Kim Young-cheol	M	43	Pyongyang	Instructor at the Mankyungbong 92, Division No. 2 in the SSD	May 2001	Unknown
Cheon Chang-hee	M	35	Anbyeon-gun, Kangwon Province	Squad leader at the No. 131 Instruction Division in charge of the KWP nuclear facility construction unit	November 1999	Unknown
Kim Seok-cheol	M	30	Jonchun-gun, Jagang Province	Soldier of the No. 131 Instruction Division in charge of the KWP nuclear facility construction unit	November 1999	Unknown
Yun Seong-min	M	40	Pyongyang	Vice Director of the Buheung Company of the Second Economic Committee	September 2001	Unknown
Kim Kyung-il	M	34	Saetbyul-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Programmer for the Academy of Science for Defense in Yongsung District, Pyongyang	August 2001	Unknown
Kim Sun-cheol	M	37	Unknown	Pilot of the Division 4 Air Force Headquarter, MPAF	September 2002	Unknown
Seo Chun-bo	M	55	Unknown	Manager of Division 12 in the SSD	August 2002	Unknown
Kim Hwa-soon	F	40	Unknown	Office worker at Hwadae-gun, North Hamgyong Province	January 2005	Unknown
Jeong Hyo-sook	F	40	Kaesong	Housewife	November 1999	Unknown
Huh Geum-joo	F	29	Hamheung, South Hamgyong Province	Master of Taekwondo in Hamheung	March 2000	Unknown
Huh (Father of Huh Geum-joo)	M	60	Hamheung, South Hamgyong Province	Instructor at the Machine Factory in Hamheung	March 2000	Unknown
Yang Weon-jong	M	59	Saetbyul-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Director of Counterintelligence for the SSD in Onseong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	May 2000	Unknown
Kim Jong-soo	M	51	Hwaseong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Head of the MPAF Operational Department	May 2001	Unknown

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Kim Byung-soon	M	61	North Hamgyong Province	Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs	November 1999	Released by an order of Kim Jong-il in October 2000
Kim Dong-ho	M	64	Cheongam District, Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	Chief Director of Eundeok Headquarters, which deals with gasoline for the MPAF	September 2000	Unknown
Jeong Ho	M	44	Unknown	Chief agent of the Operations Team for KWP Office 35	July 4, 2000	Released on the order of Kim Jong-il on July 4, 2002
Jung Kwang-il	M	40	China	Agent of the Operations Team for KWP Office 35	July 4, 2000	Released on the order of Kim Jong-il on July 4, 2002
Cho Chang-kil	M	42	Unknown	Agent of the Operations Team for KWP Office 35	July 4, 2000	Released on the order of Kim Jong-il on July 4, 2002
(140) Kim Guk-sung	M	60	Unknown	Agent of the Operations Team for KWP Office 35	July 4, 2000	Released on the order of Kim Jong-il on July 4, 2002
Goh Eun-kyung	M	42	Unknown	Agent of the Operations Team for KWP Office 35	July 4, 2000	Released on the order of Kim Jong-il on July 4, 2002
Yang Sang-guk	M	42	Unknown	Agent of the Operations Team for KWP Office 35	July 4, 2000	Released on the order of Kim Jong-il on July 4, 2002
Kim Myung-soo	M	48	Unknown	Agent of the Operations Team for KWP Office 35	July 4, 2000	Unknown
Kang Seok-chul	M	43	Unknown	Instructor at the KWP Liaison Office 131	October 2002	Unknown
Kim Sun-cheol	M	19	Sakju-gun, North Pyongan Province	Soldier of the Guard Command	October 2001	Unknown
Bang Young-sil	F	35	Komusan, Buryeong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Station staff member at Gilju Station	June 2000	Died of starvation

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Kim Chang-rok	M	35	Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province	None	November 1999	Died on February 16, 2000 due to diseases contracted in prison
Lee Il-nam	M	41	Unknown	Commander of Hoeryong Station, Chongjin Railway Department	June 2000	Died of malnutrition
Kim Yong-il	M	42	Nanam District, Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	Laborer at Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex	September 2000	Died of starvation
Kim Young-sil	F	25	Unknown	Worked in a propaganda team in Bocheon-gun, Yanggang Province	November 1999	Died of malnutrition in April 2000
Kim Ho-seok	M	37	Yeonsa-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Laborer in the Sangha Coal Mine in Onseong-gun	May 2001	Executed for trying to escape the camp
Cha Gwang-ho	M	65	Wonsan, Gangweon Province	Reporter for KCNA	November 1999	Died of malnutrition in December 2001
Kim Kyung-cheon	M	60	Pyongyang	Cameraman for the Central Broadcasting Committee	March 2000	Died in May 2001
Park Young-gi	M	52	Sinuiju, North Hamgyong Province	Head of the Sinuiju branch of the Birobong Trading Company under the Intelligence Department of the MPAF	November 2001	Died of malnutrition in December 2002
Kim Jong-bok	M	52	Yangdeok-gun, South Pyongan Province	Manager of the Secretariat of the People's Committee in Yangdeok-gun	March 2000	Died of malnutrition in December 2001
Kim Su-won	M	47	Juwon-ri, Onseong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Farmer in Juwon Collective Farm	June 2000	Died
Park Kyung-il	M	45	Hamheung, South Hamgyong Province	Laborer at the Heungnam Chemical Factory in Hamheung	April 2000	Died of colitis in June 2001
Choi Gwang-ho	M	47	Buryeong-gun, North Hamgyong Province	Manager of the Chemical Material Company in Buryeong-gun	April 2001	Publicly executed in the camp
Park In-shik	M	38	Pyongyang	Manager of a material management unit at a side farm affiliated with the Escort Bureau	September 2001	Died
Kim Gwang-yeon	M	32	Wonsan, Gangweon Province	Researcher at the Science Center in Pyeongseong	July 2001	Died of malnutrition in January 2002

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Jeong Hak-su	M	42	Unknown	Laborer in Gwangpo Duck Factory in Jeongpyeong-gun, South Hamgyong Province	September 2000	Died of starvation in January 2003
Kim Gwang-il	M	18	Unknown	High school student in Suncheon, South Pyongan Province	October 2002	Dragged somewhere at night with his younger brother, Kim Gwang-sik. Maybe executed or sent to a total control zone
Kim Gwang-sik (Brother of Kim Gwang-il)	M	16	Unknown	Student in Suncheon, South Pyongan Province	October 2002	Dragged somewhere at night with his older brother, Kim Gwang-il. Maybe executed or sent to a total control zone
Lee Gwang-seong	M	38	Unknown	Football player for the Provincial Sports Team, North Hamgyong Province	September 2002	Dragged somewhere at night around March 2003
Noh Chun-sam	M	27	Unknown	Mining and forestry laborer in Samjiyeon-gun, Yanggang Province	June 2000	Sent to an unknown location in August 2000
Seo Jin	M	44	Hwangju, North Hwanghae Province	Foreign Business Division of the MPAF	February 2000	Died of malnutrition in June 2002
Kim Geon-ki	M	44	Pyongyang	Foreign Business Division of the MPAF	February 2000	Died of malnutrition in 2001
Unknown	M	66	Yanggang Province	Director of the SSD in Yanggang Province	November 2000	Died of torture and beatings by the Defense Security Command in December 2000

Name	Gender	Age Upon Imprisonment	Hometown	Occupation Prior to Imprisonment	Date of Detention	Status
Song Geun-il	M	67	Pyongyang	Brigade Commander of the Seventh Division of the People's Security Forces	February 2000	Died of malnutrition in December 2001
Kim Sung-do	M	67	Hamheung, South Hamgyong Province	Chief Instructor of Division No. 2 of the SSD in Shinpo	March 2000	Dragged somewhere in 2001
Hwang Sung-jin	M	55	Wonsan, Gangweon Province	President of the Haegeum Trade Company of the MPAF	May 2001	Died of disease in detention
Han Young-tae	M	60	Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	Director of the SSD of the Haegeum Trade Company	May 2001	Died of malnutrition in 2002
Jang Myung-hwa	F	39	Hyesan, Yanggang Province	Reconnaissance Division of the MPAF	April 2000	Died of malnutrition in April 2003
Kim Geun-chil	M	38	Jeoncheon-gun, Jagang Province	Shoe repairman in Ganggye, Jagang Province	November 2001	Died of malnutrition
Kim Gwang-nam	M	38	Hoeryeong, North Hamgyong Province	Laborer at the Hoeryong Station	April 2000	Died of malnutrition in June 2002
Joo Il	M	50	Hamheung, South Hamgyong Province	Violinist in the Merits Chorus of the MPAF	May 2001	Died of malnutrition in March 2002
Kim Young-jun	M	35	Cheongam District, Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province	Engineer at Chongjin Station	July 2001	Died of malnutrition on June 21, 2002
Oh Kyung-hwan	M	56	Unknown	Instructor at Division 2 of the SSD	December 1999	Died of malnutrition in December 2000
Yun Young-cheol (Korean-Japanese)	M	56	Japan	Dalian Branch Chief of the Baekyang Company in the MPAF	December 2000	Died of malnutrition in 2002
Jang Ki-bok	M	51	Dancheon, South Hamgyong Province	Chief of Investigation of the SSD in Hoeryong	January 2001	Died of malnutrition in August 2001
Kim Sang-cheol	M	27	Unknown	Soldier	June 2000	Died of malnutrition in 2002

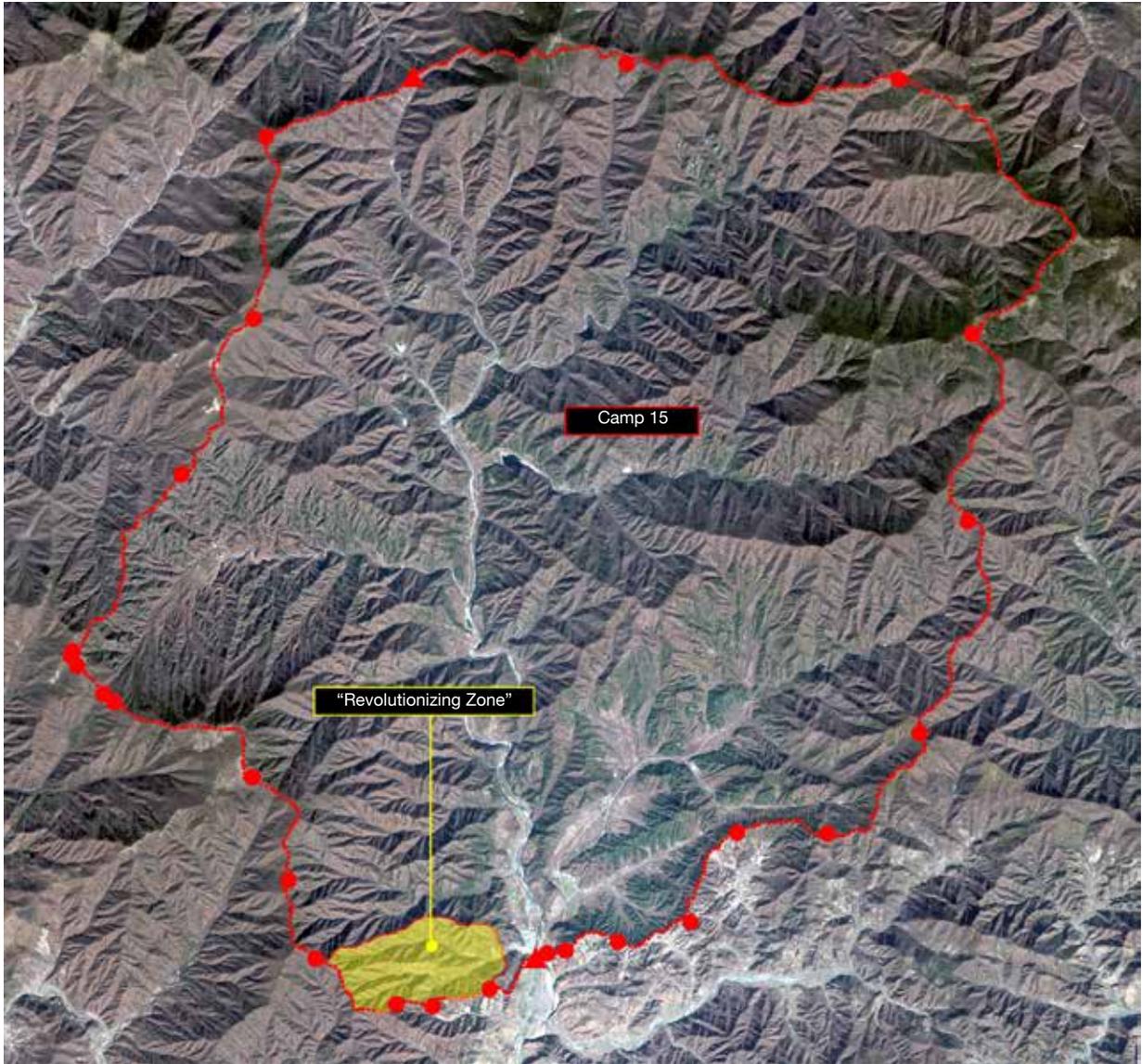
IX. SATELLITE IMAGERY OF THE PRISON CAMPS



*Google Earth © 2015 DigitalGlobe
Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Jongo-ri in 2008 (before the addition of a women's section)*



*Google Earth © 2015 CNES/Astrium
Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Jongo-ri in 2013 (after the addition of a women's section)*



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Sorimchon Location within Kwan-li-so No. 15



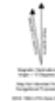
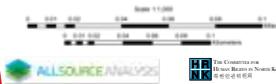
NORTH KOREA'S CAMP 15 REVOLUTIONIZING ZONE



September 22, 2009

In partnership with the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (CHRN), AllSource Analytics, Inc. has been monitoring activity in prisoner detention facilities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Much information is shared on North Korea's website to highlight human suffering in North Korea.

Chief Analysts Officer - Joseph S. Bortolucci Jr., Chief Investigator Officer - Andy Daniels, SOI/CI Analyst - Mike Day



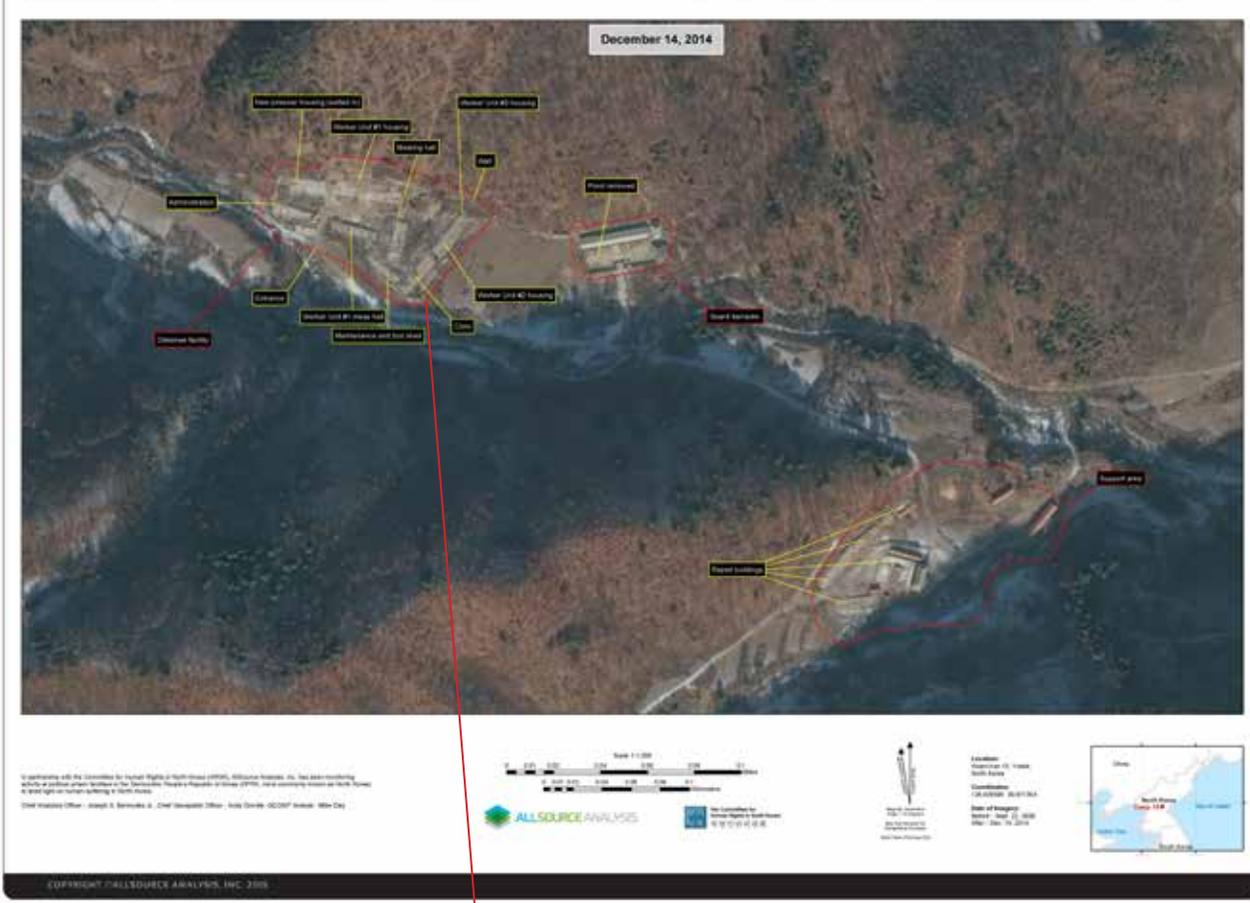
Coordinates: 39 47' 13.04" N, 125 03' 00.00" E
 Date of Imagery: 09/22/2009
 Altitude: 14.2014



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Sorimchon Section of Kwan-li-so No. 15 in 2009



*Sorimchon Section of Kwan-li-so No. 15 in 2014
(showing demolition of prisoner residence and work units)*