North Korea

Flooding at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jŏngŏ-ri

Joseph S. Bermudez Jr. and Greg Scarlatoiu
China

South Korea

Kyo-hwa-so No. 12
Jŏngŏ-ri
(42.209410 N, 129.755100 E)
**North Korea: Flooding at Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jōngō-ri**

The recent flooding in the northeast province of Hamgyŏng-bukto, North Korea, as a result of Typhoon Lionrock, has highlighted the vulnerability of this remote section of the nation to natural disasters. This vulnerability has been exacerbated by the historically limited resources expended on civil infrastructure in this area by the central government in Pyongyang. Although the government has responded, the scope is so large that North Korea has made public the extent of the disaster and is soliciting assistance from the international community.

While the vulnerability of the average citizen in this remote section of North Korea is amply demonstrated by North Korean media, what has, of course, not been addressed is the even more acute vulnerability of prisoners held in the North’s notorious kwan-li-so and kyo-hwa-so prison camp system—specifically, Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jōngō-ri, located south of Hoeryŏng City.

Run by the North Hamgyong Provincial Bureau, under the Prisons Bureau of the North Korean Ministry of People’s Security, Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jōngō-ri is located about 490 km northeast of the capital city of Pyongyang, and approximately 25 km south of Hoeryŏng City. It consists of two primary facilities: a walled prison facility commonly known as “Jongo-ri,” and a copper mine situated in a small branch valley a short distance south of the prison facility. The walled prison facility measures approximately 188 meters by 128 meters (205 yards by 139 yards), encompasses 2,360 hectares (28,230 square yards), and is encased by three-meter-high walls, four elevated guard positions, and two exterior entrances. Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 prison population estimates have ranged from 1,300 in the late 1990s to about 5,000 in recent years.
North Korea: Flooding at Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jŏngŏ-ri

Recent satellite imagery acquired by DigitalGlobe highlights the effects of flooding on this remote prison facility. The camp is located at the confluence of two small streams that have overflowed their banks and have reached several agricultural support buildings and housing areas. The only road into the camp appears to be flooded in at least two locations, which most certainly inhibits access and the delivery of supplies to the camp's population. Due to this flooding, wider and new channels have been cut that are impacting nearby agricultural fields resulting in crop loss. This crop loss may have exacerbated the already severe food shortage for prisoners in the camp. Furthermore, the water level in the waste pond from the nearby copper mine has risen. Satellite imagery indicates that water runoff from the copper mill is also polluting at least one stream. This, in turn, raises the concern for possible health issues for persons living and working along the stream.

The vulnerability of Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 prisoners to flood damage is a stark reminder of the need for a UN Human Rights Up Front (HRuF) approach to humanitarian assistance in North Korea. Introduced by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the end of 2013, HRuF calls for a UN system wide strategy when serious violations of human rights are found in a country. All UN agencies and offices are expected to become involved to advance human rights on the ground, provide candid information, and develop a common UN system for information.

The damage and urgent need for humanitarian assistance caused by Typhoon Lionrock serves as an opportunity to implement the HRuF approach. As a result, it is essential that humanitarian agencies integrate the principles of non-discrimination in the distribution of food and other services into their programs and obtain access to the most vulnerable persons—in this case, those in the kwan-li-so and kyo-hwa-so prison camps. UN agencies and international NGOs disbursing emergency humanitarian assistance to North Korea must seek ways to include detention facilities in the scope of their disaster assessments and interventions. Every effort must be made to ensure that prisoners in Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 receive aid.
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 more than thirty 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 actively involved in all stages of the process supporting the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry. In the past five years, HRNK has been invited numerous times to provide expert testimony before the U.S. Congress.

For media inquiries, please contact Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu at +1 202.499.7973 or by e-mail at executive.director@hrnk.org.

AllSource Analysis, Inc. helps customers by focusing on what’s most important—changes that directly impact their organizations. Our team of professional imagery, geospatial and open source research analysts are backed by direct access to the satellite imagery collections from numerous providers of sub-meter resolution imagery. AllSource Analysis keeps a constant eye on the world to provide early insights into the business, market, military and political changes that impact people around the world.

Questions or comments concerning AllSource Analysis can be sent to info@allsourcedata.com. Images in this report may be color-corrected for the purpose of publication.

Indemnity: You will indemnify, defend, and hold harmless AllSource Analysis, Inc. and its subsidiaries, affiliates and subcontractors, and their respective owners, officers, directors, employees and agents, from and against any and all direct or indirect claims, damages, losses, liabilities, expenses, and costs (including reasonable attorneys fees) arising from or out of:

(1) Your use of the Product for any purpose; (2) Your actual or alleged breach of any provision of this Agreement; or (3) damage to property or injury to or death of any person directly or indirectly caused by You. AllSource Analysis, Inc. will provide You with notice of any such claim or allegation, and AllSource Analysis, Inc. has the right to participate in the defense of any such claim at its expense.