



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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Press Release

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON AGENDA ITEM 64:
"PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS" TO THE
THIRD COMMITTEE, 63rd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 29 OCTOBER 2008

Mr. Chairman,

Human rights is one of the most important issues directly linked to the world peace, security and development.

Wars, armed conflicts, national disputes and confrontation between civilizations that occur in different parts of the world give rise to gross violation of human rights.

The most serious violation of human rights is the acts of aggression and war causing deaths of innocent people, social chaos and poverty, as a consequence of indiscriminate use of all types of modern military equipments.

Nevertheless, such inhumane acts are totally ignored when discussing the human rights issues, which preposterous indeed.

It is none other than those countries, which kill innocent people at their disposal by force of arms under the pretext of a "war on terror", but are claiming about the protection

of human rights more than anyone else at the international human rights fora. Even at this time, innocent people including children and women are falling into victims of a US-led "war on terror" in Iraq, Afghanistan and the occupied territory of Palestine.

The reality proves that a sure guarantee for the promotion and protection of human rights lies in safeguarding state sovereignty and ensuring social security and stability. Without stability, there can be neither development nor human rights protection. For this reason, aggression and war, among others, should be put to an end, if human rights are to be protected and promoted in real terms.

Equally important is to get rid of the practices of politicization and double standard in dealing with human rights issues.

The human rights issue is not for a monopoly within the prerogative of certain countries or a group of countries, and no can there be a "judge" and the "accused" in the international human rights arena.

It is self evident that no unilateral or specific standard for dealing with human rights is acceptable to this world of different ideologies and systems, different histories and traditions and cultural diversities. This notwithstanding, a few western countries are resorting to a selective accusation of developing countries disobedient to their own value, thereby extremely politicizing the human rights issue. The typical example of such practices is their presentation and forcible adoption of a country-specific "resolution" in this committee. As we are well aware, the universal periodic review mechanism is now in full operation, and nonetheless, a politically motivated "resolution" on a specific country is presented even today, aggravating the confrontation among countries and giving an adverse effect to the international efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights.

In this connection, it is recalled that the final document adopted at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of NAM in Teheran last July pointed out "the Ministers expressed their deep concern over the continuation of the practice of selective adoption of country-specific resolutions in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, which breaches the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in addressing human rights issues

which undermine cooperation as the essential principle to effectively promote and protect all universally recognized human rights for all.”

What is also important in dealing with human rights issue is to properly resolve the past crimes.

Measures are being taken by some countries to make an apology and reparation for the human rights violations committed in their own and other countries under their colonial rule in the past.

However, only Japan refuses to honestly apologize and reparate for its grave violation of human rights committed in Korea. The Japanese government does not still recognize a state responsibility for the massacre of 1 million people, abduction of 8.4 million Koreans and 200,000 “comfort women” for the Japanese imperial army, avoiding state reparation for the victims. To make matters worse, human rights violations and suppression are openly committed even today against the Koreans residing in Japan.

There can be no future for Japan without thorough liquidation of its past crimes as well as comprehension of the reality.

Mr. Chairman,

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea will continue to be guided by the man-centered Juche idea and further strengthen and develop its own style of socialist system that guarantees genuine life and human rights of the people, while making positive contributions to the international efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights.