

Ambassador Yi Xianliang
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Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the forced repatriation of North Korean refugees.

Your Excellency, North Korean escapees face harsh penalties in North Korea. Once North Koreans leave their country, they are regarded as traitors by the government. North Korean border patrols focus especially on those who have been in contact with Christian organizations or missionaries, and they are in great danger once returned. When repatriated, many are imprisoned, tortured, sent to labour camps, or even executed for "traitorous behaviour".

I am disappointed to hear that the Chinese government does not consider North Korean defectors as refugees and thereby deprives them a chance to pass safely through to a third country. When North Koreans are not recognised as refugees and forcibly repatriated their rights under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees and its 1967 Protocol are violated. I hope that Chinese authorities will be more compassionate and gracious in their treatment of North Korean escapees.

I, therefore, humbly petition your intervention to ensure that:

- North Korean refugees are allowed to safely pass through China to a third country;
- forced repatriation policy of North Korean refugees is immediately halted in accordance with China's obligations under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees;
- Chinese government acknowledges North Korean escapees as refugees, not as illegal economic immigrants.

I thank you in advance for using your influence as ambassador and conveying this message to the relevant authorities in your home country.

Yours sincerely,