Resolution on the human rights situation in North Korea, including the persecution of religious minorities

2022/2620(RSP) - 07/04/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in North Korea, including the persecution of religious minorities.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, the Left groups and Members.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) remains one of the most repressive countries in the world. The government does not allow any political opposition, free and fair elections, free media, religious freedom, freedom of association, collective bargaining or freedom of movement and therefore does not respect the principle of the rule of law.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has been used by the DPRK to further isolate the country from the outside world, resulting in exacerbated entrenched human rights violations and a negative impact on its people's health.

Parliament reiterated its strong condemnation of the decades-long state repression exercised in a systematic manner by the present and past Supreme Leaders and administration of the DPRK. It called on Kim Jong-un to stop the policy of extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence, persecution on political, religious, racial and gender grounds, the forcible transfer of populations, the enforced disappearance of persons, the inhumane act of knowingly causing prolonged starvation and the institutionalised impunity for the perpetrators of these acts.

The resolution also called on the DPRK to:

- declare a moratorium on all executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty in the near future;

- put an end to extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances;

- release political prisoners and allow its citizens to travel freely, both within and outside the country;

- allow free expression and press freedom for the national and international media, and allow its citizens uncensored access to the internet;

- ensure access for all citizens to food and humanitarian assistance on the basis of need, in accordance with humanitarian principles;

- cease all violence against religious minorities and to grant them the right of freedom of religion and belief, the right of association and the right of freedom of expression;

- stop its state-sponsored forced labour programme under which foreign countries have benefited from tens of thousands of North Korean labourers under precarious conditions, generating hard currency to help maintain the regime;

- work with international organisations, including the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) initiative, to ensure the timely delivery and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to its people;

- abandon its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

The resolution encouraged the Chinese and Russian governments not to deny North Korean refugees who cross the border into China and Russia their right to seek asylum or to forcibly return them to North Korea, but to protect their fundamental human rights.

Lastly, Parliament encouraged the EU and the Member States to develop a **strategy complementing the EU's sanctions regime**, in line with the EU's Global strategy, and taking into account the resumption of the political dialogue with North Korea when the time is ripe, with a view to integrating human rights, denuclearisation and peace initiatives into its engagement with the DPRK.