Resolution on human rights in North Korea

2006/2581(RSP) - 15/06/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 68 votes to 2, with 1 abstention, a resolution on human rights in North Korea.

The resolution was tabled by ALDE, EPP-ED, PES, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL and IND/DEM groups.

Recalling the serious shortcomings in terms of human rights in this country and the fact that the government of the DPRK continues to deny numerous international organisations responsible for verifying compliance with human rights access to its territory, the Parliament calls on the country to:

- comply with the principles set out in the international human rights treaties it has ratified (such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and incorporate these principles into domestic law;
- **abolish the death penalty**;
- release all people detained or imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights;
- guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of movement for all North Koreans;
- review existing legislation to introduce safeguards to provide citizens with protections and remedies against human rights violations.

The Parliament also calls on the DPRK to not execute certain people who have been convicted due solely to their religious beliefs (for example, Mr Son Jong Nam) and calls on the North Korean authorities to allow religious believers to meet freely for worship.

Moreover, the Parliament, which welcomes the agreement between the World Food Programme and the government of the DPRK to support 1.9 million of the most vulnerable people, urges the government of the DPRK to end discrimination in its distribution of food in favour of high-ranking Workers' Party officials and military, intelligence and police officers.

Lastly, the Parliament calls on the government of the DPRK to hand over finally and completely all information on the citizens of South Korea and Japan who were abducted during recent decades, and to release immediately those abductees still being held in the country.