

NORTH KOREA

It is estimated that 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners are currently in North Korea's network of political prison camps. No verifiable statistics are available concerning religious prisoners. Some foreign evangelists have been arrested and sentenced to prison terms. They were released after negotiations between Pyongyang and the relevant countries. North Korea does not release arrested South Korean citizens.

Protestants

Pastor Kim Kuk GI

Date and place of arrest: In late 2014

Charges: Espionage

Statement of the defendant: He claims he was carrying out missionary work among North Korean defectors in Dandong, China.

Last court decision: In June 2015, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in a hard labour camp by the North Korean Supreme Court.

Other information: He is a South Korean Presbyterian pastor.

Source: https://www.releaseinternational.org/media/download_gallery/PP_Kim_Kuk-gi_July%202015.pdf , <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/3/26/s-korea-demands-release-of-pair-north-accuses-of-spying.html> , <http://bit.ly/1RAtVLz>

Pastor Choe Chun GIL

Date and place of arrest: In late 2014, at the Chinese border city of Dandong.

Charges: Espionage

Last court decision: In June 2015, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in a hard labour camp by the North Korean Supreme Court.

Other information: He is a South Korean pastor.

Source: https://www.releaseinternational.org/media/download_gallery/PP_Kim_Kuk-gi_July%202015.pdf , <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/3/26/s-korea-demands-release-of-pair-north-accuses-of-spying.html> , <http://bit.ly/1RAtVLz>

Pastor Hyeon Soo LIM

Age: 60 years

Place of residence: Toronto, Canada

Charges: Harming the dignity of the supreme leadership, trying to use religion to destroy the North Korean system, disseminating negative propaganda about the North to the overseas Koreans, and helping U.S. and South Korean authorities lure and abduct North Korean citizens, along with aiding their programs to assist defectors from the North.

Last court decision: In December 2015 he was sentenced to life imprisonment and hard labour.

Date of release: On 9th August 2017 he was released ‘on sick bail’

Other information: He is from Canada, and was invited to come to Pyongyang on 31st January 2015 and has gone missing since. It was confirmed in early March 2015 that he was and still is being detained by North Korean authorities. Canadian officials were able to visit him in April 2016, and are making efforts to free him. They are concerned for his health and well-being.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1mwbyPr> , <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/canadian-pastor-north-korea-1.3528389> , <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/10/asia/hyeon-soo-lim-canadian-pastor-north-korea-interview/> , <http://huff.to/1QFviIB>

Kim Jeong-WOOK

Age: 50 years

Date and place of arrest: On 7th October 2013

Charges: Attempting to overthrow the government by spying and setting up underground churches

Last court decision: On 30th May 2014, he was sentenced to hard labour for life.

Other information: He is a South Korean Baptist missionary who participated in helping defectors leave North Korea.

Source: https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/06/article_3192106.html/ , <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/02/27/world/asia/north-korea-south-korean-detained/>