

A North Korean refugee under threat of deportation from Paris to Pyongyang

Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l (Brussels) and the French Committee for Help to the North Korean Population (Paris) strongly urge the French government NOT to deport a North Korean refugee to the worst dictatorship in the world

HRWF Int'l (10.12.2014) – According to an official document dated 29th August 2014 that StreetPress has managed to obtain, the prefecture of Paris plans to deport a North Korean refugee, to his country of origin if he does not leave France within 30 days.

Mr C. was almost 30 when he arrived in France in 2013. Not knowing a single word of French, he started the complicated procedure of asking for political asylum from the OFPRA (French Office of Protection of Refugees and Apatrids) with the help of France Terre d'Asile. In May 2014, the Office rejected his request. Without raising any issue, the Prefecture of Paris automatically drafted an order of deportation if he does not leave the country and go back to the country he is a citizen of, North Korea.

At the end of November, he was caught by the police of Finistère and put in a "retention center". He was then in possession of a Mongol passport but the whole interview took place in Korean with an interpreter speaking that language. It is then decided to deport him but the procedure is interrupted by the judge in charge of freedoms and detention who rules that he should be released because of a legal flaw on another issue. During his detention, the refugee has introduced a new asylum request. The threat of deportation is not over. Yesterday, France's National Assembly started examining a draft law aiming at reducing the duration of the asylum procedure and simplify it.

Last month, France was involved in another human rights issue concerning North Korea. A North Korean college student in Paris had been missing since the beginning of November amid speculation that agents from the North might have attempted to forcibly take him back to the communist nation. The student, only identified by his surname Han, is a son of an aide to Jang Song-thaek, the once powerful uncle of the North's leader Kim Jong-un. Jang was executed in December last year on treason charges. Han's father is known to have been purged recently as part of the Kim regime's continued work to clear the remnants of the Jang era.

On 18th November, the U.N. General Assembly committee dealing with human rights passed a resolution calling for the U.N. Security Council to consider referring North Korea to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity.