

## 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](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/1RAatVLz>

#### **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](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/1RAatVLz>

#### **Kim Jeong-WOOK**

**Age:** 50 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013

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

**Last court decision:** On 30<sup>th</sup> 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/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/06/article_3192106.html/) ,  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/02/27/world/asia/north-korea-south-korean-detained/>