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Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korean Political Prisons

Call for Submissions

The War Crimes Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA),* with support from the IBA North America office in Washington, D.C., will conduct an **Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korean Political Prisons**. This Inquiry is an *unofficial and independent* follow-on to the [U.N. Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea \("COI"\)](#). The Inquiry's mandate is far narrower than the COI, in that it will focus strictly on alleged crimes against humanity in North Korean political prisons. In addition to bringing greater international attention to alleged crimes against humanity being committed in these prisons, the main goal of the Inquiry is to provide the international community with a preview of the challenges associated with prosecuting individuals for committing such crimes. These crimes, many of them chronicled in the COI Report, include: "extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape and other grave sexual violence and persecution on political, religious and gender grounds." (See U.N. Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, Paragraph 1033, U.N. Doc A/HRC/25/63 (7 February 2014)).

The public dimension of the Inquiry will take the form of an all-day hearing on 8 December 2016, in Washington, D.C. Three highly respected international Judges with experience adjudicating cases involving crimes against humanity will oversee the day-long proceedings. They will receive written evidence compiled by the IBA War Crimes Committee and the IBA's North America office. Additionally, they will hear live testimony from (1) defectors with firsthand knowledge of North Korean political prisons, and (2) experts on North Korean political prisons and the penal system. Both oral and written evidence will be presented by Counsel with years of experience litigating cases before the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other tribunals. The Judges will

* The [International Bar Association \(IBA\)](#) is the world's leading organization of legal practitioners, bar associations, and law societies. As a global advocate for human rights and the rule of law, the IBA has published written works, conducted conferences, and provided guidance on myriad rule of law and human rights challenges around the globe.

issue a report of their findings within 60 days of the proceedings.

Submissions: NGOs, human rights organizations, members of the legal profession, academics, government officials, and members of the general public are hereby invited to submit information that might have probative value with regards to past, or the continued commission of, crimes against humanity in North Korean political prisons. All evidence must be submitted by **1 November, 2016**, and must include contact details for the individual or entity submitting the evidence.

The information submitted must address one of the topics below:

- The North Korean penal system, with a focus on (1) the physical and organizational structure of North Korean prison camps, and (2) the nature of communications (e.g., directives) between regime officials on the one hand, and individuals charged with operating the prison camps on the other, regardless of their position (e.g., prison director, low-level prison guard).
- The treatment of political prisoners, including the frequency and severity of punishments to which prisoners are subjected.

Acceptable information shall include, but is not limited to:

- Videos
- Documentaries of varying lengths
- Recordings
- Photographs (including satellite photos)
- Written and oral reports
- Scholarly writings
- Interviews
- Testimony

Due to resource constraints, we regret that all submissions must be in ENGLISH. (Note: If submissions should be treated *confidentially*, the individual or entity making the submission should make that clear. If only a portion of the submission should be treated as confidential, we respectfully request that this be clearly denoted.)



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Submissions sent via postal mail should be addressed as follows:

Political Prison Inquiry - North Korea
International Bar Association, North America Office
1667 K St. NW, Suite 1230
Washington, D.C. 20006

Submissions sent via e-mail should be directed to Mr. Rolands Bogdanovs at Rolands.Bogdanovs@int-bar.org.

Submissions sent via facsimile should be directed to Mr. Rolands Bogdanovs at: +1 (202) 733-5657.