

Public executions by North Korea is another injustice

7 March 2008, 12:32PM

We condemn the North Korean authorities for executing 15 people in public for illegally crossing the border with China. A North Korean official reportedly said that 13 women and two men were shot dead in the town of Onseong in late February "to send a warning to people", according to South Korean NGO, Good Friends.

Due to chronic food shortages, many North Koreans have little choice but to risk the dangerous journey to China in order to access food and other essential supplies.

"Tens of thousands of North Koreans have been forced to flee their country to avoid starvation," said Tim Parritt, Amnesty International's Deputy Program Director for Asia. "These summary executions compound other human rights violations - including arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and severe restrictions on freedom of speech - faced by some of the most desperate people in the world."

Amnesty International calls on the North Korean Government to end its policy of summary executions, and appeals to North Korea's neighbours in China and Japan to set a regional example by following the moratorium on the death penalty, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 2007.

Features & analysis



[Nigeria laid waste](#)

The 31 million people who live in Nigeria's once pristine coastal wetlands remain desperately poor despite billions worth of oil revenue.



[Xinjiang - inevitable explosion](#)

The violence in China's Xinjiang province results from attempts to strip the Uighur population of its cultural heritage.



[A symbol of defiance](#)

Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's symbol of hope, has been likened to Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and even Mahatma Gandhi.

- Copyright © Amnesty International Australia
- ABN: 640 0280 6233
- Phone: 1300 300 920
-