

Eight North Korean refugees have been detained in China since mid-March 2017. If forcibly returned, they are at risk of persecution or other serious human rights violations, such as arbitrary detention, torture or other ill-treatment, enforced disappearance and execution.

I would like to call you to stop the forced return of any person to North Korea, including this group of eight detained North Koreans. I call you to grant refugee status to those North Koreans who are entitled to it and to give them immediate access to the UNHCR. I call you to ensure the eight North Koreans are protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention and have prompt access to legal counsel of their choosing and any necessary medical treatment.

Yours sincerely,