

I am writing this to express my grave concern for nine North Korean teenagers who were reportedly detained in Laos and returned to your country. Their names are Young Won (male aged 19) Moon Chul and, JUNG Gwang Young (both male, and aged 18), LEE Gwang Hyuk, PARK Gwang Hyuk and YOO Gwang Hyuk ( all male and aged 17), RYU Chul Yong (male aged 16) JANG Hae Ri (female aged 15 and ROH Ae Ji (female, aged 14).

I would like to urge you to ensure that no one is detained or prosecuted for leaving North Korea, and that the nine North Koreans named are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, subjected to forced labour, enforced disappearance or to the death penalty.

I would also like to ask you to disclose the whereabouts of these nine persons.

Please also abolish the requirement for permission to travel internally and abroad in compliance with international obligations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,