



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release

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Statement by H.E. Mr. KIM CHANG GUK
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at the Third Committee of 60th session of the UNGA
under the agenda item 71(b) "Human rights questions, including
alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of
human rights and fundamental freedoms"

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The human rights issue is now used by some countries and groups as a tool to realize their political purpose and “just ify” their illegal attempt to turn down the existing governments of other countries. Grave violations of human rights, including illegal armed invasion upon a sovereign state and massacre of civilians, are put out of discussion, whereas the countries which defend their own system and national interests without yielding to foreign pressures are labelled as “human rights violator” and “outpost of tyranny” to be put under criticism. It is the reality of today’s human rights arena where crimes are regarded as good deeds for the strong, while good deeds are considered as evil for the weak.

It is high time to ring an alarm on the negative effects that such abnormal situation has upon the international activities for human rights protection. The existing ways of addressing the human rights characterized by the politicization of human rights, double standard, selectivity, arrogant admonition and open interference in others’ internal affairs, far from bringing about an improvement in human rights, have led to distrust and confrontation between countries. Distortion or disregard of reality, intentional naming and pressure, railroading of resolutions with recourse to military and economic strength can by no means promote human rights. Only when democracy prevails over the international community can its requirements be acknowledged by individual countries.

At present, when the reform of UN is on the agenda, fundamental changes must be brought about in the activities for promotion and protection of human rights. If not, human rights would remain a mere plaything of big powers and their satellite countries in exercising their arbitrariness.

From such point of view, the delegation of the DPR of Korea would like to clarify its position on the agenda item under discussion.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, the biggest obstacle to the promotion of human rights includes the infringement upon the sovereignty of other countries and the overthrow of other governments under the pretext of human rights protection.

The human rights policy of the United States aimed at realizing its world supremacy has reached a very dangerous phase. The US, under the cloak of “human rights” and “democracy” is attempting to establish an American-style ruling order in the countries of geopolitical or strategic importance, and in the independent countries opposed to US. To this end, it attempts to overthrow the governments of those countries by fomenting internal discontent and social confusion through all kinds of plot, bribery and interference, while isolating them internationally by tarnishing their reputation. The US asserts that for the sake of its “security” and “interests”, it must “democratize” other countries by interfering in their internal affairs.

“Human rights” and “democracy” advocated by the US are not in favour of other peoples, but for its own interests. The standard of “human rights” and “democracy” claimed by the US is whether the government of a concerned country is pro-American or not. Even if democracy is established in a country whose government is anti-American, it says that there is no democracy, and although democracy is not ensured in a pro-American country, it says that there is democracy. The present situation in the Middle East and Central Asia shows that the US “exportation of democracy” is the root cause of wanton violation of human rights, territorial division, and national and ethical clashes.

The typical example of attempts to overthrow the existing system in the name of “human rights” and “democracy” is the “North Korea Human Rights Act” concocted by the US. This act, adopted by the US Congress and signed by its president in 2004 has the objective of guiding to the change of system or the down-turn of government by inducing discontent among our people under the pretext of protection of “human rights”, “democracy” and “market economy”. For this purpose, the US has allocated 24 million \$ each year, 96 million \$ in total until 2008. Recently, the US said openly that the “end of tyranny” is the final goal of its administration. It declared vehemently that it will even use armed forces if necessary and appointed an “Special Envoy on Human Rights in North Korea” who will be fully responsible for the enforcement of this act. The “North Korea Human Rights Act” aimed at overthrowing our government has set in full motion.

It is up to us to choose our own system and government. It is also our legitimate independent right to take self-defensive measures to cope with the US aggressive moves. In order to defend our country’s sovereignty and safeguard our people’s freedom and security, we will respond to the US maneuvers to overthrow our government with a harder line.

Mr. Chairman,

The present situation of Iraq shows that even a country with huge military capability cannot solve problems by means of force. The US “war against terrorism” which presupposes use of force has triggered off discontent and indignation of international community and given rise to the vicious circle of terrorism and retaliation. Likewise, the US attempt to overthrow the existing governments under the cloak of “human rights” and “democracy” will only result in dramatic consequences in overall international order, as well as in the protection and promotion of human rights.

We urge the US to stop immediately its moves to subvert the system of sovereign states behind the mask of “human rights”, and to turn to dialogue and cooperation, as defined by the UN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

Politicization of human rights, selectivity and double standard represent the main hindrance to genuine human rights promotion and protection.

In addressing human rights issue, the same rules must be applied for all countries, whether they are big or small, allied or not.

The EU’s stand in dealing with human rights situations of individual countries changes according to time and place, which gives rise to serious concern.

If the “human rights standard” of EU were fair, it should, above all, condemn capital human rights encroachment by the US, including its illegal aggression of Iraq and massacre of civilians. However, EU keeps silent on it and doesn’t express even a scruple of apprehension.

EU, while speaking again and again every year about the “immediate settlement” of the issue of kidnapping of about 10 Japanese, doesn’t say a word about the abduction of 8.4 million Koreans in the past by Japan.

The behaviour of EU which turns a blind eye to the human rights violations by its ally, no matter how grave they are, is an ample example of selectivity and double standard. History will record forever the EU’s claim that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait has to be dealt with in a special session of the Commission on Human Rights, but the US invasion on Iraq should not be put on the agenda.

Therefore, it is nothing but hypocrisy for EU to comment on human rights situation in other countries. EU has unilaterally given up bilateral human rights dialogue with us and has railroaded the “resolutions” against the DPRK at the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights every year since 2003. It is widely known that EU seeks to help “justify” the illegal moves of US to overthrow the DPRK government by labeling our country as a “human rights violator”. Our principled stand to totally reject such resolutions remains unchanged.

Our delegation urges EU again to throw away its biased and selective anti-DPRK policy tuned to the US, restore its reason, and to behave in a responsible manner.

Mr. Chairman,

Our country has been able to advance vigorously along the road it has chosen without any socio-political disturbance or setback, in spite of the persistent political pressure, economic sanctions and military threats of foreign forces for the last 60 years, thanks to the fact that our government has pursued the people-centred policy, and that this policy has enjoyed full support of the people.

The DPRK government will further consolidate and develop the people-centred socialist system of human rights protection of our style under the banner of Juche idea and will continue to strive for global justice as well as for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Thank you.