



In your country:

English

News

News Regional News Multimedia All News

7 March 2013

North Korea: New images show blurring of prison camps and villages

111 345 1.1k



Analysis of new satellite images shows the North Korean government is blurring the lines between its political prison camps and the surrounding population.

© Digital Globe 2013

Analysis of new satellite images shows the North Korean government is blurring the lines between its political prison camps and the surrounding population, Amnesty International said on Thursday, as it reiterated its call for UN Member States to establish an independent Commission of Inquiry into grave, systematic and widespread human rights violations in North

At a Glance

- Construction of 20km of perimeter around the Ch'oma-Bong valley with new controlled access points and a number of probable guard towers
- Tightening of movement of the local population adjacent to Camp No. 14, thus muddying the line between those detained in the political prison camp and the valley's inhabitants. This raises fears for the population within the perimeter the current conditions faced by them and the North Korean government's future intentions for the valley and those that live there.
- According to former detainees prisoners are forced to work in slave-like conditions and are frequently subjected to torture and other ill-treatment

Background

Images reveal scale of North Korean political prison camps
Read more about the horrific conditions in North Korea's network of political prison camps

Disclaimer: Amnesty International is not responsible for information on third party websites.

Follow #NorthKorea @amnestyonline on twitter

...

Amnesty International use cookies on amnesty.org to track user behaviour so that we can improve and maintain our websites.

For further information on how we use cookies, please see our Cookies Statement

satellite imagery and analysis of the area from the commercial provider DigitalGlobe.

Analysts found that from 2006 to February 2013, North Korea constructed 20km of perimeter around the Ch'oma-Bong valley - located 70km north-northeast of Pyongyang -- and its inhabitants, new controlled access points and a number of probable guard towers. Analysts also found construction of new buildings that appear to house workers, likely associated with an expansion of mining activity in the region.

The activity points to a tightening in the control of movement of the local population adjacent to Camp No. 14, thus muddying the line between those detained in the political prison camp and the valley's inhabitants. This raises fears for the population within the perimeter the current conditions faced by them and the North Korean government's future intentions for the valley and those that live there.

"We expected to find a new or expanded prison camp. What we found is in some ways even more worrisome," said Frank Jannuzi, AIUSA deputy executive director. "The creation of a security perimeter with controlled access points and guard towers beyond what appears to be the formal boundaries of Camp 14 blurs the line between the more than 100,000 people who suffer in North Korea's Kwan-li-so system and the

neighbouring civilian population.”

Hundreds of thousands of people—including children—are held in political prison camps and other detention facilities in North Korea, where they are subject to human rights violations, such as forced hard labour, denying food as punishment, torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Many of those held in political prison camps have not committed any crime, but are related to those deemed unfriendly to the regime and detained as a form of collective punishment.

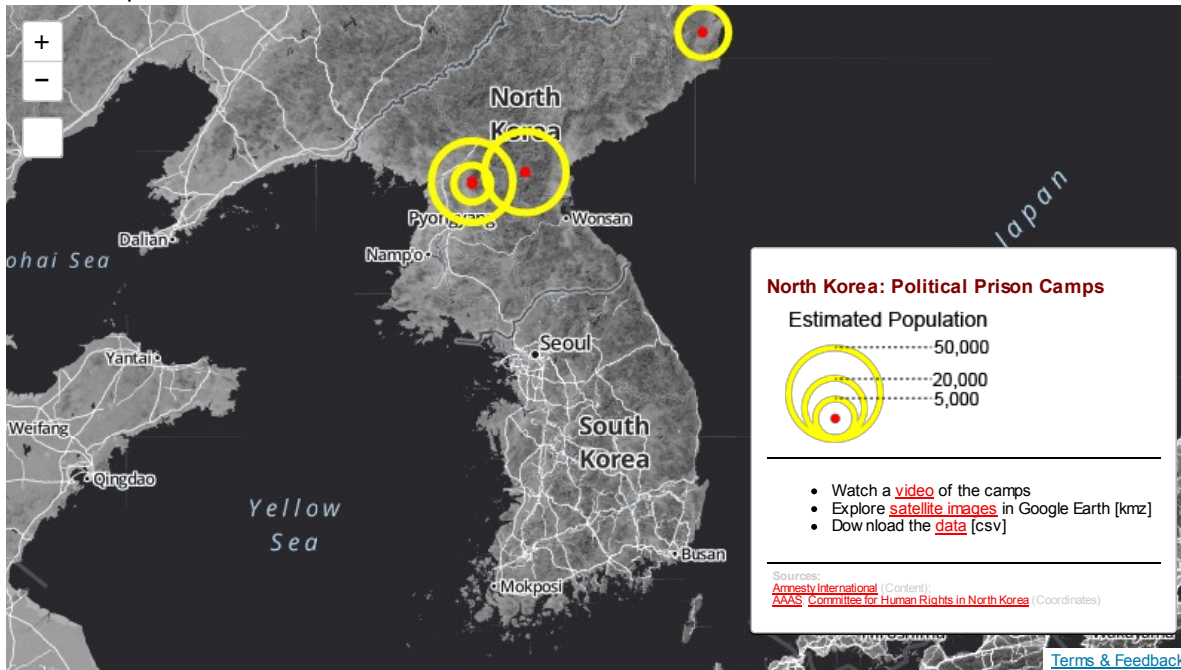
“The security and control adjacent to Camp 14 shows the degree to which general repression and restrictions on the right to liberty of movement have become commonplace in North Korea,” said Rajiv Narayan, North Korea Researcher for Amnesty International. “These latest images reinforce why it is imperative a robust independent Commission of Inquiry is established to investigate the grave and systematic human rights abuses that continue under North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s rule.”

Amnesty International is calling for unfettered access to the area for human rights observers, to include both the Ch’oma-bong valley as well as Camp No. 14, and for North Korea to officially acknowledge that political prison camps such as Camp 15 in Yodok and Camp 14 in Kaecheon exist.

In 2011, Amnesty International published analysis of satellite imagery that showed the expansion of the notorious Yodok political prison camp, believed to house 50,000 men, women, and children. According to former detainees at the political prison camp at Yodok, prisoners are forced to work in slave-like conditions and are frequently subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. Despite this overwhelming evidence the North Korean government continues to deny the camp’s existence.

Amnesty International reaffirms its call for member states to adopt a resolution at the 22nd session of the U.N. Human Rights Council to establish an independent Commission of Inquiry into the abysmal conditions and the general human rights situation in North Korea—described by the U.N. as being in “its own category”—both in political prison camps and outside.

Interactive map



[Share](#) | [Print](#)

Country: North Korea Region: Asia And The Pacific Issue: Prison Conditions

Index card

North Korea: New satellite images show blurring of political prison camp and villages in North Korea

Download:

[PDF](#)

Index Number ASA 24/004/2013
Date Published 7 March 2013

“

The creation of a security perimeter with controlled access points and guard towers beyond what appears to be the formal boundaries of Camp 14 blurs the line between the more than 100,000 people who suffer in North Korea’s Kwan-li-so system and the neighbouring civilian population.

”

Frank Jannuzi, Amnesty International USA
Thu, 07/03/2013

Categories [North Korea](#)

Since the ascension of Kim Jong Un as the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) in December 2011, there have been no noticeable improvements in the human rights situation. In this document Amnesty International calls on member states to support a Resolution establishing an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate these serious human rights violations in North Korea. Satellite imagery has provided telltale signs of these abuses, including the use and expansion of notorious political prison camps (kw anliso).

News

Publication Date: 17
September 2013

[Zambia postpones same-sex conduct trial](#)



The postponement of the trial against two Zambian men charged with same-sex sexual conduct whilst they continue to languish in prison is compounding their suffering

[Read more »](#)

Publication Date: 13
September 2013

[Italy must not pardon former CIA agent involved in rendition](#)



The Italian President Giorgio Napolitano must reject a former CIA agent's plea to be pardoned for a crime he committed in the country as part of the US-led rendition programme... [Read more »](#)

Publication Date: 17
September 2013

[Bangladesh: Death sentence without right of judicial appeal defies human rights law](#)



Bangladesh should immediately commute the death sentence of Abdul Quader Mollah, Amnesty International said after the Supreme Court increased his sentence from life... [Read more »](#)

Publication Date: 18
September 2013

[EU urged to combat homophobic violence](#)



The EU and its member-states are failing to tackle homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and to protect all individuals from discrimination, harassment and violence.

[Read more »](#)

Publication Date: 18
September 2013

[Morocco holding independent editor over coverage of al-Qa'ida video](#)



The Moroccan authorities' detention of journalist and editor Ali Anouzla is an assault on the country's independent media and he must be released immediately and... [Read more »](#)

[Get involved](#)

[Donate](#)

[Register on amnesty.org](#)

[Take action](#)