

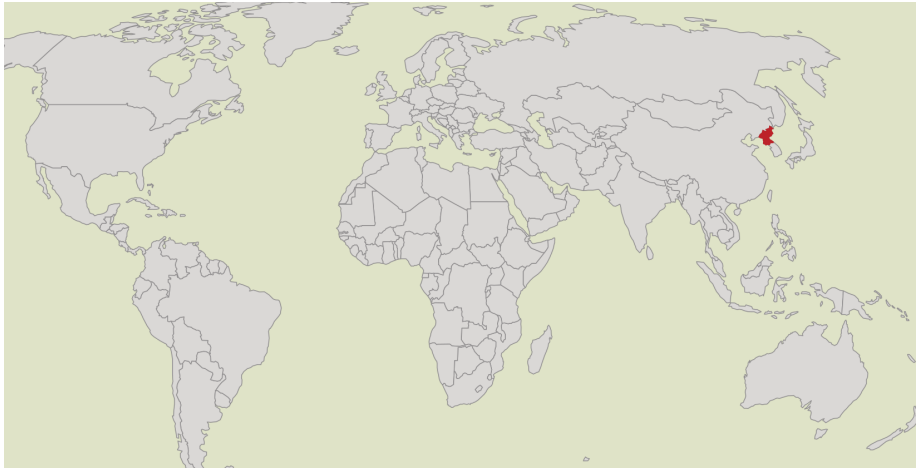
Mapping Crimes Against Humanity In North Korea With FOSSD

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Transitional Justice Working Group

August 11, 2018

2018 KDE Academy - Vienna



Type of Government

- not communist (anymore)
- totalitarian / monarchy / personality cult



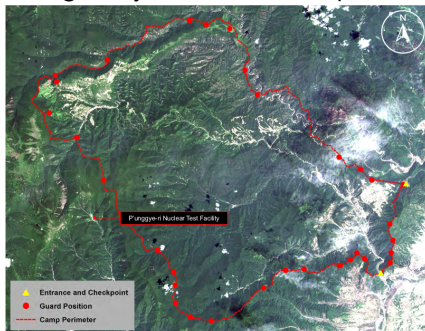
- nationalist, race-based ideology

Your *songbun* determines where you live and what you can do.

- loyal
- wavering
- hostile

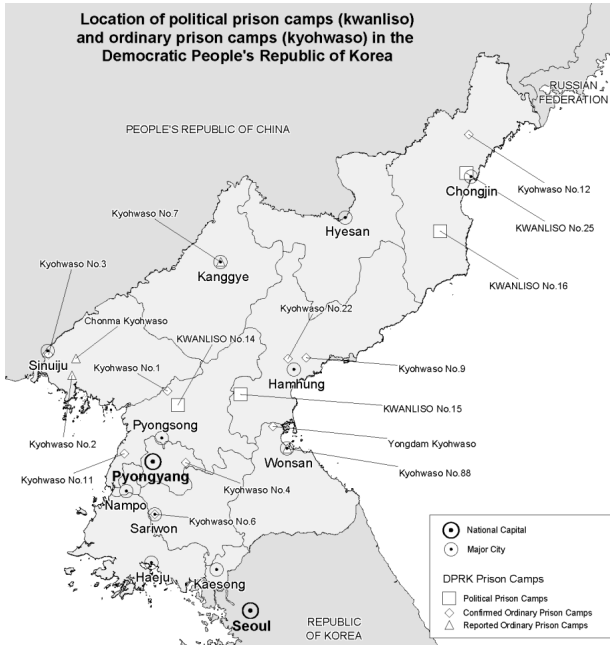
Control Through Fear

- secret police & citizen informants
- public executions
- political prison camps (*kwalliso*), aka concentration camps / gulags
 - no due process
 - guilt by association for up to three generations



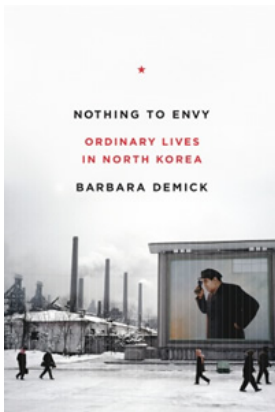
(HRNK/AllSource Analysis: Imagery Analysis of Camp 16)

Location of political prison camps (kwanliso) and ordinary prison camps (kyohwaso) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

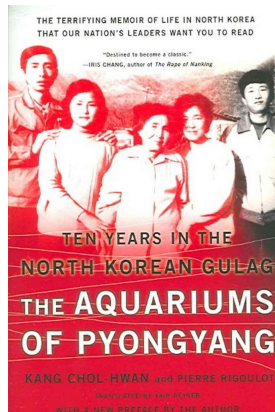


- no organizations may exist without permission of the state
- the great famine in 1990s

Recommended Reading



(a) Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea, by Barbara Demick



(b) The Aquariums of Pyongyang: Ten Years in the North Korean Gulag, by Kang Chol-hwan and Pierre Rigoulot

UN Commission of Inquiry (COI)



UN Commission of Inquiry (COI)

no right to:

- life
- food

no freedom of:

- thought / expression
- association
- religion
- movement / residence
- information (no internet)

Crimes Against Humanity

- extermination
- murder
- enslavement
- torture
- imprisonment
- rape
- forced abortions
- persecution
- deliberate starvation
- and enforced disappearances

have been committed “pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the state”



UN definition: “the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society’s attempt to come to terms with a legacy of large scale past abuses, in order to ensure accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation.”

- Truth and reconciliation commissions
- Punishment of perpetrators (trials)
- Reparations
- Memorials and education
- Democratic institution-building

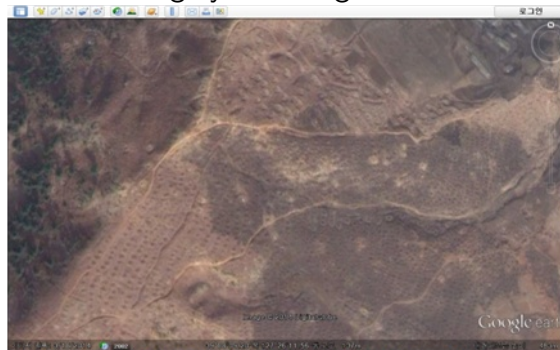
- Looks forward and back
- Victim-centered

Sites We Focus On & Methodology

3 Main Site Types

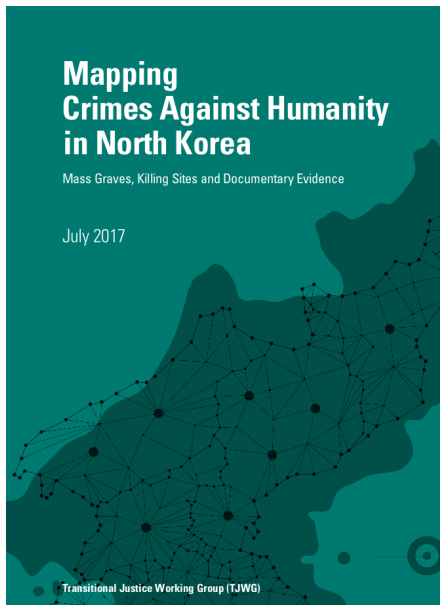
- Where the victims of the regime were killed
- Where their bodies were buried or otherwise disposed of
- Where documents are kept that are related to these human rights crimes.

Satellite imagery via Google Earth



Objectives of Mapping Project

- 1 Document North Korean regime's human rights abuse together with specific locations it took place
- 2 Support ongoing advocacy efforts
 - increase the amount and types of documentation available
 - provide a foundation for increased international pressure on the regime
- 3 Gather, analyze and provide data to support future accountability measures (trials) against the leadership of the North Korean government
- 4 Develop maps that can:
 - aid future exhumation of victims' remains
 - help victims' families discover the whereabouts of their loved ones
 - assist in future truth-seeking and memorialization activities
- 5 Apply emerging remote sensing (RS) technologies to complement existing human rights documentation efforts
 - body farm research, LiDAR, drones



ars TECHNICA | SUBSCRIPTION | SEARCH | MENU

WHICH THE BODIES ARE BURIED

N. Korean defectors show locations of mass graves using Google Earth

NGO creates maps to guide future investigation of crimes against humanity.

NEWS ANALYSIS | BY TERRY R. ITO

Much of what happens in North Korea remains hidden from the outside world. But commercial satellite imagery and Google Earth mapping software are helping a human rights organization take inventory of the worst offenses of the North Korean regime and identify sites for future investigation of crimes against humanity.

A new report from the South Korea-based Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG)—a non-governmental organization that tracks human rights abuses and crimes against humanity by the world's most oppressive regimes—details how the organization's researchers used Google Earth in interviews with defectors from North Korea to identify sites associated with mass killings by the North Korean regime. Google Earth imagery was used to help witnesses to killings and mass burials orient themselves and precisely point out the locations of those events.

Entitled "Mapping Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea: Mass Graves, Killing Sites and Documentary Evidence," the report does not include the actual locations of what the researchers deemed to be sensitive sites out of concern that the North Korean regime would remove evidence from those sites. But it does provide location data of other sites with potential documentary evidence of crimes, including police stations and other government facilities that may have records of arrests.

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(c) Ars Technica

The New York Times | SUBSCRIBE NOW | LOGIN

Mapping the Brutality of North Korea, and Where the Bodies Are Buried

North Koreans crossing the Yalu River at the Chinese border in May. An activist group is sipping handfuls of rice when extrajudicial killings or beatings are suspected, many close to the border.

By Chon Sang-Hun

(d) New York Times

The Washington Post | LOGIN | REGISTER

Where are the bodies buried in North Korea? Investigators try to prepare for future trials.

Real journalism matters.
Unbiased content. Careless reporting. 100% free.

By Anne Pflum | 11/11/18 | 11 min read

(e) Washington Post

Chart 2: Participant Gender Breakdown

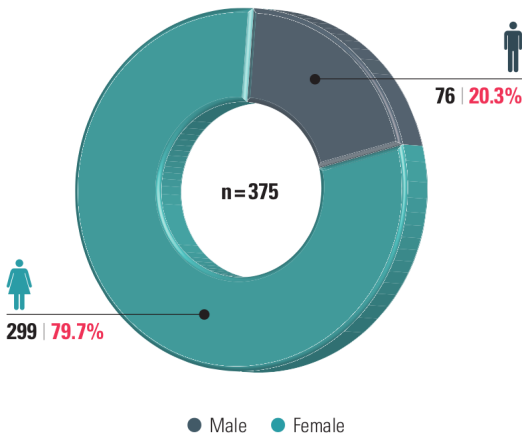
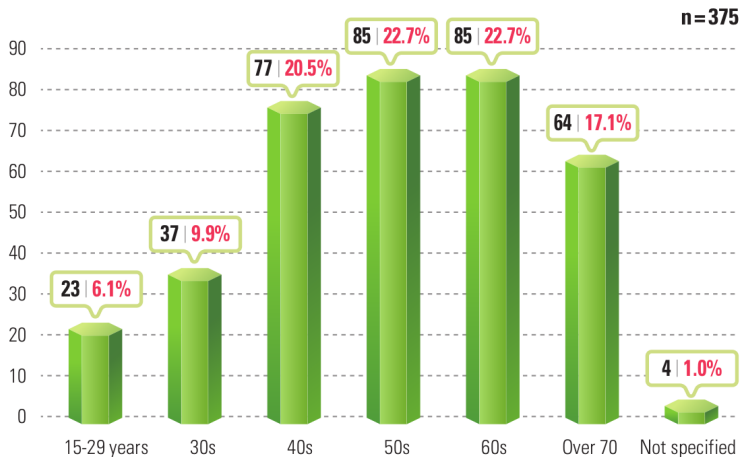
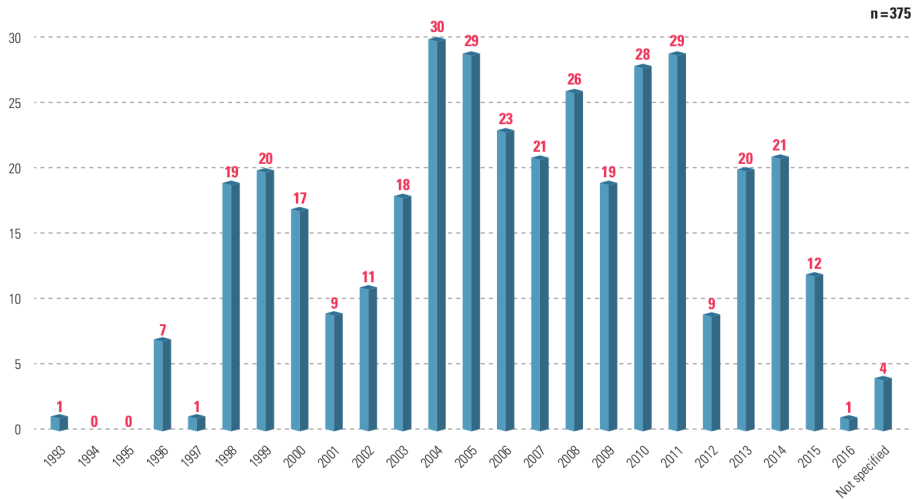


Chart 3: Participant Age Breakdown



Interviewee Demographics

Chart 4: Year of Last Defection from North Korea

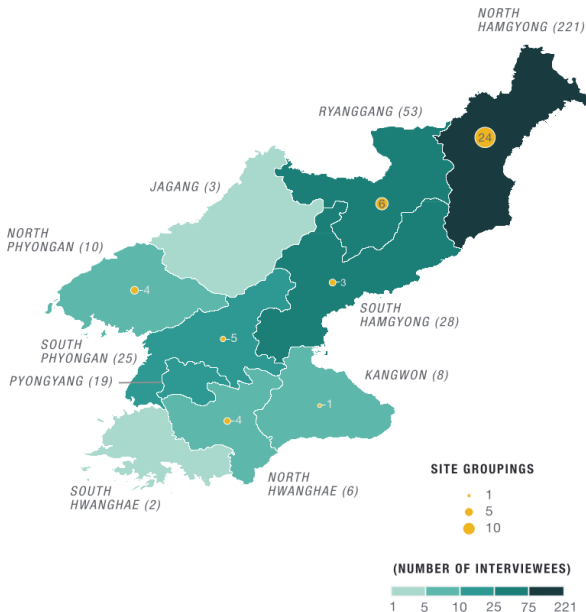


Main Findings

Table 3: Sensitive Sites by Category and Type

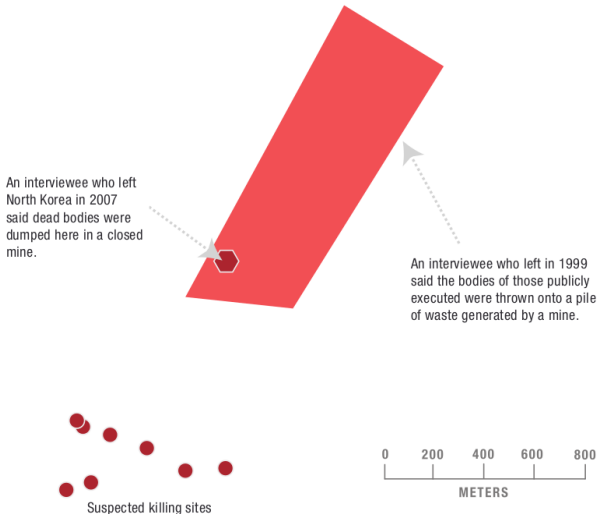
Category	Sensitive Site Type	Pre-consolidation Number
B	Witnessed burial site	7
B	Suspected burial site	35
B	Burial site within community cemetery	2
B	Cemetery for prisoners of war	1
B	Storage place for dead bodies	2
B	Location of uncovered, unburied, or exposed bodies	2
B	Place for disposal of bodies by cremation	3
K	Killing site – shooting (if n killed < 10)	283
K	Killing site – mass shooting (if n ≥ 10)	7
K	Killing site – hanging	40
K	Killing site – burning	1
K	Killing site – arbitrary killing	2
T	Public trial only site	8
Total		393
B – Dead body sites/sightings		52
K – Killing sites		333
T – Trial only sites		8

Map 1: Suspected Body Site Groupings by Province
Where did interviewees live — and what did they report?



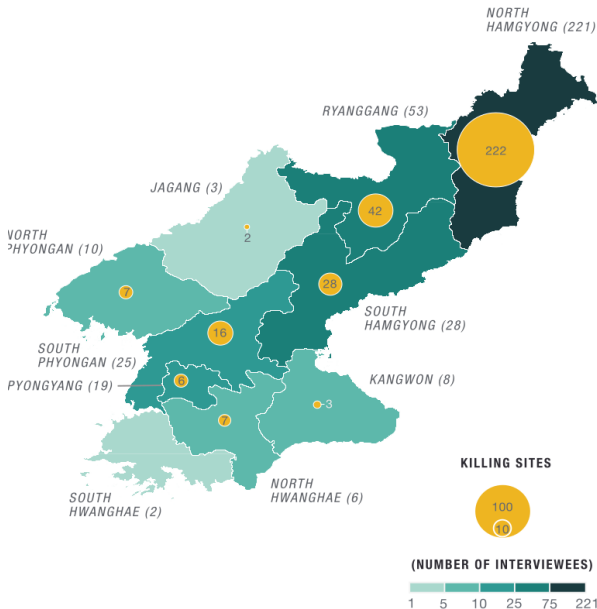
Map 2: Suspected Burial Site Grouping Near Killing Sites

The polygon and the point within it were given as the locations of burial sites by two different interviewees. During site analysis we consolidated them into a suspected burial site grouping. Within four kilometers of this grouping there are over four dozen suspected killing sites, the closest of which are seen clustered below the polygon. The interviewee likely did not mean that the whole area depicted by the polygon is used as a burial site, but that the burial site is located somewhere within this area.



Map 4: Suspected Killing Sites by Province

Where did interviewees live — and what did they report?



Map 6: Hyesan City: Suspected Sites with Documentary Evidence



Survey Results

Chart 7: Necessity of Exhumation of Burial Sites Containing Victims of Human Rights Abuses

Is exhumation of burial sites containing victims of human rights abuses necessary after transition?

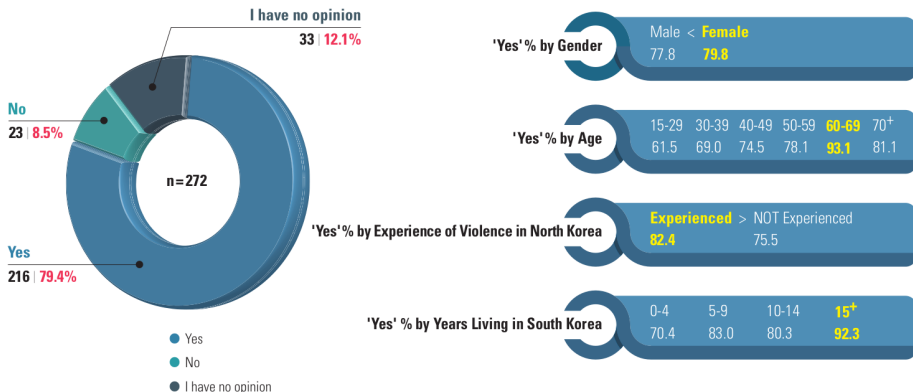
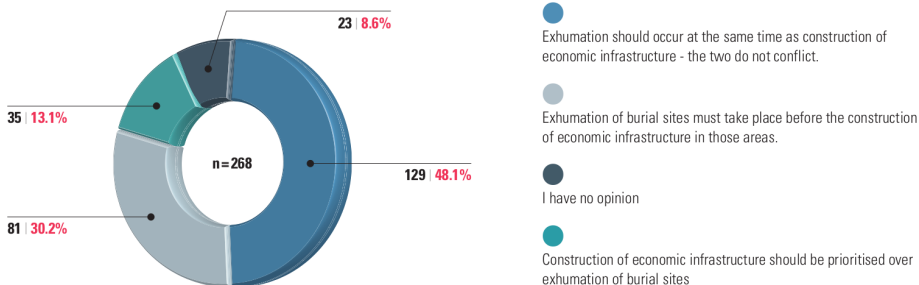


Chart 10: How Leaders Should Prioritise Their Efforts After a Transition in North Korea Regarding Burial Sites

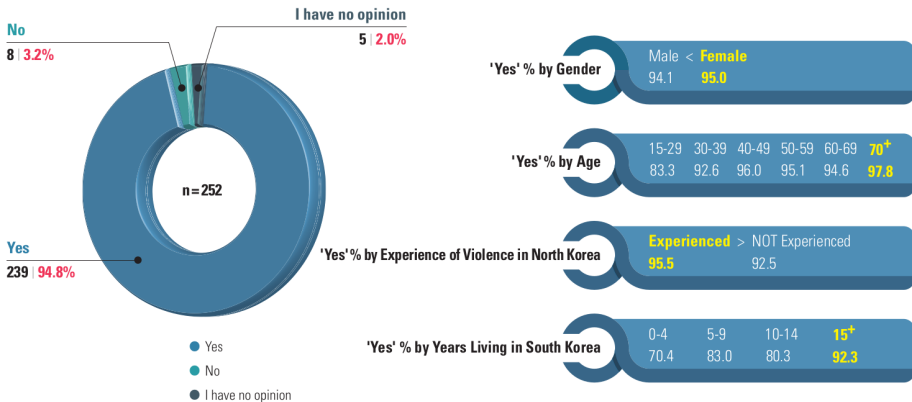
How should leaders prioritise their efforts after a transition in North Korea?



Survey Results

Chart 11: Should Perpetrators of Human Rights Abuses Receive Prosecution and Punishment in Court

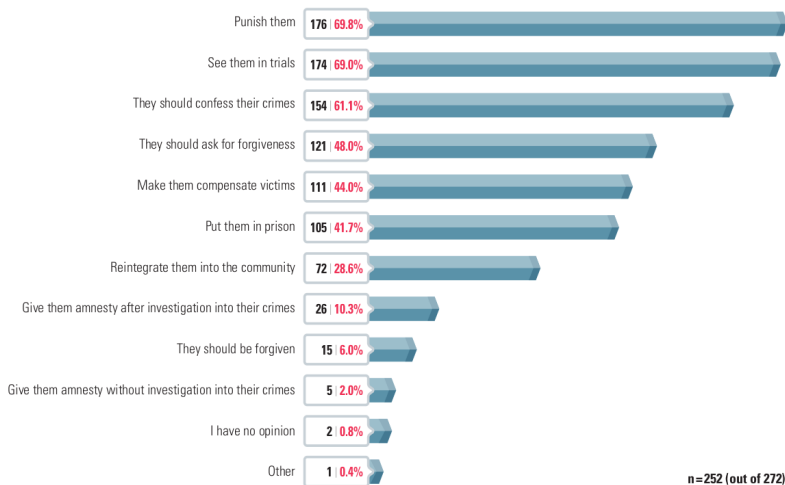
Is it important for perpetrators of human rights abuses to receive prosecution and punishment in court?



Survey Results

Chart 12: Participant Views on the Fate of Those Who Committed Violent Human Rights Abuses in North Korea

What would you like to see happen to those who committed violent human rights abuses in North Korea? (Multiple choice)



n=252 (out of 272)

Challenges

- a start-up NGO with a tiny budget
- must protect sensitive data
- alone in my organization and field

Red Star OS 3.0



Software

- QGIS
- PostGIS
- PostgreSQL

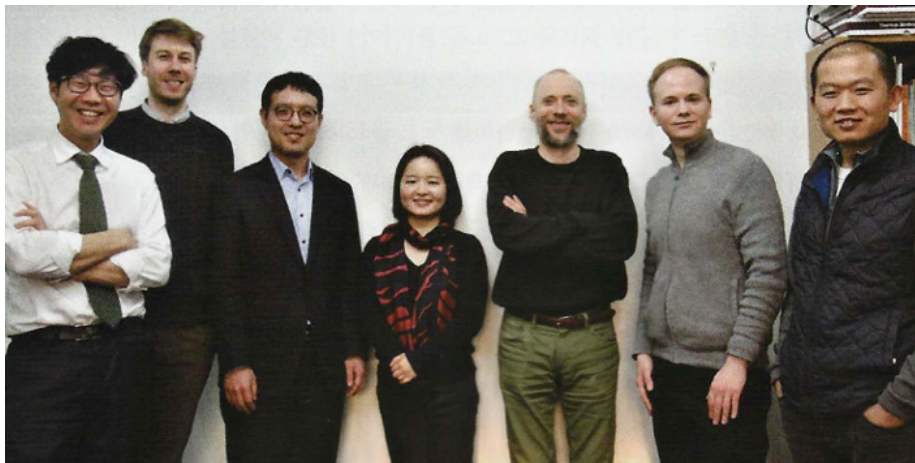
Data

- OpenStreetMap
- GADM (Global Administrative Areas)

Challenges in Korea to using FOSS

- turning on Korean input
- fonts
- banking & online transactions
- Hangul word processor / .HWP files

Community - Shared Values



Recommended Reading and Sources

- Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea, by Barbara Demick:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nothing_to_Envy
- The Aquariums of Pyongyang: Ten Years in the North Korean Gulag, by Kang Chol-hwan and Pierre Rigoulot:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Aquariums_of_Pyongyang
- Blog of a recent, high-level defector: <https://thaeyongho.com/en/>
- DPRK COI report - summary of main findings (37 pages):
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoIDPRK/Report/A.HRC.25.63.doc>
- DPRK COI report page:
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/coidprk/pages/reportofthecommissionofinquirydprk.aspx>
- DPRK COI page: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/coidprk/pages/commissioninquiryonhrindprk.aspx>

Recommended Reading and Sources (cont.)

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- <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/19/world/asia/north-korea-execution-sites.html>
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/where-are-the-bodies-buried-in-north-korea-investigators-try-to-prepare-for-future-trials/2017/07/18/48349113-7976-463a-a569-466ad84657c0_story.html
- <https://www.northkoreatech.org/2014/01/31/north-koreas-red-star-os-goes-mac/>
- <https://www.northkoreatech.org/2014/12/30/red-star-3-0-desktop-finally-becomes-public/>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/elaineramirez/2016/11/30/south-koreas-online-banking-system-is-stuck-in-1996/>

- Photo of man cleaning Kim Jong Il portrait:
<http://www.hrnkinsider.org/2018/04/kim-family-regime-portraits.html>
- Satellite photo of Camp 16:
https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/ASA_HRNK_Camp16_v8_fullres_FINAL_12_15_15.pdf
- Prison camp system map:
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoIDPRK/Report/A.HRC.25.63.doc>
- Red Star OS: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Star_OS
- TJWG's mapping report available at: <https://en.tjwg.org>