

Mapping the Fate of the Dead: Killings and Burials in North Korea

Read the full report at en.tjwg.org/mapping-project-north-korea

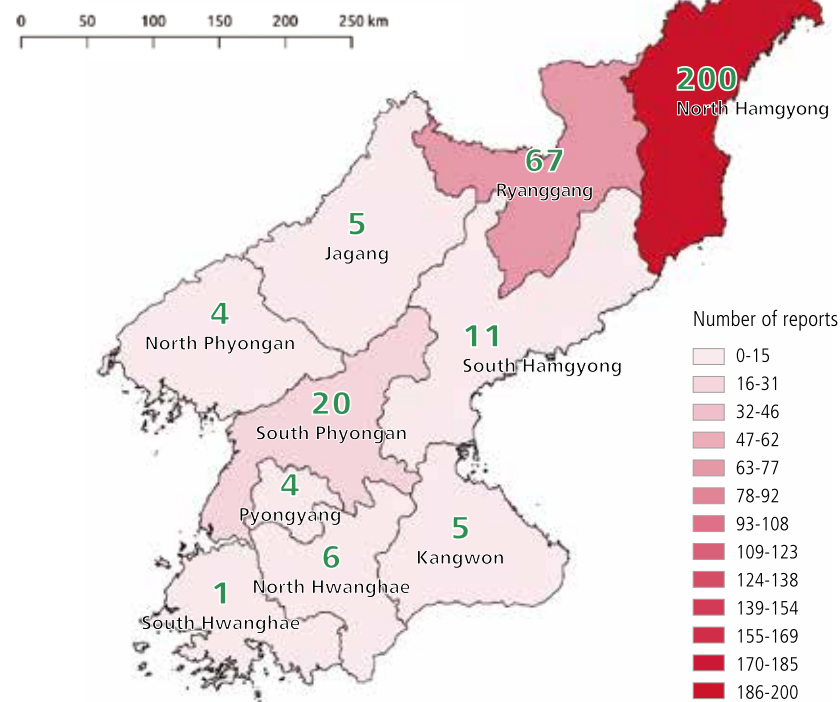
Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG), Seoul, 2019



Important note for all site figures: The site report figures are based on North Korean escapee interviewees that are considered relatively high information source types by TJWG. These consist of events the interviewee witnessed directly (first-hand), where they heard the information directly from a person who witnessed the event (second-hand), or from another source assessed as being credible by both the interviewee and the researcher. TJWG includes in the figures only site and event reports that are accompanied by geographical coordinates.

Reports of Killing Sites by Province

323 reports from 610 interviews



Offences Punishable by the Death Penalty

715 total reports of charges from 610 interviews

- 1 Property crimes (theft, damage): **238 reports**
- 2 Violent crimes (murder, rape, assault, arson): **115 reports**
- 3 Political crimes (spying, anti-revolutionary behavior, desertion, crimes related to South Korea): **73 reports**
- 4 Human trafficking (including brokering defection): **69 reports**
- 5 Economic crimes (fraud, corruption): **61 reports**
- 6 Border-crossing-related crimes: **36 reports**

Note: It is difficult to know whether the charges announced at an execution actually match the act committed by the accused.

Typical Locations of Public Executions

River banks, open spaces and fields, market places, hills/mountains, sports grounds and school grounds.

Reports of Public Execution Events n=318

Notes: The numbers below are all from reports that are of relatively high information source types, WITH coordinates (318). Two reports included both hanging and shooting at the same event, so they are counted twice.



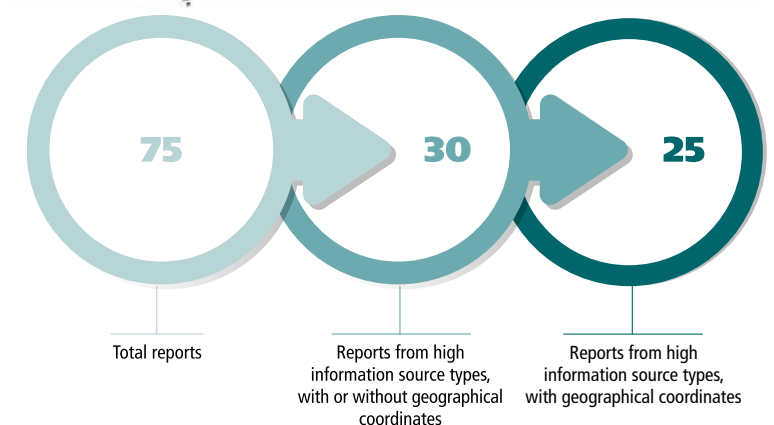
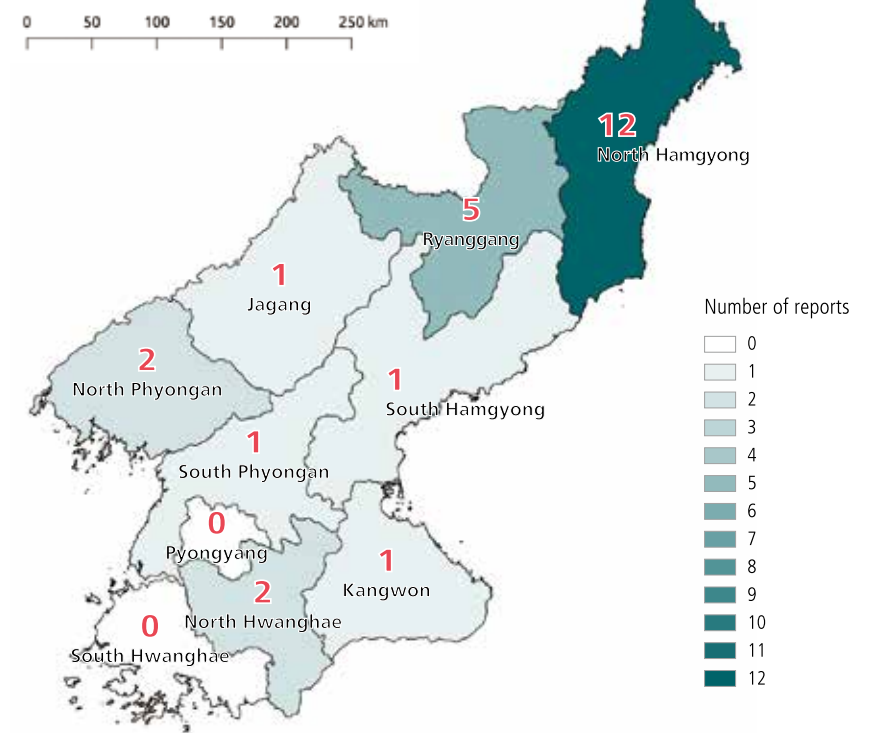
Public executions of more than 10 people at one time: **19 reports**

Some witnessed public executions up to **10** times, but most witnessed fewer than 5.

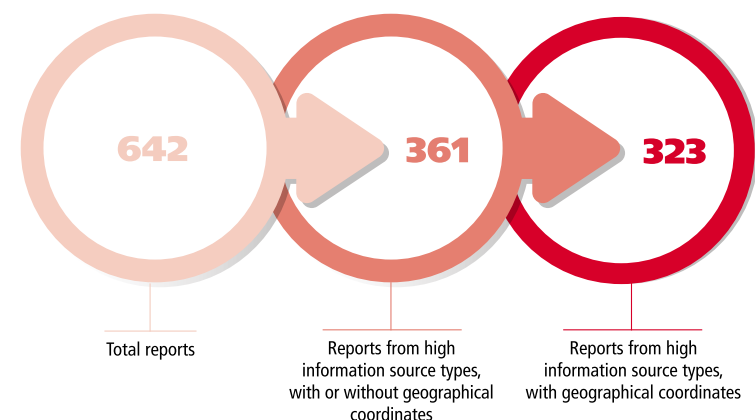
Youngest age to witness a public execution: **7** years old

Reports of Body Disposal Sites by Province

25 reports from 610 interviews



Note: 45 reports have been assessed as being of relatively low information source types at this stage.



Notes: Of 642 total reports, 261 reports remain to be processed to assess the source type in the coming phase of the research; 20 reports are assessed to have relatively low information source types or have insufficient information to determine the source type.

Reports of Body Disposal Sites (Continued)

20 reports were about burial sites.

4 reports were about sites where bodies were burned or cremated.

1 report was about a site where a body had been dumped or abandoned.

5 reported body disposal sites are believed to contain between two and nine bodies together.

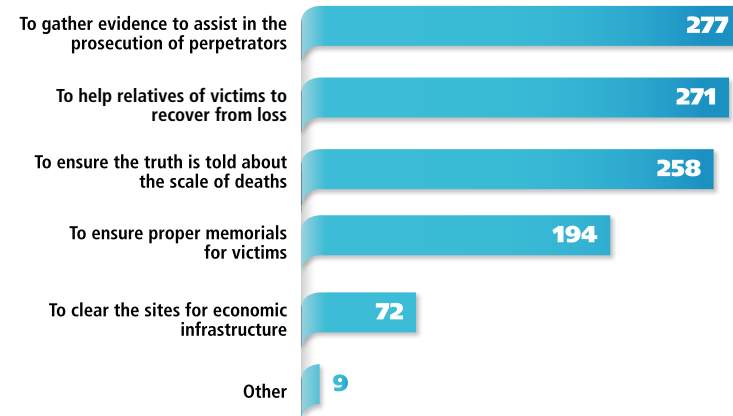
2 reported body disposal sites are believed to contain more than 10 bodies together.

27% of North Korean escapee survey respondents claim to have immediate family members who are victims of enforced disappearance by the North Korean regime; 83% of those people are still missing (n=233).

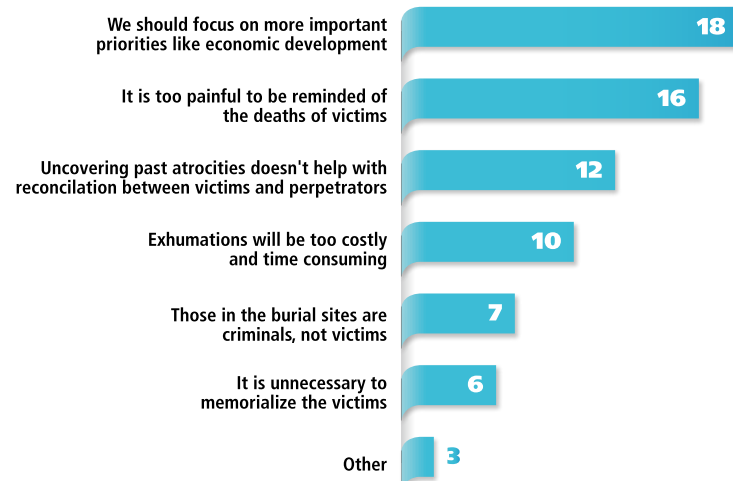
16% of North Korean escapee survey respondents have had a family member killed or executed by the authorities (n=488).

92% of North Korean escapee survey respondents thought exhumations of burial sites would be necessary after a transition in North Korea (n=457).

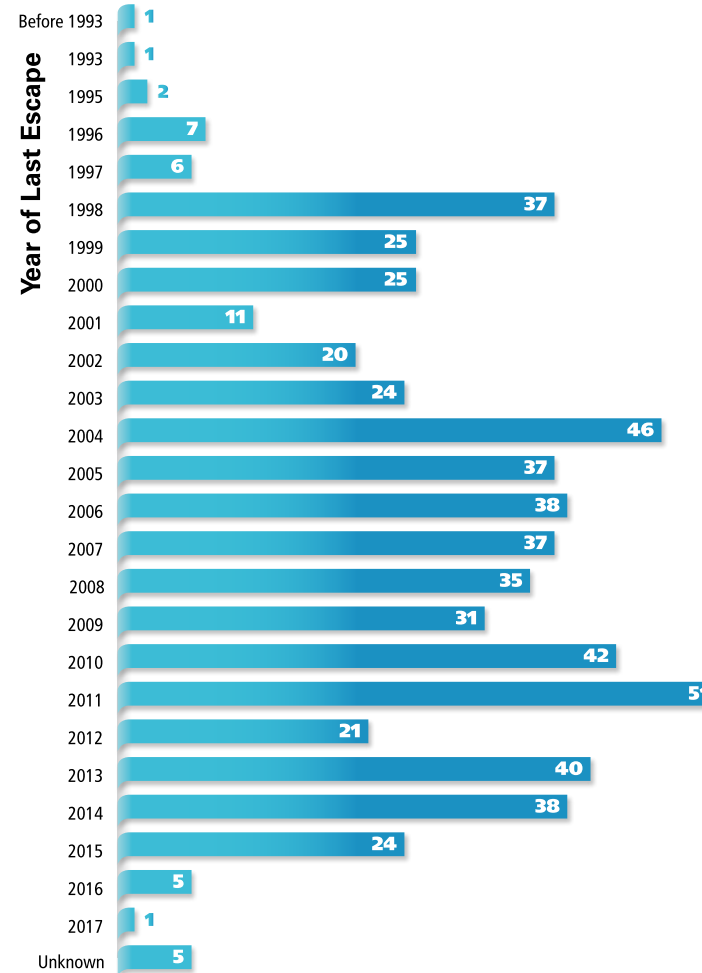
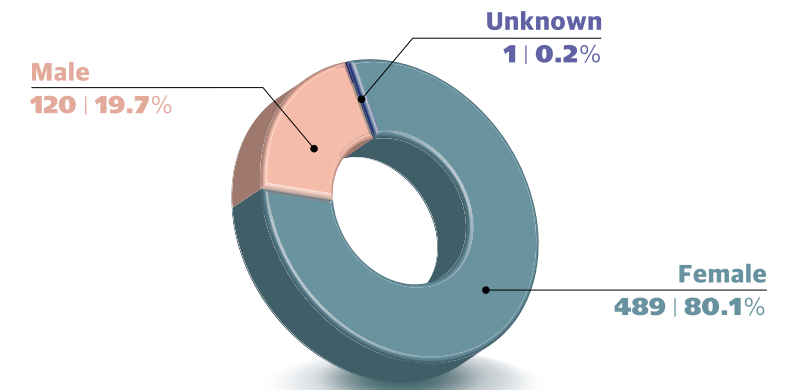
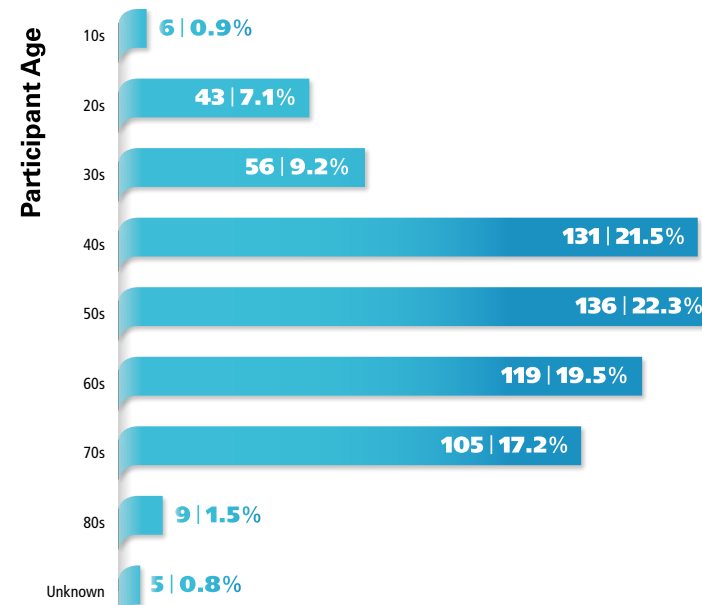
Why are exhumations of burial sites considered necessary after a transition in North Korea? Multiple responses possible



Why are exhumations of burial sites NOT considered necessary after a transition in North Korea? Multiple responses possible



Demographic Data on Research Participants n=610



Province of Primary Residence n=610

