

North Korea Immigration Detention Data Profile



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	49,393

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/asia-pacific/north-korea>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
International migrants	49,393	2019			

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Civil law	2017
	Customary law	2017

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
Latest Update	<p>Having closed its borders in January in an attempt to prevent the spread of the virus into the country from China, North Korea has declared that it has no cases of COVID-19. The country is believed to have established anti-coronavirus rules that involve “indiscriminate shooting” of anyone approaching its borders illegally. On 24 September 2020, the Republic of Korea accused North Korea of fatally shooting a public servant who was likely attempting to defect and was found in North Korean waters. On 24 September 2020, commenting on the incident and North Korea’s claims regarding its lack of COVID-19 cases, a proliferation expert at the UK think tank RUSI told inews, “It’s really hard to know for sure whether or not there have been any cases of coronavirus in North Korea. Given the spread of the virus around the world, and North Korea’s trade relationship with China, I would be sceptical about North Korea’s no-cases claims. However, it’s also important to think about this critically, as the nature of the government and society in North Korea means that it is easier to implement and enforce measures that would stop the virus from spreading uncontrollably.” In July, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered a city near the border with the Republic of Korea to be locked down after officials found a person who may have been infected with the coronavirus, state media reported.</p>	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Ratification Year
International treaties	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1981
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1981
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	2001
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1990
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1984
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	5/19	

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date
	0/4	2017

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2010	2017
	No	2014	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

More information about immigration detention in North Korea is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)