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150,000 watch North Korean factory boss executed for 'making international calls'

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Dictator Kim Jong Il has resumed executions in [North Korea](#)

A North Korean factory boss accused of making international phone calls was executed by a firing squad in front of 150,000 people, it emerged today.

The manager was gunned down in a sports stadium in South Pyongan province after authorities claimed he'd installed 13 in a basement to reach the outside world, the Good Friends aid agency revealed.

And six people were also crushed to death and 34 others injured in an apparent stampede as they left after the execution, it was claimed.

The factory chief's death last month came as executions in the communist dictatorship began increasing after a seven-year decline in the number of people publicly killed.

North Korea had faced a barrage of international criticism over claims it has executed many innocent people.

Its citizens are banned from communicating with the outside world, part of the regime's authoritarian policies seeking to prevent any challenge to the iron-fisted rule of Kim Jong Il.

The North has carried out four other similar public executions by firing squad against regional officials and heads of factories in recent months, Good Friends revealed.

"It is aimed at educating (North Koreans) to control society and prevent crimes," the group's head Venerable Pomnyun said in a press conference.

Good Friends gave no exact figures of the public executions this year, although the group has a good reputation as previous reports of what was happening in the country have later been confirmed.

Its report came a week after a UN General Assembly committee adopted a draft resolution expressing "very serious concern" at reports of widespread human rights violations in North Korea, including public executions.

The resolution, co-sponsored by more than 50 countries including the United States and many other Western nations, was sent to the 192-member General Assembly for a final vote.

The North has condemned the draft, saying it was inaccurate and biased.

The communist country insists it does not violate human rights, but it has long been accused of imposing the death penalty for political reasons, holding thousands in prison camps, torturing border-crossers and severely restricting freedom of expression and religion.

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I expect some very frightened North Korean refugees will shortly be arriving here in the UK.

- Elizabeth, London, 26/11/2007 13:38

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So, are we going to ban Communism? Stalin and Mao murdered 50 million people in the name of Communism. We very often hear calls to ban the BNP, even though they have never murdered anyone, so why are there never calls to ban Communism? The gravel-voiced Mariella Frostrup, darling of the Labour Party, shouted out "Communism, yeh!" on "Question Time" a few months ago. Why has she not been arrested? If anyone shouted out "BNP, yeh!", they would be prosecuted. How come you can murder 50 million people and still have a respected political voice? How come politicians on Question Time regularly warn us about the BNP, when they do not affect our lives at all, yet ignore Communism, which is an ideology of mass-murder, even worse than Hitler's Socialism? If a Communist speaks at the Oxford Union, no-one resigns. Why not? Do 50 million victims of Communism not matter?

- Mr. J. Smith, Birmingham, England, 26/11/2007 13:12

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