**North Korea Threatens 'Plot-Breeding' U.N. Rights Office With 'Punishment'**

June 10, 2014

By James Pearson

Reuters

http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/09/us-northkorea-rights-idUSKBN0EK0PG20140609

Reuters) - [North Korea](http://www.reuters.com/places/north-korea?lc=int_mb_1001) on Monday threatened a planned U.N. field office in [South Korea](http://www.reuters.com/places/south-korea?lc=int_mb_1001) set up to investigate human rights abuses in the isolated country, saying anyone involved would be "ruthlessly punished".

The [United Nations](http://www.reuters.com/subjects/united-nations?lc=int_mb_1001) in March called for the field office to monitor human rights in [North Korea](http://www.reuters.com/places/north-korea?lc=int_mb_1001) following the release of a 372-page U.N. Commission of Inquiry report that detailed wide-ranging abuses, including systematic torture, starvation and killings comparable to Nazi-era atrocities.

"Anyone who challenges our dignity and social system and agrees to go ahead with the establishment of the office will be ruthlessly punished," the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea said in a statement.

The committee handles issues related to [South Korea](http://www.reuters.com/places/south-korea?lc=int_mb_1001).

South Korean president Park Geun-hye and others from international human rights organizations would "pay the price", the statement, carried by the official KCNA news agency, said.

The planned office was a "hideous politically-motivated provocation", and an "anti-North Korean plot-breeding organization," led by South Korea and the United States, it added.

North Korea "categorically and totally" rejected the accusations set out in the report, saying they were based on material faked by hostile forces backed by the United States, the European Union and Japan.

North Korea called Michael Kirby, the Australian judge who led the investigation and held hearings in South Korea, Japan, Britain and the United States, a "disgusting old lecher with a 40-odd-year-long career of homosexuality".

North Korea is under U.N., U.S. and other national sanctions due to repeated nuclear and ballistic missile tests since 2006 in defiance of international demands to stop.