

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2262/06  
by Albert Maat (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Execution in North Korea

Human rights organisations report extensive violations, and even a complete absence, of human rights in North Korea. Moreover, Christians are regarded by the North Korean Government as a dangerous threat to human rights. Tens of thousands of Christians are kept in prison camps under appalling conditions. Mr Son Jong Nam, a convert to Christianity, was arrested in January 2006 for treason against the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea and sentenced to public execution. The grounds on which Mr Son Jong Nam was condemned, and the manner in which he has been treated, are, according to a number of sources, in serious contravention of international law.

1. Is the Commission aware of the case of Mr Son Jong Nam?
2. What steps has the Commission taken to prevent the execution of Mr Son Jong Nam from going ahead?
3. What action is it taking in general against violations of human rights in North Korea?