



# NZ-DPRK Society

New Zealand-Democratic People's Republic of Korea Society

<http://sites.google.com/site/nzdprksociety/>

<http://www.timbeal.net.nz/geopolitics/>

20<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Hon. Murray McCully,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Wellington

Dear Minister McCully,

## **Emergency Funding Request for United Nations Humanitarian Programme in North Korea (DPRK).**

DPRK has the dubious honour of being the only country in Asia where life expectancy is dropping. The major reason for this is malnutrition. The country has inadequate arable land to grow enough food. In a normal year it needs to import about 1 million metric tons of cereal.

With limited export income, the amount of cereal that can be bought and paid for is restricted. To top up, the country is dependant on food aid. This year it will need much more than normal because of the worst crop growing season drought in 105 years on the Korean Peninsula.

World Food Programme (WFP) has launched an Emergency Operation to meet the emergency food and nutrition needs of up to 3.5 million of the most vulnerable children, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly.

According to the recently published United Nations (UN) report "Overview Of Needs And Assistance in DPRK 2012":<sup>1</sup>

- 16 million (66%) of the population face chronic food insecurity;
- Infant mortality is increasing;
- 47% of four year olds are stunted;
- DPRK is the only country in the Asia-Pacific region not on track to meet Millennium Development Goals 4 (reduce child mortality), 5 (improve maternal health), and 6 (combat malaria, HIV, and other diseases).

The 2012 UN humanitarian programme for DPRK is a minimalistic \$198 million. As of 1st May 2012, only \$74.9 million had been contributed - corresponding to 37.8 per cent of the overall requirement.

The 24 million men women and children living in North Korea have had no say in creating the international geopolitical morass which has reduced their living standards and their life expectancy. These fellow human beings are innocent victims.

<sup>1</sup> [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD%202012%20\(final%20version\)%20-%2029%20May%202012.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD%202012%20(final%20version)%20-%2029%20May%202012.pdf)

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We the undersigned fully agree with the paragraph in the UN Overview which states:

*“Contrary to the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD), and at variance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, humanitarian agencies note that there is an inherent link between the political environment and provision of funding to the UN and partners. The argument that the policies and actions of the Government need to change before an increase in assistance can be considered leaves the most vulnerable caught in the middle. The humanitarian needs of the people of DPRK are widely recognised and provision of assistance should be based on humanitarian principles, rather than be contingent on political developments.”*

**Accordingly we request that the New Zealand Government make a substantial donation to the 2012 UN life saving humanitarian programme in the DPRK.**

Sincerely,

Rev. Don Borrie, Chairman, NZ DPRK Society

Rev. Dr. Stuart Vogel, Secretary of the Asian Council of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa-New Zealand on behalf of the Presbyterian Church

Prince Devanandan, Secretary Mission & Ecumenical, Methodist Church of New Zealand

Chris Clarke, Chief Executive Officer, World Vision New Zealand

Pauline McKay, National Director, Christian World Service

Rt. Rev'd. Ross Bay, Chair, Diocesan Council, Anglican Diocese of Auckland

Kevin McBride, National Secretary-Coordinator, Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand

Rae Julian, President, UN Women NZ National Committee

C.C. John Key, Melissa Lee, David Shearer, Phil Goff, Winston Peters, Kennedy Graham.