**PSCORE (People for Successful COrean REunification)**

**Oral Statement**

**March 14, 2016**

Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of

human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Thank you, Mr. President,

Before I begin, I would like to start by thanking Marzuki Darusman who has aided in our cause since 2010. I would also like to acknowledge the work done by the officials in the Seoul Office of Human Rights.

On January 6th North Korea conducted its 4th round of nuclear experiments. However, the most important issue is North Korean human rights. Average North Korean citizens are faced with food shortages and long for a life of peace and freedom. / Unlike their leaders, they do not want to become a nuclear power.

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North Korean authorities abuse their citizens to acquire much needed foreign capital in order to preserve their privileged way of life. Many are forced to work in conditions in which they are overworked, underpaid and do not receive proper healthcare. In the hopes of a better life, many starving North Koreans bribe to officials with large amounts of money in order to be selected to work overseas/ where living conditions are marginally better. However,/ when abroad/ all their money is confiscated by government officials. In order to make a living, many are forced to participate in illegal business activities such as smuggling North Korean manufactured drugs.

The international community must stop engaging North Korea politically and economically then North Korea would be forced to end its policy of isolation, stop slave labor, and address the human rights abuses that are currently widespread. We can no longer turn a blind eye to these problems. Radical and profound measures must be taken by the UN Human Rights Council.

Thank you.