

## LI TEXT NORTH KOREA. English.

APO: Hello everyone! Today we're presenting you the country named North Korea.

CLARA: Just a warning before we begin, North Korea is one of the most secretive countries in the world, so the information cannot be confirmed and you may have heard something different.

APO: So ok, let's start with locating the country.

North Korea is in between China and South Korea in east Asia. The country is led by president Kim Jong-un, a young overpowered dictator, who applies very strict rules for the inhabitants. If you wish to start a new life and emigrate ... you can not... because it's illegal to leave the country where you were born. If you are North Korean, you have to stay in North Korea.

CLARA: so that you understand how North Korea came to this dark country, let's go back a few years to 1945 after the 2nd world war. At this point, North and South Korea were only one country, named Korea. During the war, the Soviet Union occupied the North of Korea, and the United States the south. Then, the Soviet Union, started a war and bombed the south. After a few years, both sides decided to do a sort of pact, not a peace pact, but a pact that they will just ignore each other, and that is when one country became two.

APO: Not a lot of people know this but some rules in N-K are really harsh. We found some of those rules that we would like to share with you.

- North Koreans aren't allowed, for example, to listen to music or watch films in another language [...], so no Pixar, Disney, Hollywood and Netflix movies.
- Another rule is that every family needs two pictures hanging on their wall: one of Kim Jung-un and one of his father.
- The government is allowed to break into your house, at the time they want, and if they find a little dust on these two pictures, then the family is sent to a forced Labor camp.

CLARA: The next rule is that if you call or text someone who is not in North Korea, you are in danger of death, which isn't normal. If you have family outside of North Korea, there is no legal way to contact them, and it's very rare that someone who escaped from North Korea, will see the family who stayed there again.

APO: Let's talk about our real subject: the refugees from North Korea. In this case, they are actually called defectors. We are going to show you the story of one defector named Yeonmi Park, who is one of the 30.000 defectors. Now, she's a defender of defectors that escaped from North Korea.

Let me tell you her story: Park escaped North Korea at the age of 14 (so roughly our age). Her life was always tough before that. For example her father was arrested because of illegal smuggling and she couldn't see him for a very long time. Later, when her older sister escaped, Parks' family got scared that the government would punish them for the sisters "crime".

CLARA: In North Korea, if someone of your family did something, what in the eyes of the government is a crime, your family and the next three generations would pay for it. That means killed in public, even in front of the kids.

Park's family fled the country, but unfortunately her dad couldn't come, because of his illness. It was only her mother and her. They fled, with the help of human traffickers, and after some days they arrived in China.

Oh It is very dangerous there, because China, like Russia, are supporting North Korea's acts, so you have nowhere you can be safe. They can automatically send you back or even kill you.

APO: Her dad followed them later, and they lived hidden in China. But few years later he died of cancer and they had to bury him secretly in the mountains. In 2009, they travelled, with the help of a human rights organisation to Mongolia, but they were stopped at the border. In order to get through, they threatened to kill themselves with pills. Later, the military guards let them in and the mother applied for asylum at the South Korean embassy.

CLARA: After 18 months of walking, they finally came to South Korea. During their journey, they searched for Park's sister, who escaped North Korea at the beginning, but they didn't find her, and thought she was dead. In South Korea, Park went to school, and caught everything up (in a short time). She went to the University, and later she got a call, from U.S.A, who said that they've found her sister. It was a big relief for them. She flew to the USA and got reunited with her sister after a very long time.

In the states, she began to become a human rights advocate and did a speech about her dangerous journey.

APO: Not every defector takes the same way then Yeon-mi Park did. Some are passing through China, all the way to Thailand or Cambodia, it is a very dangerous route because as we said China isn't safe, because they can send you back to North Korea whenever they want to. Often, the last destination of the defectors is South Korea, with schools for defectors, where they can discover what freedom means.

CLARA: The old routes which run from Mongolia to China, to Vietnam and Myanmar have become less preferable due to the recent border control of these countries.

APO: I think that is all what we wanted to say. We just wanted to precise that some years ago, Germany was a bit in the same situation. The wall of Berlin. But look at Germany now! It is a free country! Maybe there is still hope for N-K? Maybe in a few years it will become a normal country.

CLARA: again, this information isn't a 100% confirmed. We hope, you liked this presentation, and will try to support the North Korean defectors. If you want to know more about this case, you can watch the speech of Yeonmi park. It is 10 minutes long, and very emotional. We really recommend watching it! thanks for listening