

## **Central Public Prosecutor's Office**

The Central Public Prosecutor's Office in the DPRK is subordinate to the Cabinet. It is tasked with criminal investigations and prosecutions. It also has auditing and regulatory powers with regard to state-owned enterprises and local KWP organizations, and also initiates civil cases, including matters concerning family law, divorce and torts. Essentially, most every legal matter is managed by the Central Public Prosecutor's Office. The Central Public Prosecutor's Office highest executive is its Director who is elected by the Supreme People's Assembly for a five year term. The current Director of the Central Public Prosecutor is Ri Kil-song, a former Korean People's Army General.

The Central Public Prosecutor's Office is also a central coordinating body with branches in the military (military prosecutor's office) and the railroad/customs (railroad prosecutor's office). Each province has a Provincial Prosecutor's Office (there are 9 of these). There are also Municipal, County, District and Town (*si*) prosecutor's office. This brings an estimated total of between 220 and 230 central prosecutor's offices in the DPRK. Yonhap News Agency estimates a total of 1,000 prosecutors in the DPRK.

The responsibilities of the Central Public Prosecutor's Office are outlined in Section Eight, Articles 153 to 158, of the DPRK Constitution:

Article 153. Prosecution work shall be executed by the Central Prosecutor's Office, by provincial (municipality directly under the central authority), municipal (district), and county prosecutors' offices, and by the special prosecutor's office.

Article 154. The term of office of the Prosecutor General of the Central Prosecutor's Office shall be the same as that of the SPA.

Article 155. Prosecutors shall be appointed or dismissed by the Central Prosecutor's Office.

Article 156. The prosecutor's office shall have the duties to:

1. Monitor whether organs, enterprises, organizations, and citizens precisely observe the laws of the state.

2. Monitor whether the decisions and directives of state organs run counter to the Constitution; to the laws, ordinances, and decisions of the SPA; to the orders of the chairman of the DPRK NDC; to the decisions and directives of the NDC; to the decrees, decisions, and to the directives of the SPA Presidium; and to the decisions and directives of the Cabinet.

3. Expose criminals and law offenders and call them to legal account in order to protect the sovereignty of the DPRK, the socialist system, the property of the state and social cooperative organizations, and the constitutional rights, lives, and property of the people.

Article 157. Prosecution work shall be executed under the unified guidance of the Central Prosecutor's Office, and all prosecutors' offices shall be subordinate to their higher offices and to the Central Prosecutor's Office.

Article 158. The Central Prosecutor's Office shall be accountable for its work to the SPA, and to the SPA Presidium when the SPA is in recess.

Personnel management of the Central Public Prosecutor's Office—appointments, promotions, reviews, demotions and dismissals are vetted by the KWP Organization and Guidance Department and approved by the CC KWP Administration Department which is responsible for daily management of the Central Public Prosecutor's Office. The Prosecutor-General submits a daily report to the Administration Department's director. The Central Public Prosecutor's Office also links to the State Security Department (for political crimes) and the Ministry of Public Security (for statutory crimes).