

North Korea's brutal purges

Persons accused of serious political offences are sent to forced labour camps, known as *kwan-li-so*, or executed by hanging, decapitation or firing squads using anti aircraft guns, mortars or flamethrowers

▲ **Kwan-li-so:** Up to 120,000 prisoners detained in four forced labour camps



■ **Dec 2011:** Estimated 200 senior officials executed or detained in purge following death of **Kim Jong-il**



■ **Dec 28:** **Kim Jong-un** (above) officially declared supreme leader of North Korea

■ **2012:** At least 14 senior party, government and military officials executed

■ **2014:** At least 50 executions, including six ministers. Deputy public security minister, **O Sang-hon**, executed by flamethrower

■ **2015:** Among 15 killed are two ministers and four members of Unhasu Orchestra, accused of spying



■ **2013:** Kim's uncle and No. 2, **Jang Song-thaek** (left) executed. Up to 30 of Jang's aides and blood relatives also killed, some by anti-aircraft guns. Gen. **U Tong-chuk**

– secret police chief believed to have masterminded purge – disappears

■ **2014:** North Korea launches so-called “**9.8 measures**” – programme of public executions. First satellite evidence of executions using ZPU-4 anti-aircraft guns

■ **Apr 30:** Defence minister **Hyon Yong-chol** (left) executed using anti-aircraft gun



Sources: Human Rights Watch, Committee for Human

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