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Paul's summary

On Friday, China announced that they would **repatriate** all 31 North Korean **defectors** that were arrested last month, despite international pressure. During the month of February, a series of North Korean refugees had escaped into China **seeking asylum**. The incident had gained much international recognition with various protests in South Korea as politicians, celebrities, and civic groups **banded together to support their fellow Koreans**.

As North Korea's closest ally and neighbor, China has for years returned any defectors to North Korea under diplomatic agreements. But China is now facing intense criticism from foreign governments and human rights groups. Many are saying that if China **deports** the North Korean refugees it would almost mean certain death or a life-time of imprisonment.

President Lee Myun-bak called on Beijing to handle the refugees in accordance to international **humanitarian standards**. However, Chinese Foreign Minister Hong Lei defended China's decision saying that the escaped North Koreans had crossed into China for economic reasons, and therefore **do not qualify as refugees**. China now has to decide whether its relationship with North Korea is worth being condemned by the whole world.

Key Words

1. 망명하고자 하다 seek asylum
2. 북한 동포를 위해 힘을 합치다 band together to support their fellow Koreans
3. 난민 자격에 미치지 못한다 do not qualify as refugees
4. 추방하다 deport
5. 본국으로 송환하다 repatriate
6. 탈북자를 복송하다 sending North Koreans back to their country; repatriate North Koreans; deport North Koreans
7. 난민으로 인정하다 give refugee status; elevate them to refugee status; recognize them as refugees
8. 국제사회 international community
9. 국제사회가 한 목소리를 내다 there is a unanimous voice from the international community
10. 정치 문제가 아니다 this is not about politics
11. 탈북자의 생명과 관련된 문제다 this is about the life and death of North Korean refugees
12. 단식투쟁을 하다 stage a hunger strike
13. 항의의 의미로 in protest of China's repatriation of North Koreans
14. 탈북자 문제에 대해 소극적인 야당을 비판하다 criticize the opposition party for taking a lukewarm position over the issue of North Korean defectors
15. 인도주의적으로 접근하다 take a more humanitarian approach toward this issue; look at it from more humanitarian point-of-view

More Key Words

1. (노력 등을) 한 단계 더 높이다 step it up
2. 정치적으로 이용하다 take advantage of this issue politically
3. 북한 동포를 구해야 한다는 입장을 취하다 take a stand to defend fellow Koreans
4. 우려를 표명하다 voice one's concerns