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Why Are There No Disabled Persons in North Korea?

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Reuters is reporting a genuinely frightening story out of North Korea. According to the respected news agency, a recent North Korean defector claims that the killing of newborns seen to be defective is now common in what is often called the “Hemit Kingdom.”

The defector, Ri Kwang-chol, is a physician who claims first-hand knowledge of the practice of killing those considered to be “defective” babies.

From the Reuters report:

North Korea has no people with physical disabilities because they are killed almost as soon as they are born, a physician who defected from the communist state said on Wednesday. Ri Kwang-chol, who fled to the South last year, told a forum of rights activists that the practice of killing newborns was widespread but denied he himself took part in it.

“There are no people with physical defects in North Korea,” Ri told members of the New Right Union, which groups local activists and North Korean refugees. He said babies born with physical disabilities were killed in infancy in hospitals or in homes and were quickly buried.

The practice is encouraged by the state, Ri said, as a way of purifying the masses and eliminating people who might be considered “different”.

Is this logic all that far from what we now hear in America? Here, the majority of babies with Down Syndrome are now aborted. Can infanticide be far behind?

HT: Scott Lamb. See also David C. Price

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