Report: South Korean supermarkets sold seafood produced by North Korean labor in China

Seafood produced by North Korean workers in China was sold in major South Korean supermarkets, violating United Nations sanctions

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📷 Seafood at a supermaket in South Korea. Credit: Sorbis / Shutterstock

Seafood produced by North Korean workers in China was sold in major South Korean supermarkets, violating United Nations sanctions, reports *Chosunilbo*.

Over 420 metric tons of seafood items -- including clams, squid, Alaska pollock and sea cucumbers -- were confirmed to have been processed by North Korean laborers at three Chinese seafood companies and exported to South Korea from 2020-2022. The products arrived at Busan Port from Dalian Port in China before distribution across the country.

The revelations -- which are based on an investigation by Outlaw Ocean Project in February -- found seafood processed by North Korean forced labor was sold at major South Korean supermarkets and online retailers. Products exported by Dandong Taihua, a Chinese processor, received positive ratings on a major supermarket's website.

The plants in the report were predominantly located in Donggang, Liaoning province, close to the China-North Korea border.

While South Korea lacks laws specifically barring imports produced by North Korean forced labor, the US has sanctioned several Chinese companies for employing North Koreans.