

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020



North Korea's Long-term Prison-Labor Facility *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri - Update 3

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THE COMMITTEE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA
북한인권위원회

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI



Location:

Hoeryöng-si, Hamgyöng-bukto

Center Point Coordinates:

42.209410 N, 129.755100 E

Date of Report:

September 30, 2020

Date of Imagery:

DigitalGlobe/Maxar Technologies: March 22, 2018, February 5, 2019, and October 26, 2019

Size of Facility (Main Compound Area):

23,600 square meters (28,230 square yards)
188-meters-by-128-meters
(205-yards-by-139-yards)

Background

The United Nations Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (UN COI) determined that "crimes against humanity have been committed in North Korea, pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the State." Many of these crimes against humanity take place against persons detained in political and other prison camps—persons who, as the Commission determined, are among the "primary targets of a systematic and widespread attack" by the North Korean regime—including: murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence, persecution on political grounds, and the enforced disappearance of persons.

According to the UN COI, "The unspeakable atrocities that are being committed against inmates of the *kwan-li-so* polit-

ical prison camps resemble the horrors of camps that totalitarian States established during the twentieth century."¹

Based on research conducted by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK), five trends have defined the human rights situation under the Kim Jong-un regime: 1) an intensive crackdown on attempted defections; 2) an aggressive purge of senior officials, aimed to consolidate the leader's grip on power; 3) a "restructuring" of the political prison camp system, with some facilities closer to the border with China being shut down, while inland facilities have been expanded; 4) the disproportionate oppression of women, who have assumed primary responsibility for the survival of their families - thus, women represent the majority of those arrested for perceived wrongdoing at the "jangmadang" markets, or for "illegally" crossing the border; and 5) the sustained, if not increased, economic importance of the political prison camps.

ANALYSIS²

Overview

This report is part of a comprehensive long-term project undertaken by HRNK to use satellite imagery to shed light on human suffering in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, more commonly known as North Korea) by monitoring activity at political prison facilities throughout the country.³ Specifically, this study updates and expands upon previous HRNK reports concerning the prison facility identified by former prisoners and researchers as *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri (i.e., Long-term Prison-labor Facility No. 12 at Jöngö-ri) and details activity observed there between 2017 and 2019.⁴ In doing so, it endeavors to continue building a baseline understanding of the facility.⁵

During 2018 to 2020, HRNK was fortunate to be able to acquire primary source testimony from a number of former *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri prisoners to comple-

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ment newly acquired high-resolution pan-sharpened multispectral satellite images of the facility and its immediate environs. When combined with the limited reliable public information available, it has allowed HRNK to produce a report with a unique level of detail that was previously unavailable. This report focuses upon examination of the presence and changes to the following physical features:⁶

- » Entrance and security perimeter
- » Headquarters, administration, barracks, housing, and support facilities
- » Main prison and guard positions
- » Crematory
- » Copper mine and mining activity
- » Agricultural and miscellaneous activity

Based on analysis of these features, *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri is an operational prison camp. It is well maintained by North Korean

standards, indicated by activity and general good maintenance in and immediately surrounding the camp. The camp has also recovered from the damaged suffered from flooding during the 2016 Typhoon Lionrock and detailed in our previous study.⁷

Satellite imagery coverage of the facility supports former prisoner testimony that the prison's economic activity is a combination of light manufacturing, farming and agricultural work, logging, and copper mining using forced labor.⁸

Population estimates by former prisoners and researchers for *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri have varied over time. For example, 1,300-1,500 during 1998-1999, 1,700 during 2003-2006, and 5,000 (1,000 women and 4,000 men) during 2008-2010.⁹ Some 60% of the prisoners are reportedly incarcerated for illegally crossing the border into China. The remaining 40% have been detained for a variety of common

crimes such as watching South Korean dramas, drug usage, contact with Christian churches operating in the border region, hitting a prosecutor during the course of an interrogation, etc.¹⁰ While satellite imagery cannot confirm the reasons for imprisonment, it does provide confirmation that the facility appears capable of housing this number of prisoners.

While all satellite imagery shows the presence of personnel both within the walled prison and at other facilities, it cannot confirm former prisoner population estimates. The physical footprint of the prison suggests that if the more recent figures are even somewhat accurate, then the facility is overcrowded by most international standards.

While the precise date of establishment of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri is unknown, examination of medium-resolution imagery suggests that the camp was established between 1980 and 1983.

One former prisoner, however, indicates that "it was founded in 1970 as "No. 22 Juvenile Reformatory," and that back then, the concrete walls of the prison were just 6 meters high. Then, in the mid-1980s, the name was changed to "No.12 Reeducation Camp."¹¹

As with the analytical caution presented in previous HRNK reports, it is important to reiterate that North Korean officials, especially those within the Korean People's Army and the internal security organizations, clearly understand the importance of implementing camouflage, concealment, and deception (CCD) procedures to mask their operations and intentions.¹² It would not be unreasonable to assume that they have done so here.

Location and Subordination

Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jöngö-ri is located in Hoeryöng-si, Hamgyöng-bukto, approximately 26 kilometers south of Hoeryöng,

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2.4 kilometers east-northeast of the town of Jöngö-ri, and 490 kilometers northeast of P'yöng-yang. The facility was erected between, and absorbed, the tiny agricultural villages of Musal-li (Musandong, 무산리) and Kolchön'gö-ri (골전거리). The prison is reported to be subordinate to the Prisons Bureau of the Ministry of People's Security, which is direct-

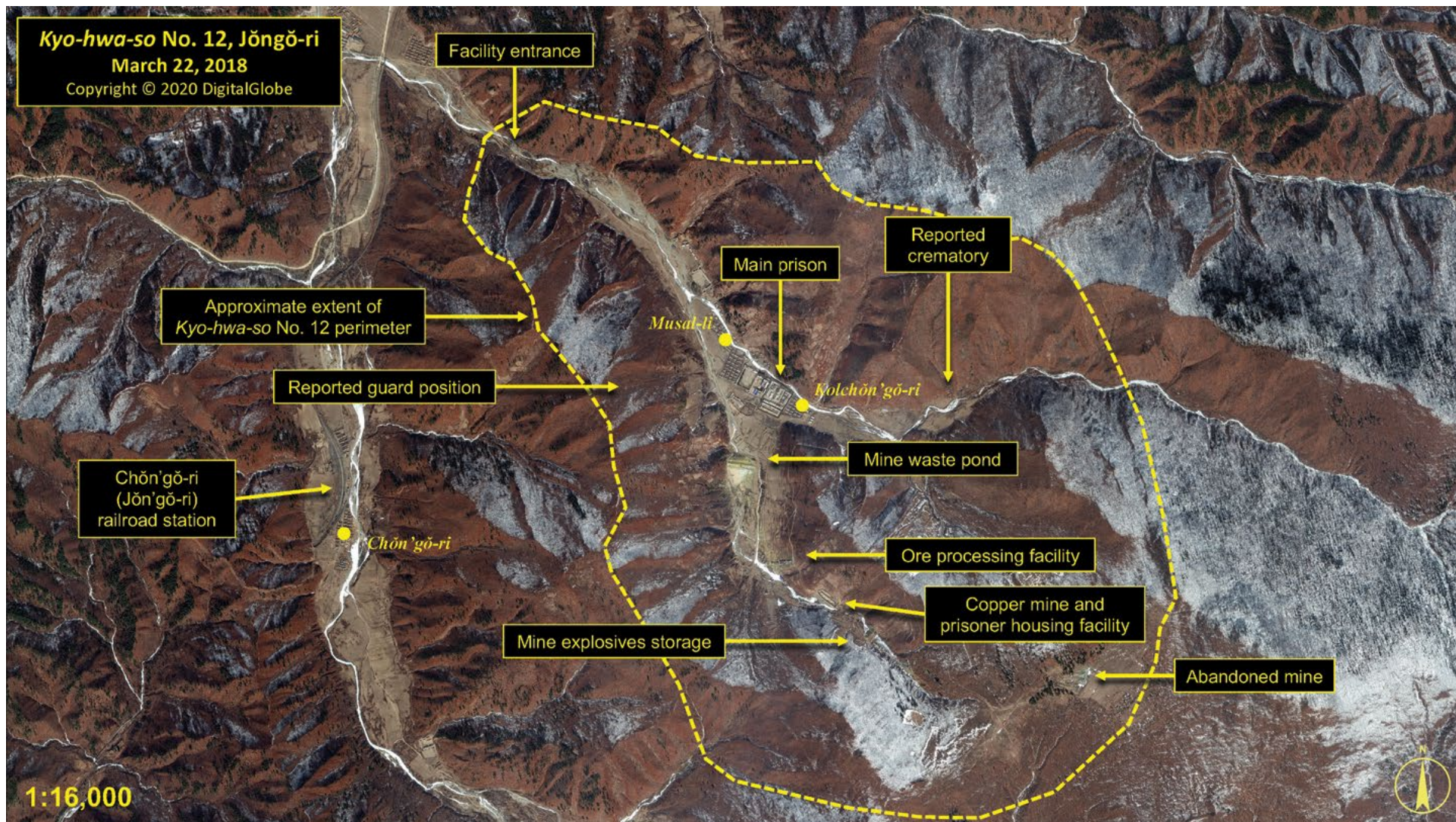
ly under the State Affairs Commission. Recent reports indicate the Ministry of People's Security may now be named the Ministry of Social Security. Specifically, it would be under the control of the ministry's Hamgyöng Province Prisons Bureau.¹³

One source indicates that the camp is guarded by a security

force of approximately 300 sentries: "Among the 300, 60 are enlisted sentries—people directly pulled out of the army to join the Jöngö-ri Prison. Another 10 are 30 to 35-year-old sentries who live with their families; another 10 of them are unmarried sentries of "sergeant major" rank. The remaining 220 are security officials with stars on their shoulders, from

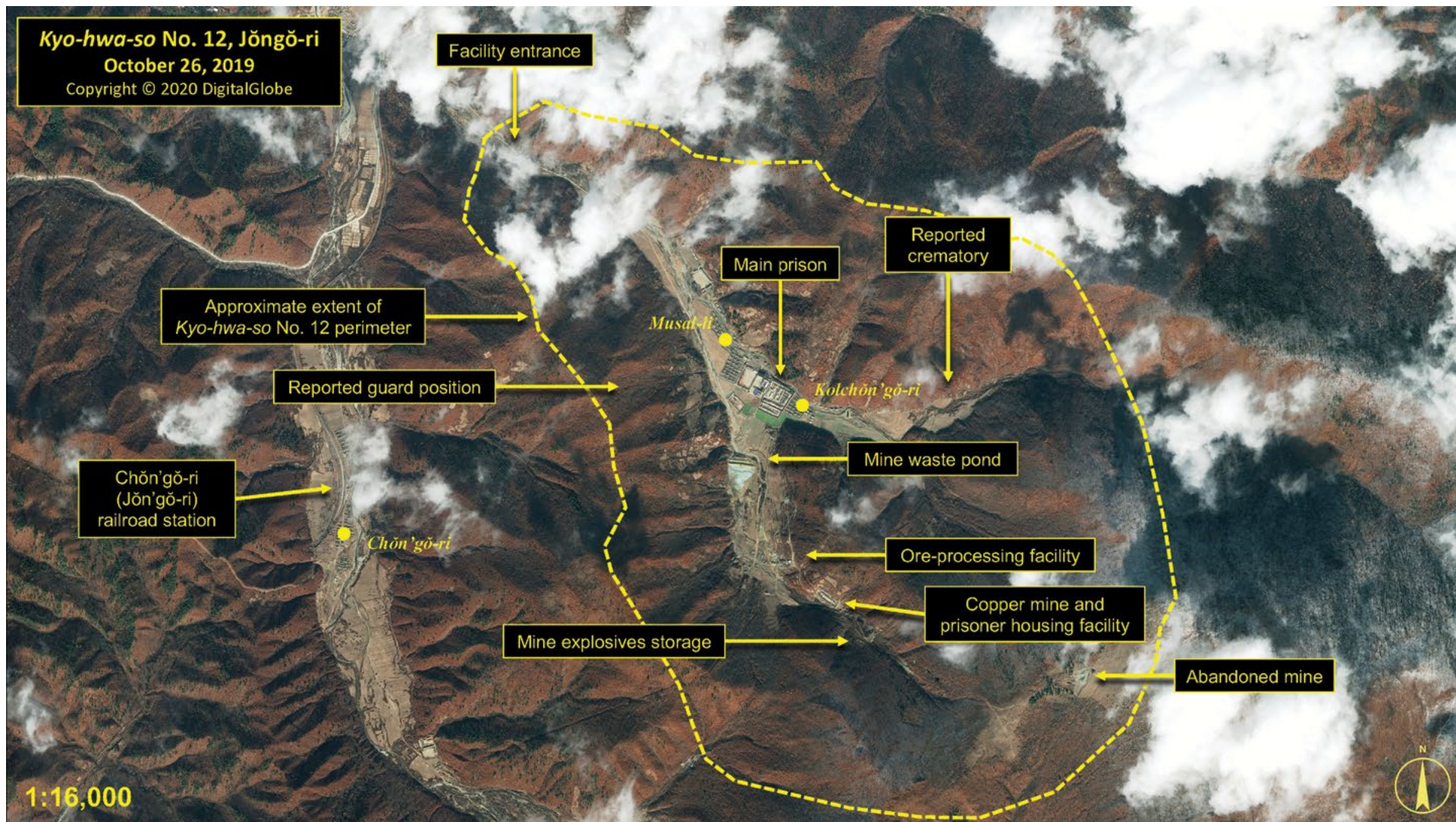
second lieutenant up to captain." This same source states that the camp is administered by "a prison warden, the top officer, followed by a vice warden, a political director, an executive officer [while] in the 1st to 5th branches [sections], there are subordinate officers: a chief officer, security officers, administrative security officers, [and] general security officers."¹⁴

Figure 1



Overview of the Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 area (42.2102 N, 129.7536 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 2



Overview of the *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 area (42.2102 N, 129.7536 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

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IMAGERY ANALYSIS

Entrance and Security Perimeter

Since *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri is a small walled prison facility in a remote mountain valley, it does not have an extended patrolled security perimeter, as do North Korea's *kwan-li-so* political penal labor colonies.¹⁵ The main, and only, entrance to *Kyo-hwa-so* No.

12, Jöngö-ri is located approximately 1.9 kilometers northwest of the main prison astride the only road leading into the valley.

In 2003, the entrance and checkpoint consisted of only one small building. By 2008, this had been expanded to three buildings, including a checkpoint, barracks, and administration buildings. Between 2009 and 2012, these

buildings received new roofs. With the 2016 flooding, one of these structures (closest to the river) was lost and not replaced. The two remaining structures appear to function as a small guard barracks/office and guard post.

At least one former prisoner indicates that there are small remote guard positions on the ridges surrounding the valley in which

Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jöngö-ri is located.¹⁶ With the exception of one potential guard position that appears to have been present from at least 2003 through 2016, no others have been identified. Imagery between 2017 and 2019 does not clearly show this position. If it is still present, it is undoubtedly a small guard booth.

Figure 3



Main entrance and checkpoint (42.2218 N, 129.7380 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 4



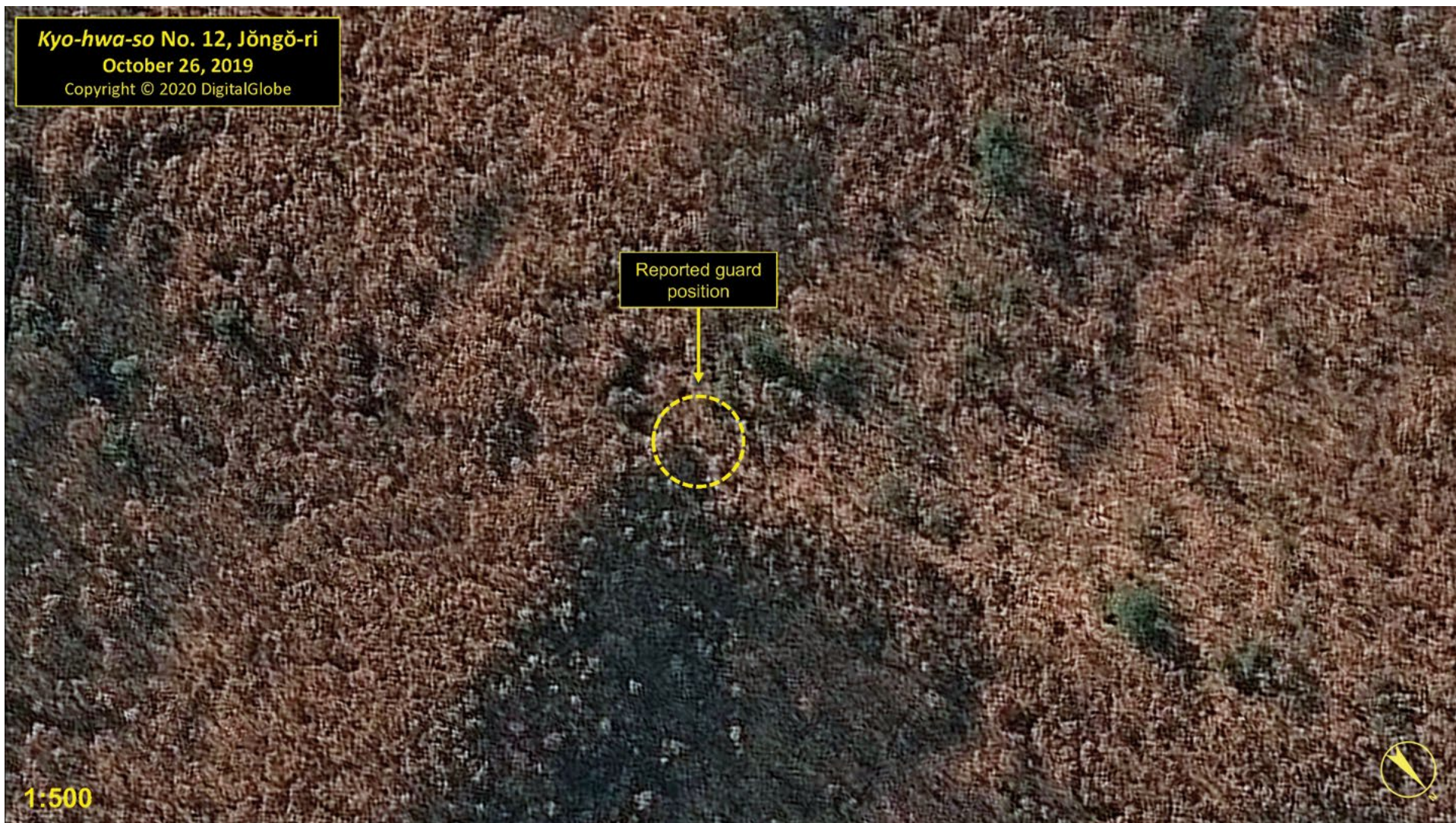
Main entrance and checkpoint (42.2218 N, 129.7380 E), October 26, 2019. Although largely obscured by clouds there do not appear to be any significant changes during the past year. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 5



Reported guard position on the ridge to the west of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri (42.2095 N, 129.7421 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 6



Reported guard position on the ridge to the west of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri (42.2095 N, 129.7421 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

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Satellite imagery shows that several important activities, such as the copper mine processing facility and mine portal, and worker housing compound also have guard positions and security fencing (see below).

Headquarters, Administration, Barracks, Housing, and Support Facilities

The village of Musal-li (Musandong, 무산리) begins approx-

imately 1.2 kilometers southeast of the main facility entrance and extends down to encompass the headquarters, administration, barracks, and support area. This northern section of the village sits astride a small stream. This section underwent a number of minor changes between 2003 and 2015. For example, between February 2012 and February 2013, three buildings were razed and the road through the village was improved. Prior to the 2016

flood, this section of the village consisted of approximately 34 structures. The flood, however, resulted in the permanent loss of a number of structures. Since that time, a number of structures have been rebuilt and today, this area consists of approximately 29 housing units and a small partially enclosed compound that is accessed via a small bridge across the stream. This compound is similar to those seen throughout North Korea that house small

military or security units. Visible within the compound is a soccer field (football pitch) and an obstacle course. The fields around this area are reported to be tended by prisoners.

Figure 7



The village of Musal-li showing a guard barracks and housing for officers, (42.2154 N, 129.7502 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 8



The village of Musal-li showing a guard barracks and housing for officers, (42.2154 N, 129.7502 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

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The headquarters, administrative, barracks, housing, and support facilities of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri are located 1.9 kilometers south of the main facility entrance and checkpoint. These appear to have been established between 1980 and 1983 on the site of the tiny agricultural villages of Musal-li (on the north side) and Kolchon'gö-ri (on the south side). If North Korea followed practices seen elsewhere, it is likely that the villages were partially razed and the original inhabitants consigned to provide agricultural and other support to the prison or moved to new housing nearby.

These facilities occupy an irregularly shaped area that measures approximately 812 meters by 393 meters (888 yards by 430 yards) and encompasses approximately

15.5 hectares (185,530 square yards)—with the main prison located in the center. For analytical purposes, this area (excluding the main prison) can be divided into three functional activities:

- » Headquarters, administration, and barracks
- » Agricultural support
- » Housing

Adjacent to the northwest wall of the main prison are two compounds that house the camp's headquarters, administration, barracks for guard personnel, local Korean Workers' Party offices, Kim Il-sung Observatory (i.e., a study hall or museum), support staff, and support buildings (including a school for children). At the center of this area is a parade ground that also includes an

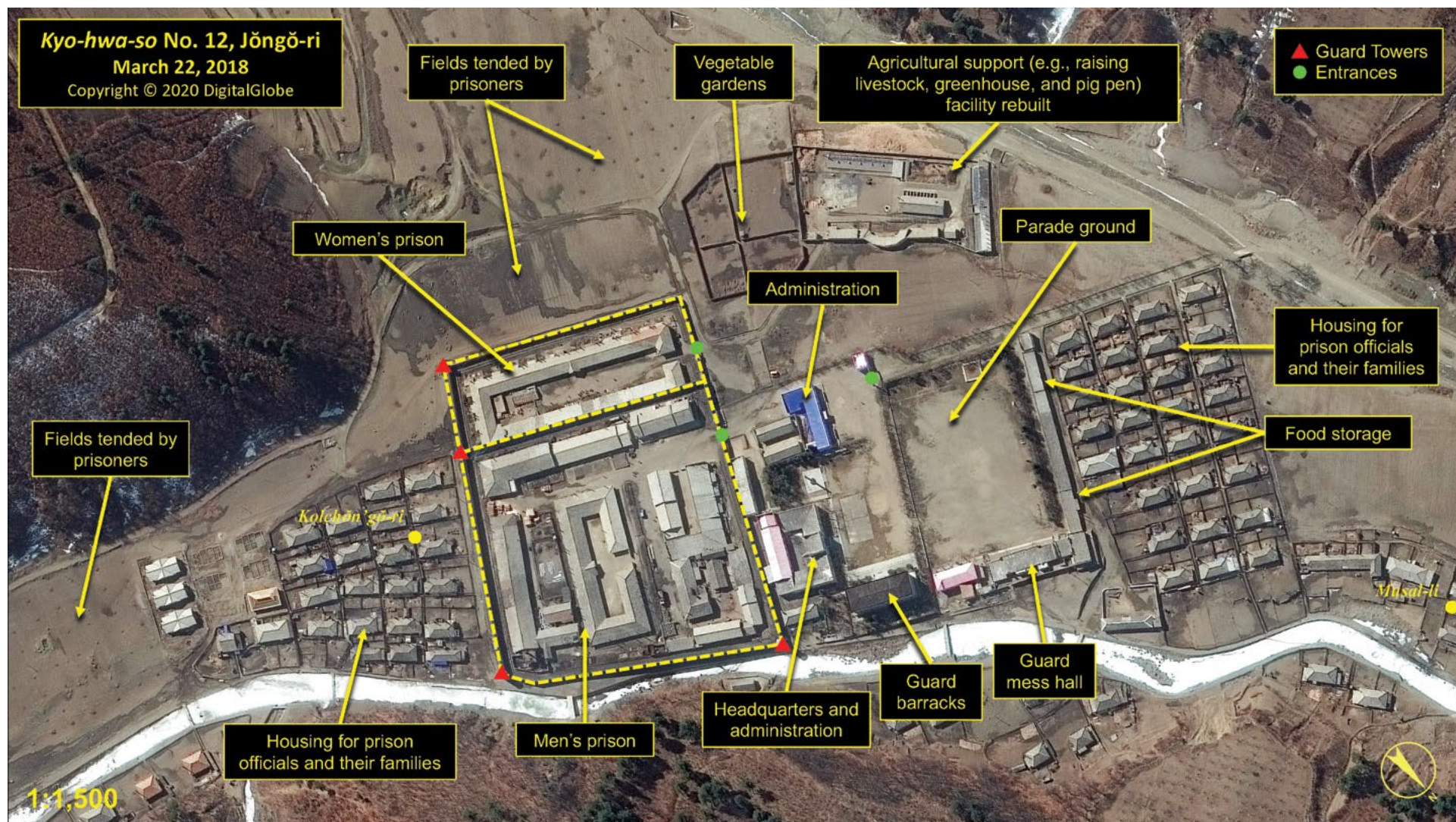
obstacle course. Only a small number of minor changes have been observed here since 2016. All of these, however, are typical (e.g., a building being re-roofed during 2017–2018, etc.) of what is expected to be seen during the normal course of operating such a facility in rural North Korea.

On the opposite side of the river from the headquarters, administration, and barracks area are eight small structures that have been present since 2003 and appear to be related to agriculture. During 2019, one of these structures was rebuilt as a small greenhouse.

Directly to the west of the prison are two small agricultural support compounds—both of which were walled-in prior to 2019. The first consists of greenhouses as well

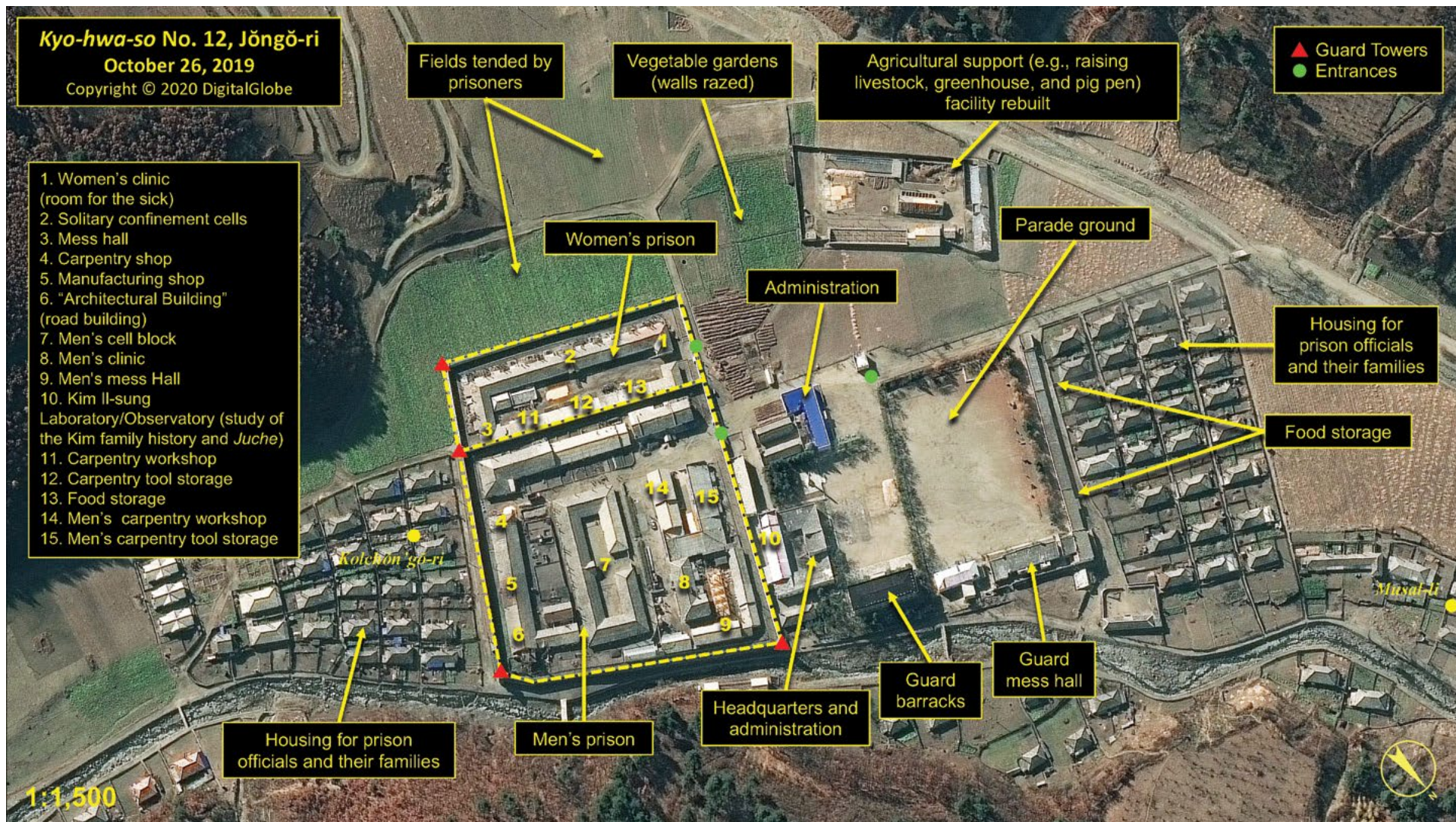
as poultry and livestock pens. Between late 2018 and late 2019, the entrance to the facility was rebuilt and what appears to be a second greenhouse was added. The second compound was added in early 2018 and appears to have initially been used for livestock pens, storage, and cold frames to start seedlings. According to former prisoners, it is also used for vegetable gardens. Sometime during late 2018 and late 2019, the walls around this compound appear to have been razed.

Figure 9



Overview of the headquarters, administration barracks and housing area (42.2105 N, 129.7533 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 10



Overview of the headquarters, administration barracks and housing area (42.2105 N, 129.7533 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 11



Close-up of the agricultural support facility (42.2091 N, 129.7528 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 12



Close-up of the agricultural support facility (42.2091 N, 129.7528 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (*KYO-HWA-SO*) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

Immediately north of the headquarters, administration, and barracks compound is a small walled-in housing area that consists of 30 structures and represents the southern limits of Musal-li. These housing units are reported to be for the camp's various managers, senior party officials, and senior security offi-

cial and their families. This area has remained largely unchanged since 2015 and does not appear to have suffered any permanent damage due to the 2016 flooding.

On the south side of the main prison is a second housing area consisting of 32 structures (including 5 on the opposite side

of the river) at Kolchön'gö-ri. According to former prisoners, these housing units are also for prison officials and their families. Aside from the addition of a greenhouse and small fish farm in 2016, this area remained essentially unchanged between 2016 and 2018, and does not appear to have suffered any permanent damage due

to the 2016 flooding. During 2019, the fish farm was expanded with one of its ponds enlarged and a fifth pond added.

Figure 13



Close-up of the housing area around Kolchön'gö-ri (42.2090 N, 129.7596 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 14



Close-up of the housing area around Kolchön'gö-ri (42.2090 N, 129.7596 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

Main Prison

From 2003 through 2009, the prison facility occupied a generally rectangular shaped area that measured approximately 142-meters-by-128-meters (155-yards-by-139-yards) and encompassed approximately 1.818 hectares (21,738 square yards). Satellite imagery generally supports former prisoner descriptions of changes to the internal layout of the main prison compound during this period. There have been subsequent changes to the various buildings.

Former prisoner Kim Won-gil identifies furniture and tool shops as the primary light industries operated by prisoners in the main prison.¹⁷ According to Kim

and other former prisoners, both shops are reportedly the responsibility of prisoner Section 1. Another source states that aside from prisoner cells, the main prison includes “a warehouse, carpentry section, drafting section, public affairs section, the kitchen, tree felling section, hospital, pharmacy, a cargo labor section, [and] an auto repairs section.”¹⁸ In addition to these descriptions, satellite imagery shows several small garden plots and what is likely a pen for small animals and fowl within the prison walls.¹⁹

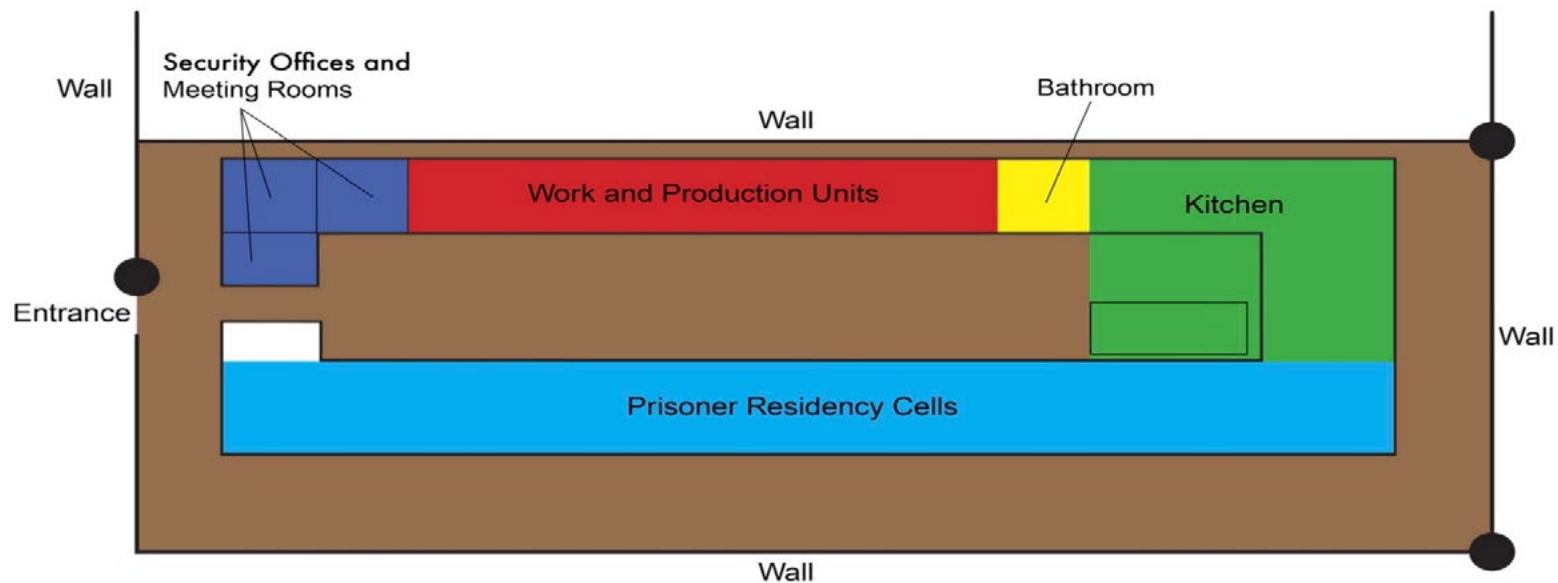
According to the KINU *White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2016*, prisoners at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri are grouped into five sections. Male prisoners are assigned to Sec-

tions 1, 2, 4, and 5, whereas female prisoners are assigned to Section 3. Each section is sub-divided into units. Section 1 has approximately 12 units. Sections 2 and 3 each have around ten units, while Section 4 has around four units and Section 5 has around three units. There is reportedly also a unit of undernourished prisoners.²⁰

According to *Bukan Kyohwaso*, Section 1 is responsible for “woodwork, making bricks, manufacturing, repairing cars, etc. ... Section 2 is primarily sent to work at a copper mine located 1.5 kilometers from the main prison. Section 3, which holds female inmates, is divided into ten sub-groups for farming, making wigs and false eyelashes, raising livestock, etc. Section 4 mainly produces

limestone. Section 5 had been in charge of processing ore.²¹ A former detainee confirmed this organization and added that repeat offenders were often placed within Section 5.²²

According to former prisoners, female prisoners were introduced to *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 starting in late 2007 and soon numbered approximately 1,000, of whom approximately 80% had reportedly been forcibly repatriated back to North Korea from China.²³ Former prisoners report that though these female prisoners were originally housed in the main prison, as their numbers increased, an annex or “Women’s Section” (Section 3) was constructed prior to 2010.²⁴



Composite graphic of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri "Women's Section" by Rosa Park, HRNK. (42.2091 N, 129.7552 E)

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Satellite imagery more closely identifies the construction of the “Women’s Section” to the period between February and August 2009. This rectangular walled annex measures approximately 46-meters-by-128-meters (50-yards-by-139-yards) and encompasses approximately .6 hectares (7,000 square yards). Unlike the original prison compound, the “Women’s Section” does not have any visible garden plots.

Former prisoners report that this Women’s Section has a section leader, a secretary, doctor, three female managers, and is “divided into work units for tree and log cutting, agricultural production (beans, potatoes, and corn), live-

stock or animal husbandry, cooking (for the prisoners), which are the typical prison work units, plus wig-making and eyelash-making units.”²⁵ These same reports contain detailed information concerning the internal layout of the Women’s Section and, while satellite imagery cannot determine the precision of these statements, the overall layout and dimensions provided very closely match the imagery.²⁶

Satellite imagery from 2017 through 2019 indicates that the 2016 flood does not appear to have resulted in any significant damage to the prison. During this period, however, there were some minor changes (e.g., small

buildings added or razed, etc.) to the internal structures of both the men’s and women’s prison sections (e.g., the 2018–2019 addition of a small greenhouse). The exact purpose of these changes is unclear. However, they are likely related to the light industry activities undertaken by prisoners.

Currently, the walled prison facility occupies a generally rectangular shaped area that measures approximately 188-meters-by-128-meters (205-yards-by-139-yards) and encompasses 2.406 hectares (28,780 square yards).²⁷ It is surrounded by an approximately four-meter-high wall with two entrances: one for the main compound and one for the women’s

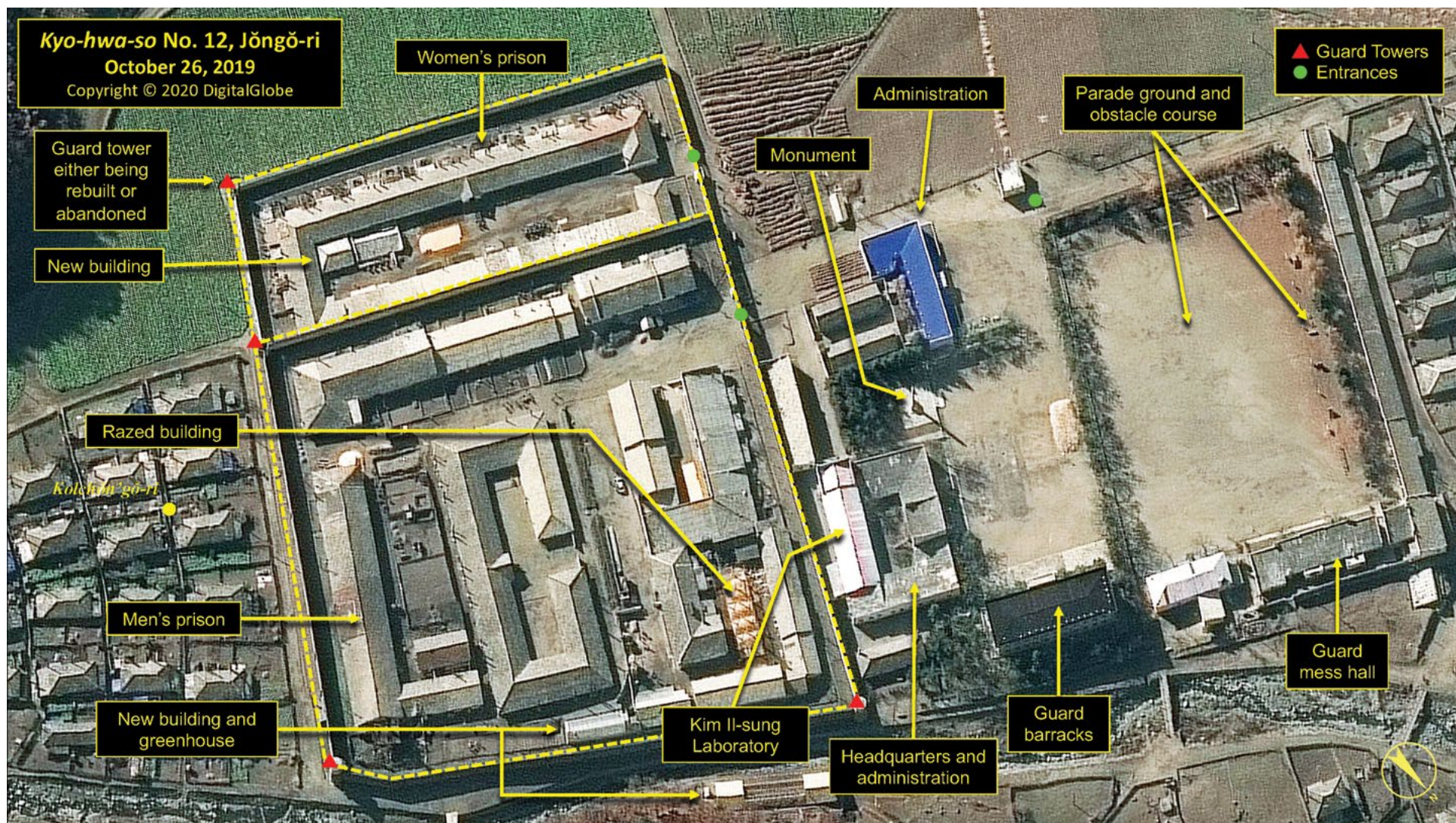
annex. There is no gate connecting the two compounds. Built into the wall are four elevated guard positions, one of which may have been abandoned as it has not had a roof since 2015. During late-2018 and late-2019, the guard tower on the southeast corner (e.g., overlooking the women’s section) appears to have either had its roof removed or has been abandoned. Available imagery is not sufficient to make a firm determination. A third entrance, which separates the prison proper from the larger facility, is approximately 80 meters west of the entrance to the men’s prison.

Figure 15



Close-up of main prison at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri (42.2095 N, 129.7552 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 16



Close-up of main prison at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri (42.2095 N, 129.7552 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

Cremation Facility

Two of the more vexing issues concerning *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri are the high death rate reported due to injuries, illness, physical and mental abuse by prison officials, and the operation of a crematory to dispose of dead prisoners in, what appears to be, a surreptitious manner.²⁸ Up until recently, there have only been incomplete or vague reports concerning the size, operations, and precise location of the crematory. Most such reports indicated that it is a small building with a wood- or charcoal-fired furnace on Bulmang-san "a few [kilometers] away from the main prison block."²⁹

According to Kim Gwang-il and other former prisoners, bodies of deceased prisoners were "collected in a storeroom, where they were often eaten by rodents or rot in the summer heat. When enough bodies had piled up, they

would be heaved on a large cart and driven up to the mountains, where they were burnt. Inmates who were strong enough were forced to assist in the disposal of the bodies."³⁰ Eun Sook, another former prisoner, states that a "prisoner collects around ten deceased [bodies] every three days and carts them to a nearby mountain."³¹ The ashes from the cremated bodies were then "sometimes being used as fertilizer for the prison fields."³² Another former prisoner provided another account in more detail:

Every Monday, we burned the corpses at Bul-mang Mountain. There's a place that looked like a house, and we piled the corpses in the round tank in it. There was a chimney for smoke. One time, I fell on something. At first, I thought I was stuck on a tree, but when I looked closer, it was

a toe. I didn't know that it was Bul-mang Mountain. I climbed the mountain following the ash and there were five toes right in front of me. I was so surprised.

On a rainy day, when trees get wet, corpses did not burn well. After burning the corpses, they stacked up ashes next to the cremation site. The ashes were used as a compost for farming. When it rained, the ashes flowed into the river, and the prisoners drank it [the river water] and used it for taking a shower.

...

Prisoners were in charge of burning the corpses. While they were burning the corpses, the guards stayed in a tent, drinking. I worked at a potato farm in front of Bul-mang Mountain. Not

every prisoner had a chance to see Bul-mang Mountain, but I could see it every day since I worked at the potato farm. Every Monday, after burning the corpses, the facility was drenched in the smell of blood and rotting or burning corpses.³³

From 2018 to 2020, HRNK was able to conduct a number of extensive interviews with former prisoners and, by cross-checking statements and confirming these with satellite imagery, has made a positive identification of the crematory. It is located 1 kilometer east of the main prison up a shallow ravine. It is a small, non-descript structure measuring approximately four-meters-by-five-meters. The structure may have a small exhaust stack or pipe on one corner.

Figure 17



Close-up of the cremation facility at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri as independently confirmed by former prisoners (42.2100 N, 129.7667 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 18



Close-up of the cremation facility at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri as independently confirmed by former prisoners (42.2100 N, 129.7667 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

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Available satellite imagery does not provide any indication of how often the crematory is operated or the number of deceased prisoners who have been processed at the site.

Copper Mine and Other Mining Activity

Satellite imagery collected from 2002 through 2019 confirms former prisoner reports about the presence of a copper mine in the valley south of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri. This mining activity consists of four primary components: a waste pond, copper mine, ore processing facility, a prisoner housing and support compound, and an explosives storage facility.³⁴

At the entrance to the valley, 300 meters south of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri is a waste pond covering 2.128 hectares (25,450 square

yards) for the ore-processing facility. This pond is impounded by an earthen dam erected from mine waste. Raw waste is delivered to the pond via ditch and pipe. Here it settles and then is dredged out and used to reinforce the dam or shipped out for further processing. Sitting on top of the dam is an excavator that was once used to dredge the pond and maintain the dam. However, it does not appear to have been moved since 2008 and may have been abandoned. Given the visible condition of the waste pond and dam, and the proximity to the nearby stream, it is likely that contaminants are present in the water downstream. This, in turn, raises concerns over health issues for the persons living and working along the stream, and the prisoners who may have bathed in the stream or drunk water from it.³⁵ One former prisoner states that “[even] in winter, the

female inmates could only wash themselves in the river under the eyes of male guards.”³⁶ On the south side of the waste pond is what appears to be an abandoned stack from a razed structure. Other than varying levels of water in the waste pond, likely due to rain and snow runoff, and the construction of a new building just north of the dam during 2017, no significant changes are observed here in imagery from 2017 through 2019.

Approximately 570 meters south of the waste pond is a small ore-processing facility, reportedly operated by Section 5.³⁷ It consists of a rock crusher, screener, processing, and loading buildings and housing structures. This facility was surrounded by a security fence and three guard positions from 2003 to 2010, when the security fence was moved closer

to the buildings. Between May and June 2015, it appears that the security fence may have been partially removed. Mine ore carts bring ore extracted from the nearby mine via a 370-meters-long railway to the processing facility, where the ore is dumped. Here, the processing facility crushes the ore and produces copper products that are shipped out by truck (possibly to the rail station at Chön’gö-ri or P’ungsal-li). Only minor activity (e.g., the movement of small numbers of mine ore carts) is noted at this facility in satellite imagery from 2016 to the present. This, along with the lack of activity noted at the waste pond, suggests that the ore-processing facility likely operates infrequently and for short periods of time.

Figure 19



Copper mine waste pond (42.2058 N, 129.7528 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 20



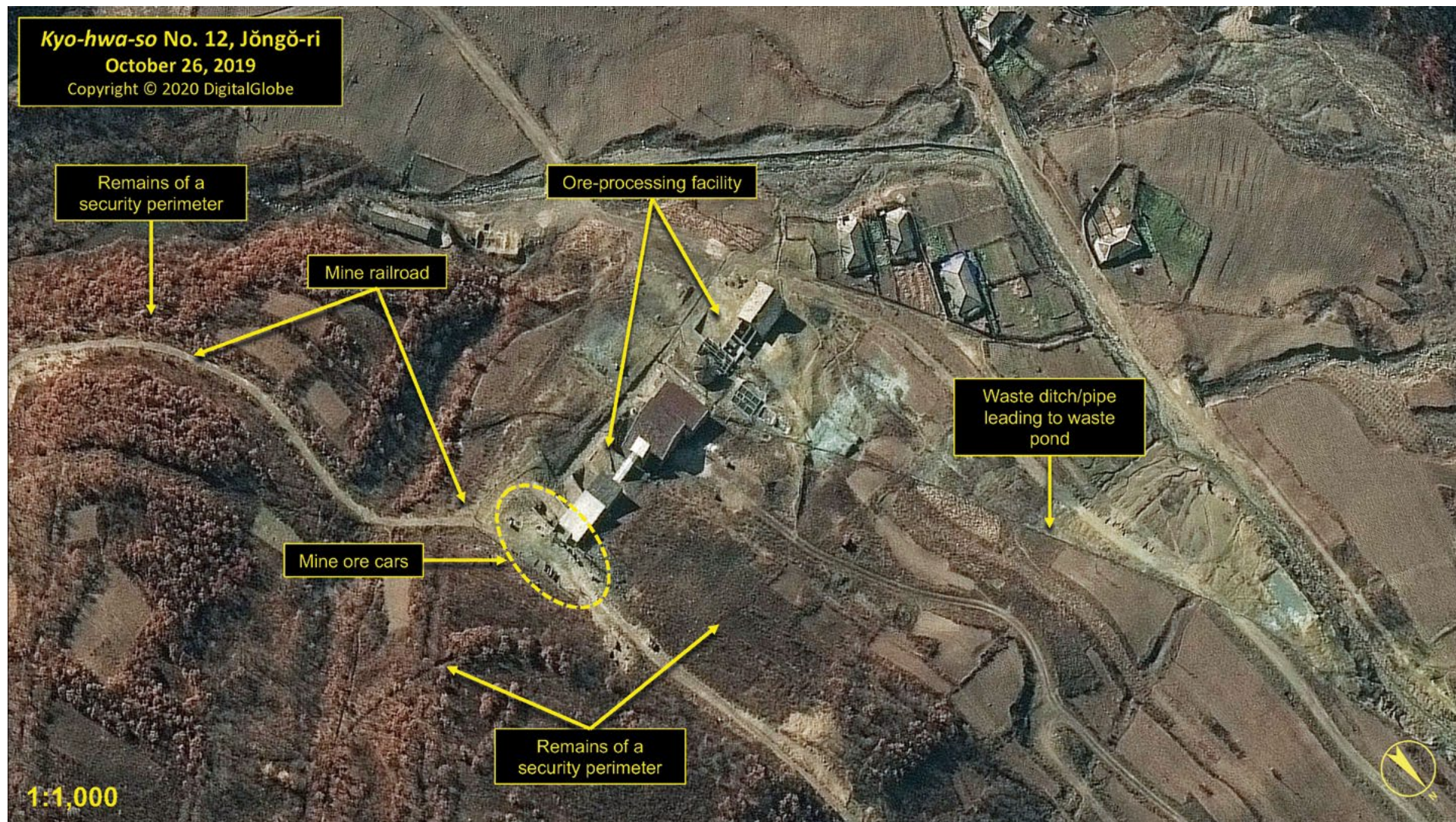
Copper mine waste pond (42.2058 N, 129.7528 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 21



Ore-processing facility (42.2013 N 129.7555 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 22



Ore-processing facility (42.2013 N 129.7555 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

Between July and September 2011, a road was built connecting the ore-processing facility to a mine 1.2 kilometers to the north-east. This mine appears to have been established in 2010, and to have been abandoned shortly after the road was completed, as the tailings pile appears to have remained of consistent size and shape since late 2011.

Approximately 200 meters south and uphill of the ore-processing facility is the portal for the copper mine, prisoner housing

compound, and a nearby group of support buildings for guards working at the mine. The mine and housing compound are approximately 135 meters long and 40 meters wide and cover .50 hectares (5,980 square yards). The compound is surrounded by a high wall and guard buildings. This compound consists of a mine portal, large prisoner housing building, and three support buildings/sheds. It has two entrances—one for the mine ore carts and one for personnel or vehicles. Sometime between De-

cember 2010 and February 2013, the prisoner housing building was modified. It currently measures approximately 9.5 meters wide by 94 meters long. It is presently not possible to calculate the number of prisoners being housed within the building, as the details of the interior layout are not available. Immediately south of the prisoner housing compound are several support buildings reportedly used by guards working at the mine. It is interesting to note that though some former prisoners from *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri make

mention of prisoners from the main prison working at the mine, few have described the mining activities specifically or this prisoner housing compound. Only minor activity (e.g., presence of personnel inside the compound, movement of mine ore carts, etc.) has been observed in satellite imagery of this facility from 2016 to present. This, along with the low level of activity noted at the waste pond and ore-processing facility may indicate that the mine only operates infrequently and for short periods of time.

Figure 23



Copper mine and prisoner housing facility (42.1995 N 129.7586 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 24



Copper mine and prisoner housing facility (42.1995 N 129.7586 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

Of the former prisoners who have described the copper mine, most indicate that it is operated by Section 2 personnel. Working in Section 2 is reported to be the hardest assignment at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri because of its heavy workload and harsh working conditions. Because of this, prisoners serving long-term sentences are reportedly assigned here. It is also reported that prisoners working in the mine are not provided with even basic safety

equipment, which leads to a high rate of injury.³⁸

Approximately 230 meters south of the mine compound is a secured facility enclosed within high revetments, measuring 64 meters by 48 meters (69 yards by 52 yards). The facility is surrounded by a wire security fence and guard tower. This facility has two storehouses for explosives used in the mine and is typical of those seen at other mines throughout North

Korea. No activity of significance has been noted here since 2017. That it is well maintained suggests that it is being actively used.

Agricultural Activity

Approximately 800 meters further up the valley from the storage facility for explosives is a small walled compound measuring approximately 13 meters by 12 meters (14 yards by 12 yards) and containing one small building.

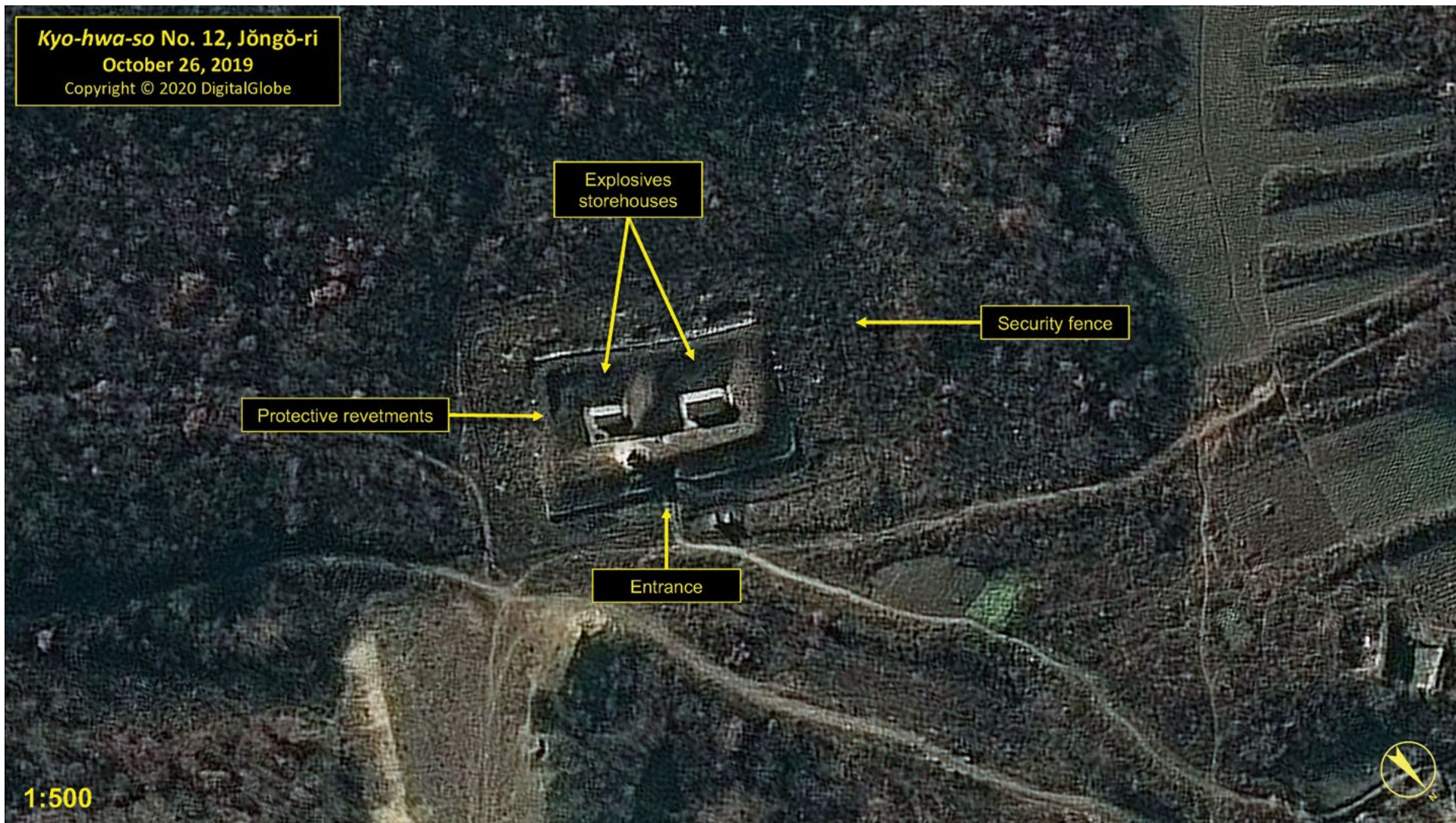
Given its location and proximity to the agricultural fields spreading out to the south and east, it may be (or have been) used for tool storage and/or a guard position when prisoners are at work in the fields. While agricultural activity in the area continues, no activity is noted at this location during 2017–2019 and it may have been abandoned.

Figure 25



Explosives storage facility (42.1973 N 129.7605 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 26



Explosives storage facility (42.1973 N 129.7605 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 27



Small walled compound (42.1954 N, 129.7645 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 28



Small walled compound (42.1954 N, 129.7645 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

Approximately 1.3 kilometers to the east is a spreading agricultural area, small livestock compound, and the remains of a small abandoned mining activity. While former prisoners state that the agricultural and livestock facilities are maintained by prisoners, none have specifically discussed the former mining activity in this area. Given, however, its size and proximity, it undoubtedly was also worked by prisoners.

The broader agricultural area consists of a number of cultivated fields of varying sizes and has been observed and active in all imagery since 2003.

The small prison mining facility was present in satellite imagery as early as 2003. At that time, it consisted of an irregularly shaped compound measuring approximately 83 meters by 85 meters (90 yards by 92 yards) and encompassing .597 hectares

(7,140 square yards). It was surrounded by a double wire security fence with a single entrance, one external guard position, and approximately five buildings. Immediately adjacent to it was the mine portal, several support buildings, and a tailings pile. By December 2008, however, the facility had been partially razed. By February 2012, it had been completely razed and although a small tailings pile remains, no mining related activity has been observed since that time.

Between April 2014 and May 2015, a small livestock compound consisting of several small buildings and pens was constructed at the site of the former mining activity. Since that time, livestock has occasionally been observed there and at the nearby stream in some imagery. Only minor changes, typical of such activities in rural North Korea, have been observed in this area during 2017–2019.

Figure 29



Small livestock facility and abandoned mining activity (42.1953 N, 129.7745 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 30



Small livestock facility and abandoned mining activity (42.1953 N, 129.7745 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

Additional Activities

Analysis of satellite imagery reveals the presence of numerous small- and medium-sized cultivated fields and abandoned small mining activities located throughout the area of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri. According to former prisoner statements, these fields

and activities are maintained by *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri prisoners, being tasked specifically to prisoner Sections 2 and 3.³⁹

The camp appears to be connected to the regional electric power grid via buried high voltage power transmission cables that run from the town of Jön'gö-ri area

to a small electric substation 180 meters south of the camp's ore processing facility. The camp is connected to the national rail network via the stations at Jön'gö-ri 2.4 kilometers southwest and P'ungsal-li 4.3 kilometers north of the facility. With the exception of an unused grass airfield at Pynyöng, 21.5 kilometers south of

the facility, the closest air facility is the Korean People's Air Force Söngam-ni Air Base located 60 kilometers to the south. This is a training base. Based on its mission, organization, and location, it almost certainly provides no support to *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri.

Figure 31



Abandoned mine and tailings pile (42.2062 N, 129.7595 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 32



Abandoned mine and tailings pile (42.2062 N, 129.7595 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 33



Electric substation (42.1998 N, 129.7546 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 34



Electric substation (42.1998 N, 129.7546 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 35



Jön'gö-ri railroad station and electric substation (42.2054 N, 129.7257 E), March 22, 2018. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

Figure 36



Jön'gö-ri railroad station and electric substation (42.2054 N, 129.7257 E), October 26, 2019. (Copyright © 2020 by DigitalGlobe)

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

Assessment

Observations and analysis derived from satellite imagery collected by DigitalGlobe from March 22, 2017 through October 26, 2019 combined with former prisoner statements and other publicly available information, indicate that:

- » *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri is an operational prison facility that appears to have been established between 1980 and 1983 and has operated as such since that time.
- » The prison was expanded between February and August 2009 with the addition of a rectangular walled annex for female prisoners. By North Korean standards, *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri is a small and well-maintained facility as is indicated by agricultural activity, mining activity, and maintenance in and around the camp's various facilities.
- » Prisoners detained at the camp are engaged in light industrial, agricultural,

mining, and, to a lesser degree, logging activities.

- » Sometime prior to 2009, the camp's population increased as is evidenced by the construction of an annex for female prisoners between February and August 2009.
- » At the same time, the administrative, support, and guard populations likely increased only slightly as is indicated by only very minor changes to their housing infrastructure.
- » Varying numbers of personnel are observed in all satellite imagery within the walled compound, walled mining compound, or elsewhere throughout the overall facility.
- » The administrative, barracks, housing, light industrial, and support structures throughout the camp appear to be well maintained and in relatively good repair. Additionally, the grounds around these structures and the road network supporting them are well maintained.
- » The few livestock facilities within the camp are well

maintained and show only minor signs of change.

- » The camp is connected to the regional electric power grid via buried high-voltage power transmission cables that run from the town of Jön'gö-ri to a substation at the camp's mining facility. From here, power is distributed to various camp buildings via above ground power lines.

Recommendations

Continued monitoring of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jöngö-ri is recommended to: 1) develop an objective baseline understanding of the camp's activities; 2) maintain an evidentiary catalog of physical changes at the facility; 3) continue to update the camp's status as well as develop more conclusive evidence of the prisoner population size; 4) understand and document health issues related to detention, mining activity, and exposure to effluent from ore processing; and 5) assist with the identification of possible human

rights abuses, including the activities of the prison's crematory and the identity and number of prisoners processed there.

HRNK calls for a closer inspection of North Korea's supply chain based on numerous reports from former prisoners that goods were and are made in detention which are then exported to China. In 2015, David Hawk's HRNK report, *The Hidden Gulag IV: Gender Repression and Prisoner Disappearances*, documented the use of prison labor to produce false eyelashes in *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12. In January 2019, the U.S.-based cosmetics company, e.l.f. Cosmetics, Inc. settled for almost \$1 million USD for apparent violations of the North Korea Sanctions Regulations (31 C.F.R. part 501). e.l.f. Cosmetics was believed to have violated § 510.201(c) for importing 156 shipments of false eyelashes from China, which were found to be sourced from North Korea, worth over \$4 million USD. HRNK is aware of at least two *kyo-hwa-so* that reportedly force women prisoners to painstakingly

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM PRISON-LABOR FACILITY (KYO-HWA-SO) AT JÖNGÖ-RI

produce false eyelashes under difficult conditions in detention, including in *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12.⁴⁰

Based on HRNK research, we believe there is or has recently been United Nations (UN) and humanitarian non-governmental organization (NGO) presence on the ground in the Hoeryöng area. These organizations include the following: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Lighthouse Foundation, Coal Briquettes for Neighbors in Korea, and the Hankyoreh Foundation for Reunification and Culture. We ask that the UN and NGOs near *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 consider the vulnerability of prisoners inside this facility and incorporate a Human Rights Up Front approach when delivering humanitarian aid to North Koreans in need, including prisoners of *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12.

HRNK calls on North Korea to abide by the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treat-

ment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Female Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

Gazetteer

Location	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
<i>Kyo-hwa-so</i> No. 12, Jöngö-ri	42.209410	129.755100
Chön'göri-yök (Rail station)	42.205000	129.725278
Hoeryöng-si	42.442778	129.750833
Jöngö-ri (Town)	42.203056	129.724722
Kalmadök	42.187500	129.743889
Kolchön'gö-ri	42.208889	129.755278
Musal-li (Musan-dong)	42.211667	129.752222
P'ungsal-li	42.253333	129.758333
Sin-bong	42.194167	129.790278
Susang-dong	42.234167	129.735556

Note

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Kim, Hayne Park, Eunsaem Shin, Dabin Song, Julie Kim, Hyesoo Kim, Steve Tharp, No Chain for North Korea, and Now Action and Unity for Human Rights (NAUH). Allen Anderson, Bobby Holt, and Ronald Bohmuller for their gracious support of HRNK's efforts to

document North Korea's political prison system and the tragic conditions present within that system.

Endnotes

- 1 UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, A/HRC/25/63, 7 February 2014, para. 60, available at http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/A_HRC_25_63.pdf
- 2 The following sources were used throughout this report: Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31.; Hawk, David and Amanda Mortwedt Oh, *The Parallel Gulag, North Korea's "An-jeon-bu" Prison Camps*, (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2017), pp. 39-41, (hereafter: PG) available at https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Hawk_The_Parallel_Gulag_Web.pdf; Hawk, David. *The Hidden Gulag IV: Gender Repression & Prisoner Disappearances*, (Washington, D.C.: The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2015), pp. 12-27, (hereafter: HG4), available at https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Hawk_HiddenGulag4_FINAL.pdf; Hawk, David. *The Hidden Gulag Second Edition*, (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2003), pp. 85-89, 107 and 227, (hereafter: HG2) available at http://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/HRNK_HiddenGulag2_Web_5-18.pdf; *Interview of Former Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Detainee "i49" by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea*, Seoul, May 10, 2019; *Interview of Former Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Detainee "i3" by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea*, Seoul, July 29, 2019; *Interview of Former Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Detainee "i26" by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea*, Seoul, September 18, 2019; Kim In-sung, *A Series of Detention Facilities in North Korea: Chongo-ri Kyo-hwa-so No.12, Honoring Souls of the Dead at Mt. Bulmang*, [In Korean] (Seoul: The Database Center for North Korean Human Rights, 2016); KINU *White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2017*, (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, 2017), pp. 80-84, available at www.kinu.or.kr/eng/pub/; KINU *White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2015*, (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, 2015), pp. 80-84, (hereafter: *KINU2015*) available at www.kinu.or.kr/eng/pub/; KINU *White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2014*, (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, 2014), pp. 139-143, (hereafter: *KINU2014*) available at www.kinu.or.kr/eng/pub/; Report of The Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, A/HRC/25/CRP.1, (New York: UN Human Rights Council, 7 February 2014), pp. 65-66 and 199, available at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoIDPRK/Report/A.HRC.25.CRP.1_ENG.doc.
- 3 Previous reports in this project can be found at, <https://www.hrnk.org/publications/hrnk-publications.php>.
- 4 Readers are encouraged to download and read the previous HRNK reports on this facility: Bermudez Jr., Joseph S. and Greg Scarlatoiu, *North Korea: Flooding at Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jongo-ri*, (Washington, D.C.: The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, September 2016), available at https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Kyo-hwa-so%20No_%2012%20Flooding.pdf; and Bermudez Jr., Joseph S. and Mike Eley, *North Korea: Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jongo-ri*, (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, August 2016), available at https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/ASA_HRNK_Camp12_201608_v10_LR.pdf.
Jöngö-ri is sometimes transliterated as Chöngö-ri, Jeongori or Jeongo-ri. Other sources have identified this facility using somewhat different but similar terminology. For example, as the "12th Rehabilitation Facility," "No. 12 Reeducation Camp." or simply as a "labor detention center." Moon Sung-Hui. "Families of Prisoners Bribe Judicial Officials Ahead of North Korean Amnesty," *Radio Free Asia*, July 21, 2015, <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/families-of-prisoners-bribe-judicial-officials-ahead-of-north-korean-amnesty-07212015145339.html>.
- 5 While former prisoners and researchers indicate that the name of this facility is "Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jöngö-ri," it is likely that following historical DPRK practices it also has other internal designations for the facility.
- 6 In previous HRNK reports we had divided our analysis of *Kyo-hwa-so No. 12* into 15 discreet locations. In order to ease readability for a broader audience we have, however, now adopted a thematic division of activities to more closely align this report to that of our recent reports on other detention facilities.
- 7 Bermudez Jr., Joseph S. and Scarlatoiu, Greg. *North Korea: Flooding at Kyo-hwa-so No. 12, Jongo-ri*, (Washington, D.C.: The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2016) available at https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Kyo-hwa-so%20No_%2012%20Flooding.pdf.
- 8 Ishimaru Jiro. "Death Is Common: Horrific North Korean Prisons Beyond Description," *Asiapress*, January 17, 2018, <https://www.asiapress.org/rimjin-gang/2018/01/report/horrific-north-korean-prison/>; and UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, A/HRC/25/63, 17 February 2013, p. 247, http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/A_HRC_25_63.pdf.
- 9 Ibid. and "What Does the No.12 Reeducation Camp Look Like?" *DailyNK*, June 25, 2009, <https://www.dailynk.com/english/what-does-the-no12-reeducation-cam/>.
- 10 Ibid.; Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31; and UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, A/HRC/25/63, 7 February 2014, pp. 186, 247, 249 and 267-8, http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/A_HRC_25_63.pdf.
- 11 "What Does the No.12 Reeducation Camp Look Like?" *DailyNK*, June 25, 2009, <https://www.dailynk.com/english/what-does-the-no12-reeducation-cam/>.

- 12 Bermudez Jr., Joseph S., Dinville, Andy and Eley, Mike. *Imagery Analysis of Camp 16*, (Washington, D.C.: The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2015) available at, https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/ASA_HRNK_Camp16_v8_fullres_FINAL_12_15_15.pdf and Bermudez Jr., Joseph S. *Imagery Analysis: North Korea's Camp No. 15, Update*, (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2014) available at <http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Camp%2025%20Update%20Good.pdf>.
- 13 *KINU White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2016*, (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, April 25, 2016), pp. 79-81, (hereafter: KINU2016) available at http://www.kinu.or.kr/report/report_03_01.jsp?page=1&num=43&mode=view&field=&text=&order=&dir=&bid=DATA04&ses=.
- 14 Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31; and "What Does the No.12 Reeducation Camp Look Like?" *DailyNK*, June 25, 2009, <https://www.dailynk.com/english/what-does-the-no12-reeducation-camp/>.
One former prisoner states that *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 has several "branch" activities located in nearby valleys. This remains to be confirmed, however, if correct it would indicate that the camp has a considerably larger prison population and encompasses more land and activities than currently confirmed. *Interview of Former Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Detainee "i26" by HRNK*, Seoul, September 18, 2019.
- 15 For example, see: Bermudez Jr., Joseph S. and Andy Dinville, and Mike Eley. *North Korea Camp No. 25, Update 2* (Washington, D.C., HRNK), November 29, 2016, https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/ASA_HRNK_Camp25_Update2.pdf; Bermudez Jr., Joseph S., Andy Dinville, and Mike Eley. *North Korea Imagery Analysis of Camp 16* (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, December 2015), https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/ASA_HRNK_Camp16_v8_fullres_FINAL_12_15_15.pdf; and Bermudez Jr., Joseph S., Andy Dinville, and Mike Eley. *North Korea Imagery Analysis of Camp 14* (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, November 2015), https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/ASA_HRNK_Camp14_v7_highrezFINAL_11_30_15.pdf.
- 16 *HG2*, pp. 85-89.
- 17 *Ibid.*
- 18 "What Does the No.12 Reeducation Camp Look Like?" *DailyNK*, June 25, 2009, <https://www.dailynk.com/english/what-does-the-no12-reeducation-camp/>.
- 19 *Ibid.*
- 20 *Interview of Former Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Detainee "i3" by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea*, Seoul, July 29, 2019; Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31; and "What Does the No.12 Reeducation Camp Look Like?" *DailyNK*, June 25, 2009, <https://www.asiapress.org/rimjin-gang/2018/01/report/horrific-north-korean-prison/>; and *KINU 2016*, pp. 81-82.
The terms "departments," "divisions," "branch offices," or "teams" are often used interchangeably with "sections."
- 21 Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31. One source states that prisoners of Section 5 were assigned to agriculture since 2011. This, however, remains to be confirmed.
- 22 *Interview of Former Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Detainee "i3" by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea*, Seoul, July 29, 2019.
- 23 *HG4*, pp. 12-27.
- 24 It should be noted that as written some former prisoner accounts confuse the original construction of female housing within the main prison compound during 2007–2008 with the construction of the separate "Women's Compound" during February–August 2009.
- 25 *HG4*, p. 17.
- 26 *KINU 2016*, pp. 81-82.
- 27 These measurements should be viewed as close approximations since the facility is not a rectangle with 90° corners and they were derived from 50 cm ground sample distance satellite imagery.
- 28 For example, in a 2009 interview a former prisoner stated that, "Back then an average of 30 to 40 corpses a month were cremated in a huge charcoal burner on top of a mountain called 'Mt. Bulmang.' "Mount Bulmang's Tragic Harvest," *DailyNK*, September 14, 2009, <https://www.dailynk.com/english/mount-bulmangs-tragic-harvest/>. Another former prisoner "...estimates that at least 800 prisoners died every year from malnourishment, infectious diseases and accidents at work." UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, A/HRC/25/63, 7 February 2014, pp. 258 and 267-268, http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/A_HRC_25_63.pdf. A third former prisoner states that deaths, "...annually exceeds 1,000." Ishimaru Jiro. "Death Is Common: Horrific North Korean Prisons Beyond Description," *Asiapress*, January 17, 2018, <https://www.asiapress.org/rimjin-gang/2018/01/report/horrific-north-korean-prison/>. Also see, Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31.
- 29 *Ibid.* The name of Bulmang-san is not carried in the official U.S. Government gazetteer of North Korea and is apparently the local name for the mountain.
- 30 *Ibid.*
- 31 Ishimaru Jiro. "Death Is Common: Horrific North Korean Prisons Beyond Description," *Asiapress*, January 17, 2018, <https://www.asiapress.org/rimjin-gang/2018/01/report/horrific-north-korean-prison/>.

- 32 Ibid.
- 33 *Interview of Former Kyo-hwa-so No. 12 Detainee "i3" by HRNK*, Seoul, July 29, 2019.
- 34 At least one former prisoner has reported that in addition to copper mining, *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12 was involved in the extraction of limestone. *KINU2014*, pp. 139-143. Another report states that the mine separates copper and gold out of the ore. *KINU2015*, p. 426.
- 35 Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31.
- 36 UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, A/HRC/25/63*, 7 February 2014, p. 250, http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/A_HRC_25_63.pdf.
- 37 Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31.
- 38 Kim In-sung, *A Series of Detention Facilities in North Korea: Chongo-ri Kyo-hwa-so No.12, 'Honoring Souls of the Dead at Mt. Bulmang,'* [In Korean] (Seoul: The Database Center for North Korean Human Rights, 2016); UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, A/HRC/25/63*, 7 February 2014, p. 247, http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/A_HRC_25_63.pdf; Han Dong-Ho, et. al., *Bukan Kyohwaso* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, September 2015), pp. 1-2, 13-22 and 31; and *HG2*, pp. 85-89. *KINU2015*, pp. 80-84 provides somewhat different description of the sections.
- 39 *HG2*, pp. 85-89.
- 40 U.S. Department of the Treasury, "ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 31, 2019," January 31, 2019, https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/20190131_elf.pdf.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020



THE COMMITTEE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA
북한인권위원회

HRNK is the leading U.S.-based bipartisan, non-governmental organization in the field of North Korean human rights research and advocacy, tasked to focus international attention on human rights abuses in that country. It is HRNK's mission to persistently remind policy makers, opinion leaders, and the general public in the free world and beyond that more than 20 million North Koreans need our attention.

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