The United Nations Human Rights Council established the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) in 2013, tasked with investigating the alleged systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in North Korea, with a view to ensuring full accountability, particularly for violations which may amount to crimes against humanity. The Hon. Michael Kirby was appointed as Chair of this Commission. As part of its investigations, the Commission conducted public hearings with more than 80 victims and other witnesses in Seoul, Tokyo, London and Washington D.C. The Commission’s report was made public in February 2014 and detailed many alleged crimes against humanity arising from ‘policies established at the highest level of State’ and called for urgent action from the international community. In this public lecture, Mr Kirby will be talking about his work on the Commission and the human rights situation in North Korea.

The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG was a Justice of the High Court of Australia for thirteen years from 1996 to 2009. He was previously also a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, President of the New South Wales of Court of Appeal and, concurrently, the Court of Appeal of Solomon Islands. In 2010, he was awarded the Gruber Justice Prize. He has served and continues to serve as a member of many national and international bodies including as a member of the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ Judicial Reference Group and as editor-in-chief of *The Laws of Australia*.

The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.