



Accessing Information from the Outside World

Despite the North Korean regime's stringent restrictions on communication, many North Koreans have found ways to access cross-border communication. Here are some of the methods they use:

1. **Smuggled Mobile Phones:** Many North Koreans use Chinese mobile phones smuggled into the country. These phones are often used near the border with China, where they can pick up Chinese mobile networks. This allows North Koreans to make calls and send messages to contacts outside the country [1].
2. **Illegal Radios:** Some North Koreans possess illegal radios that can receive foreign broadcasts. These radios are often modified to pick up frequencies from South Korea, China, and other countries. Listening to foreign radio broadcasts provides them with news and information from the outside world [2].
3. **USB Drives and DVDs:** Smuggled USB drives and DVDs containing foreign media, such as South Korean dramas, movies, and news programs, are widely circulated in North Korea. These devices are often shared secretly among trusted friends and family members [2].
4. **Cross-Border Traders:** Traders who frequently cross the border between North Korea and China play a crucial role in facilitating communication. They often carry messages, goods, and information back and forth, helping to maintain connections between North Koreans and their relatives or contacts in China [1].
5. **Defector Networks:** North Korean defectors who have resettled in South Korea or other countries often maintain contact with their families and friends back home. They use various methods, including smuggled phones and intermediaries, to communicate and provide financial support [2].
6. **Bribery and Corruption:** Some North Koreans bribe border guards and officials to turn a blind eye to their communication activities. This allows them to use smuggled phones or other devices without fear of immediate punishment [1].

7. **Secret Meetings:** In some cases, North Koreans arrange secret meetings with their contacts across the border. These meetings are highly risky but provide a direct way to exchange information and goods [2].

8. **Online Communication:** Although internet access is heavily restricted, a small number of North Koreans, particularly those in privileged positions, may have limited access to the internet. They use this access to communicate with the outside world, often through encrypted messaging apps [2].

9.

These methods highlight the resilience and resourcefulness of North Koreans in overcoming the regime's efforts to isolate them from the outside world.

1. [North and South Korea restore severed cross-border hotline](#)
2. [North Korea reopens key cross-border communications with ... - POLITICO](#)
3. [North and South Korea agree to restore cross-border communications](#)