



## Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

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### Transform Your Love for Humans into Action!

The dire human rights conditions in North Korea and the plight of North Korean refugees have been revealed by vigorous activities of many NGOs, and various movements have been initiated to solve these problems. However, we must not forget there are more than 100,000 North Korean people suffering in the inhumane institution of political prison camps, living every day in fear of death.

Also, we must not overlook the fact that there are more North Korean women and children who are crossing the border at the risk of death to escape hunger and mistreatment. Those who make it to South Korea in search of freedom constitute only a small portion of defectors, and they continue to face great difficulties even in resettlement. Today, the problem of North Korean human rights and refugees is not only the problem of our nation but also that of the entire human race. We hope that your love for fellow human beings can lead you to take courageous actions to end human misery by working with human rights NGOs.

### You can be our supporter!

We invite you to join in our movement to protect the life and human rights of the North Korean people for peaceful and democratic reunification.

### From overseas, send your contribution to:

1. Account name: Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)
2. Bank name: Korea Exchange Bank, Seodaemun Branch
3. SWIFT BIC: KOEXKRSE
4. Account number: 071-22-01342-6

After you have made the bank transaction, please contact us by phone/fax/e-mail and give us your personal information and the amount of the donation.

**You can also become a monthly contributor via PayPal or by setting up automatic monthly payments from your South Korean bank account. Please visit our website or call for more info.**

NKHR accounts:

Kookmin: 813-01-0235-310

Nonghyup: 032-01-173694

KEB: 071-22-01342-6

Woori: 142-097009-01-201

# Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights

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**The Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR) aims to protect the lives of North Koreans and to defend their human rights. The ultimate goal is to create an environment for a peaceful North-South reunification and a harmonious national community.**

**NKHR endeavors to accomplish these goals in the following ways:**

Collects and publicizes facts and other information on the current North Korean human rights situation, particularly regarding political prison camps.

Advises international organizations to prosecute and condemn the North Korean human rights situation, particularly with respect to the political prison camps.

Protects the lives and human rights of North Korean refugees.

Assists North Korean re-settlers living in South Korea by focusing on youth education.

Coordinates efforts with other human rights organizations to fulfill the objectives mentioned above.

The John Diefenbaker Defender of Human Rights and Freedom Award was presented on March 10, 2011, to the Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights.

The Diefenbaker Award honors individuals or groups who show exceptional courage and leadership in defending human rights and freedoms and was named after Canada's former prime minister, foreign affairs minister and defender of human rights John Diefenbaker (1895-1979).



## Foreword



Looking back on 2013, I see that we've made significant, important advances towards our cause that I never imagined I would witness.

First and foremost, the UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution establishing a Commission of Inquiry (COI) on North Korean Human Rights. This has led to a thorough investigation on the abject state of human rights in North Korea, and the UN has taken the necessary measures to remedy the situation. We at the Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights feel great pride that our efforts, such as arranging the first meeting between prison camp survivors and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, helped move the UN into action.

Second, in the last year we raised \$100,000 to rescue 50 North Korean refugees and bring them to South Korea. Thus the total count of North Korean refugees we have rescued is now 486.

Last but not least, the 7th Annual Beautiful Dream Concert was a great success, as we received \$100,000 in donations. Thanks to this we are able to successfully run many education and readjustment programs for young North Korean re-settlers. That a graduate of the first NKHR Hangyoreh Seasonal School (2001) was admitted into the law school of Seoul National University was an added source of joy for us.

None of the above would have been possible if it weren't for the passion and dedication of all our members, sponsors, and volunteers. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported us for the past year. Thank you very much.

January 2014

Benjamin H. Yoon

Founder & Chairman

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

# Campaign & Advocacy

**Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights strives to inform the international community of North Korea's dire human rights situation and the plight of North Korean refugees.**

## Advocacy Work at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and the Commission of Inquiry

As has been the case for many years, the NKHR delegation's objectives in going to the 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council were to: 1) explain the human rights situation in North Korea to UN officials and permanent missions, and 2) request their cooperation in adopting the UN resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, in particular preparing the groundwork for the creation of the UN Commission of Inquiry.

This year, NKHR co-hosted a parallel meeting with Human Rights Watch on March 13, 2013, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The panel featured Shin Dong-hyuk, a survivor of prison camp 14, and Ukil Choi, a South Korean fisherman who was abducted by North Korean agents in 1975. Julie de Rivero of Human Rights Watch moderated the session and strongly called for country delegates to support the creation of a Commission of Inquiry for North Korean human rights.

Shortly upon the NKHR delegation's return to Seoul, it was announced that the member countries of the Human Rights Council had unanimously passed the resolution on the situation of human rights in North Korea, effectively establishing the UN Commission of Inquiry. In June, Justice Michael Kirby of Australia was appointed to chair the Commission, which included current Special Rapporteur Marzuki Darusman of Indonesia and human rights activist Sonja Biserko of Serbia. The COI was given a mandate to investigate systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These included:

- violations of the right to food
- violations associated with prison camps
- torture and inhuman treatment
- arbitrary detention
- discrimination
- violations of freedom of expression
- violations of the right to life
- violations of freedom of movement
- enforced disappearances, including in the form of abductions of nationals of other States.

UN COI for North Korea during official consultations with South Korean NGOs



The establishment of the COI was very meaningful to NKHR after 16 years of advocacy work targeting foreign governments, the United Nations, partner NGOs, and the South Korean government.

NKHR partnered with three domestic NGOs between August and November to provide extensive assistance in preparation for the COI's interviews and public hearings in South Korea. The COI used many different sources during the course of its investigation. In the absence of fieldwork possibilities in North Korea, NGOs had to provide expertise, identify potential speakers and search for archival documents. Members of NKHR also engaged domestic and foreign media in South Korea by giving several interviews to educate the public on the importance of the mission of the UN Commission of Inquiry.

Lastly, North Korea will come under its second Universal Periodic Review at the UN in May 2014, and NKHR submitted a stakeholder's report to the Working Group on the UPR in September 2013.

## Helping Families of Abduction Victims

In 2013 NKHR submitted 15 cases to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) on behalf of people whose family members were abducted by North Korea and who were never returned. In May 2013, NKHR received via the WGEID a response from the DPRK government denying the cases of abductions that we have submitted thus far. However, the WGEID does not consider these cases resolved and will keep them permanently active until a satisfactory response is provided. In December 2013, the WGEID transmitted 12 additional cases to the DPRK government, for a total of 19 transmitted cases since 2004.

On March 12, 2013, NKHR met with the WGEID for the first time during its 99th session in Geneva. We briefed them on the situation of enforced disappearances on the Korean peninsula. Then Mr. Ukil Choi provided testimony about his experiences as an abductee in North Korea and his escape



back to the South decades later. Mr. Sung Yong Choi, the president of the Abductees' Family Union, spoke about his father's abduction by North Korean agents and his work as an activist to bring abductees back home. Also present were two other family members of those who had been taken by North Korean agents, Mr. Joong-sik Moon and Ms. Seong-ja Choe.

## Site Visit to Geoje Island

In August 2013, NKHR visited Nongso, a small fishing village on Geoje Island, on the southernmost tip of South Korea. We met with 23 families of South Korean fishermen who were abducted by North Korean authorities while conducting fishing activities in the 1960s and 1970s. During our interviews, one of the most tragic stories we heard was about the *Odaeyang 61 and 62* incident. Both boats were seized simultaneously by North Korean authorities in December 1972 on the Yellow Sea. Overnight, this small island lost many husbands, fathers, and sons. Out of the 25 men aboard the two boats, 19 were from Geoje Island. NKHR submitted eight cases to the UN WGEID following this visit.

## 12th International Conference on North Korean Human Rights and Refugees in Berlin, Germany

On June 18, 2013, NKHR and the German NGO, Union der Opferverbände Kommunistischer Gewaltherrschaft (Association of Victims of Communist Violence or UOKG), organized the 12th annual international conference on North Korean human rights and refugees in Berlin. Two victims of human rights violations in North Korea provided their testimonies: Ms. Hye-sook Kim, a political prison camp survivor, and Ms. Myung-Sook Lee, who was forcibly repatriated to North Korea from China and witnessed the infanticide of her own baby. Experts from South Korea, including four NKHR



Meeting with UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances



The NKHR team meets with more than 20 families who have had loved ones abducted by North Korea.



Kim Hye Sook, survivor of a political prison camp in North Korea, shows the map of Camp 18 she drew.

board members, spoke alongside German politicians, scholars, and former political prisoners to an audience of more than 120 attendees. German President Joachim Gauck also sent congratulatory remarks.

First held in South Korea and then taken around the world (Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Poland, Norway, Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Japan), NKHR's conferences have played an integral role in raising international awareness of the human rights atrocities taking place in North Korea and spurring governments to condemn these human rights abuses.

This year's conference was held at the headquarters of the Federal Foundation for the Reappraisal of the SED-Dictatorship (Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur), an organization that aims to provide testimony to injustices committed by the Socialist Unity Party in East Germany, to recognize victims, and to strengthen democracy and German unity.

This conference was not only strictly about North Korean issues. As we were in a country that had faced its own division, experienced dictatorship, and put its citizens in political prisons, it was imperative that we heard from German activists, scholars, and victims. Each panel was organized so that both German and Korean speakers presented their thoughts around a topic. The sessions covered the following subjects: The Control of Minds – Systems of Surveillance; The Question of Refoulement; and German Implications for the Korean Peninsula: Lessons in Differences.

Following the conference, NKHR and UOKG sent a letter to the UN Human Rights Council denouncing the Chinese government's policy of forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees.

NKHR was also privileged to attend events to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the June 17, 1953, uprising in which East Berliners rose up en masse against its communist government. The NKHR delegation met with President Joachim Gauck and Chancellor Angela Merkel at a commemoration ceremony at Seestraße cemetery and requested their continued support in speaking out against human rights violations in North Korea.

The 12th International Conference on North Korean Human Rights and Refugees in Berlin (left). German President Joachim Gauck with Joanna Hosaniak and Eunyoung Kim at Seestraße cemetery (right).





Advocacy Work in Indonesia

In May 2013, Citizens’ Alliance for North Korean Human Rights took its advocacy work to Southeast Asia for the second year in a row. Building on our Indonesian advocacy activities in August 2012, NKHR partnered with well-known Indonesian NGO KontraS to better inform local media, civic society groups, and university students about the North Korean human rights and refugee situation. Through the testimonies of former victims Ms. Hye-sook Kim and Ms. Myung-sook Lee, our two-day campaign’s focal points were political prison camps and the ongoing enforced repatriation of North Korean refugees by China.

We held a press conference with nearly 20 domestic media outlets and met privately with the National Commission on Violence Against Women. NKHR’s visit to Jakarta ended by meeting victims of past human rights violations (torture, disappearance, arbitrary detention) and their families, and also by holding a small lecture at Al-Azhar University for students.



NKHR delegation at the offices of KontraS, our Indonesian NGO partner

Protests Against Laos' Deportation of 9 Young North Korean Defectors

In the midst of their escape to South Korea, 9 North Korean young defectors (ages 14-23) were caught by authorities in Laos on May 10, 2013. They were then deported on May 27 to China, before being sent back to North Korea.

On May 29, 2013, before it was confirmed that the youth had been deported, NKHR members and supporters gathered in front of the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs to appeal to the government to take action and stop the repatriation of these young defectors.

Two days later, NKHR held another street protest at the Embassy of Laos in South Korea to demonstrate against the Laotian government’s unlawful practice of refoulement, which it did despite knowing the fatal fate awaiting the refugees, and to urge the Laotian government never to send refugees back to North Korea again.



Protesting Laos’ repatriation of nine North Korean youngsters at the Laos Embassy in Seoul.

During the protest, a Laotian official came out to receive NKHR’s letter of appeal. The young refugees, who were caught while in the company of South Korean religious leaders, were later used for propaganda purposes by the North and claimed on state television that they had been tricked into leaving North Korea. But they have probably faced severe punishment, and nothing has been heard from or about them since their appearance on North Korean television.

Timeline

May 10	9 North Korean youth detained in Laos; South Korean group leader requests emergency assistance from the South Korean embassy in Vientiane to no avail
May 20, 24	North Korean Embassy in Vientiane meets with the 9 youth in detention
May 27	Laos deports youth, who go to China before being taken to North Korea
May 29	NKHR protests at the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs NKHR sends an Urgent Appeal to foreign embassies in Seoul and meets with the EU member states to brief them on the situation and request assistance
May 31	NKHR protests at the Laotian Embassy in Seoul and submits a letter of appeal to the Lao authorities

Students add their names to a statement supporting the protection of North Korean refugees. More than 15,000 signatures were collected in two weeks.

In June, NKHR started a signature-gathering campaign to send President Park Geun-hye a strong message that South Korean embassies in Southeast Asian countries have a mandate to protect and assist refugees coming from North Korea, which the embassy in Laos failed to do.

NKHR Director Young-ja Kim led the campaign, entitled “Your Signature Will Be Delivered to the President: Save 9 North Korean Orphans.” In a little

over two weeks, NKHR collected over 15,000 signatures. They were faxed, emailed, mailed, and hand-delivered by people from all over South Korea, and the campaign was covered by national media.

On June 24, 2013, NKHR mailed all the signatures to President Park and hand-delivered an official message of solidarity for North Korean refugees to her office at the Blue House.



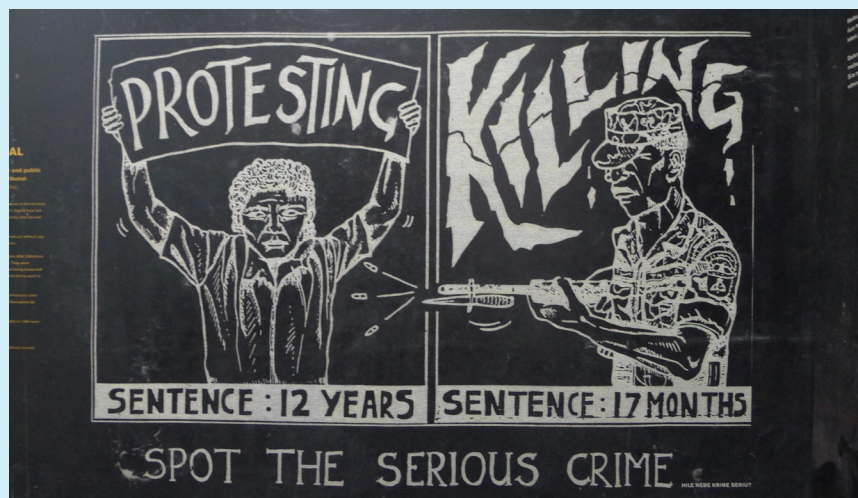


## AFAD Council Meeting in Timor Leste

Program officer Lilian Lee traveled to Timor Leste in November to attend the annual council meeting of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), a coalition of NGOs which NKHR joined last year. AFAD was founded in 1998 with the objective to strongly respond to the problem of enforced disappearances in Asia. Its other members are NGOs based in Philippines, Indonesia, India, Thailand, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

This year, East Timor was chosen for the Council Meeting because of the tenuous situation in that country and the need to more strongly pressure the government for restorative justice. East Timor has a dark and brutal history. During the Indonesian occupation period from 1975 to 1999, between 186,000 and 250,000 people were killed or went missing because of human rights violations committed by the Indonesian military.

NKHR joined other AFAD members to show solidarity with local NGO, Asosiasaun HAK (Law, Human Rights, and Justice). The AFAD delegation met with Timorese President, Taur Matan Ruak, to ask for passage of a bill that would provide reparations for victims of enforced disappearances.



The old prison in the capital city of Dili has been turned into a permanent museum exhibition, "Chega!," on the human rights violations in East Timor from 1974 to 1999. Chega is Portuguese for "stop, enough."

## North Korean Human Rights at Osan Air Base

On May 30, more than 600 members of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea gathered to hear Kim Hyuk speak about his experiences as a "kkotjebi (young vagrant)" in North Korea. Kim Hyuk is perhaps best known to English-speakers as the boy living on the streets from Barbara Demick's book, *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*. After a documentary and brief presentation on the current situation of North Korean human rights by campaign program officer Lilian Lee, Mr. Kim took the stage and spoke about his time in prison,



Kim Hyuk accepts a plaque from Col. Patrick McKenzie, 51st Fighter Wing commander.

escape to South Korea, and experience resettling in this country.

NKHR and Kim Hyuk were invited by U.S. Pacific Air Forces 51st Fighter Wing to come speak at Osan Air Base about North Korean human rights. Lieutenant Sara Greco, who organized the event with NKHR, said it was the first speaking event of its kind on Osan Air Base in more than 15 years.

Based on the overwhelming success of this event, NKHR was invited a second time to Osan. We asked former Korean War POW, Young-bok Yoo, to speak to members of the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Yoo was among the at least 60,000 POWs who were never released by North Korea at the end of the Korean War. Unlike most, he survived and escaped in 2000. Mr. Yoo's book, *Tears of Blood*, is available in English.

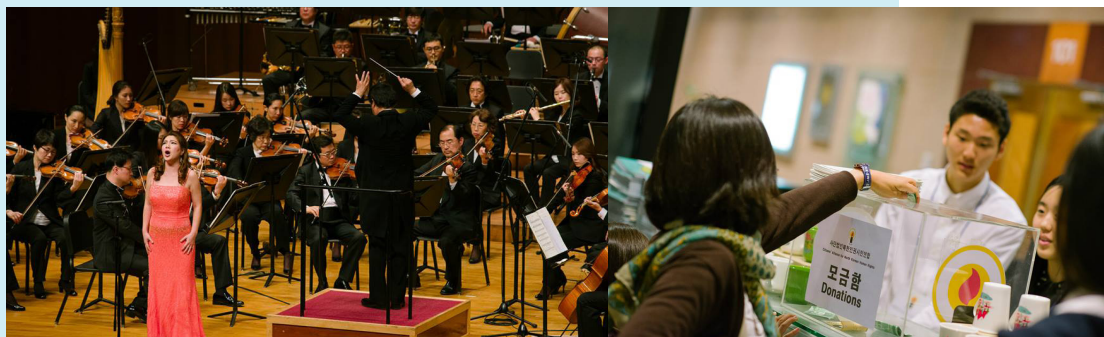
## Documentary with Human Rights Watch

In September and October, NKHR co-operated on the filming of a new documentary produced by Human Rights Watch that illustrates the situation in the political prison camps in North Korea. The documentary included both victims from Camps 15 and 18 and former guards in the camps. The documentary was made to accompany the release of the UN COI Report.

## Seventh Annual Beautiful Dream Concert

Young defectors often say that they experience bewilderment and ostracism when first integrating into South Korean society. The goal of NKHR's education programs is to empower these youth to use their talents, perseverance and unique experiences to achieve their dreams in South Korea.

The Beautiful Dream Concert was born out of a need to establish a special fund to continue providing comprehensive education programs for North Korean youth. Education programs are NKHR's priority in its vision for "cultivating a unification tree," that is, preparing the ground for future unification. The concert has been supported by other institutions, such as the Beautiful Mind Charity, Ewha Institute of Unification Studies, and Korea



The 7th Beautiful Dream Concert featured the KBS Symphony Orchestra at the Seoul Arts Center.

University Graduate School of International Studies.

NKHR's 7th annual Beautiful Dream Concert took place on October 16, 2013, at the packed Seoul Arts Center. It featured the renowned KBS Symphony Orchestra. During the intermission, NKHR introduced the stories of several North Korean students who have participated in NKHR's education programs.

The concert helped NKHR raise over \$100,000 for education programs. Corporate sponsors included Doosan Electronics, Doosan Glonet, Samjong KPMG, IBK Bank, Hana Bank, Shinhan Bank, Hanhwa, Hanhwa Life Insurance, Korea International Trade Association, Korea Racing Authority, KT, Hyundai Construction, Daelim, LG Chemicals, and Hyundai Motors. The donations will be used to fund the Hangyoreh Seasonal School, scholarship programs, and the L4 soccer team.

## NKHR Refugee Rescue Fund

In February, a group of foreigners, South Koreans, students, teachers and activists formed the NKHR Refugee Rescue Fund with the goal of raising \$12,000 to aid North Korean refugees in coming to South Korea. The Rescue Fund organized frequent events and started an awareness campaign about the human rights atrocities happening in North Korea, in addition to the dangers that refugees face even after defection. By December 2013, the group reached its goal and raised over \$12,000. Five North Korean refugees were rescued using the donations collected by the dedicated efforts of volunteers.

Pianist Kim Cheol Woong performs for "Every Piece has a Story: A North Korean Pianist's Quest for Freedom." The event raised more than \$5,500 for the North Korean Refugee Rescue Fund.



The fundraising events were usually built around the testimony of a North Korean defector or a movie screening followed by a Q&A.

- April 13 – "Crossing" movie screening
- April 28 – A North Korean defector's testimony
- May 12 – "Crossing" movie screening
- June 15 – "Traveler from the North" movie screening
- June 29 – A Woman's Voice: A North Korean Woman's Survival Story
- July 6 – Songs of Freedom Benefit Concert
- July 13 – Every Piece has a Story: A North Korean Pianist's Quest for Freedom
- September 7 – "Kimjongilia" movie screening
- November 10 – "Traveler from the North" movie screening

## Global Giving Campaign

In order to gather support for NKHR's educational projects abroad, NKHR became an official member of the Global Giving website. The platform enables people to learn about and support projects of different organizations from around the world. After a successful screening process, we went on to raise \$5,000 in August for our "Learning Freedom" project and an additional \$3,500 during a holiday campaign in December. The campaign is ongoing.

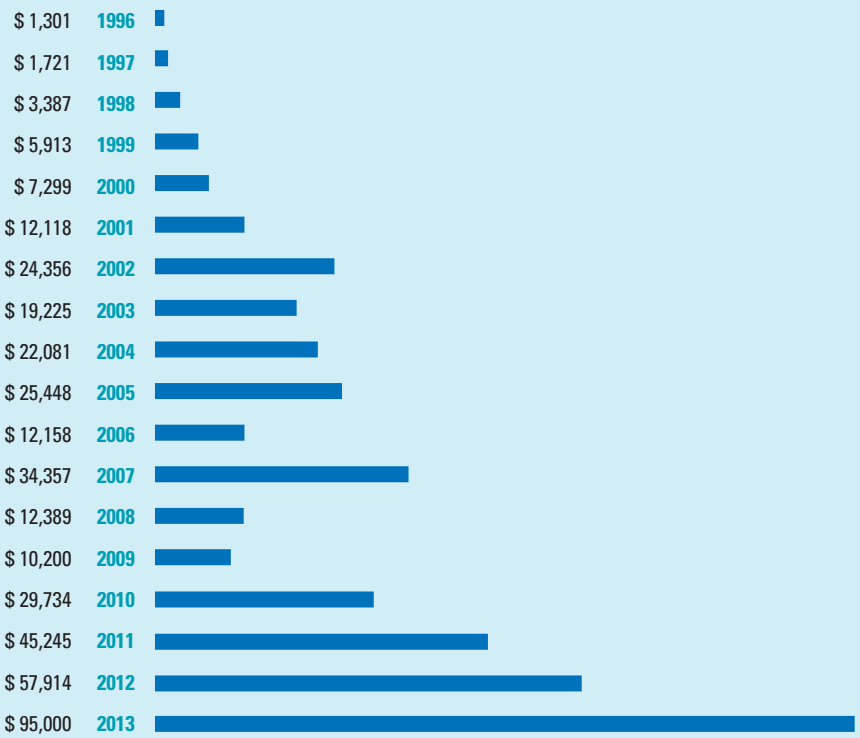
The Global Giving campaign is ongoing and offers U.S. donors an opportunity to make tax-deductible donations. Please visit [globalgiving.org/projects/learningfreedom](http://globalgiving.org/projects/learningfreedom).



# Relief Activities for North Korean Refugees

In aiding North Korean refugees, NKHR gives priority to those who are especially in need of help, such as women, children and those who may face death upon forcible return and provide them with shelter and a secure route to South Korea through a transit country. Until the present time, NKHR has given direct assistance to a total of 468 North Korean refugees in coming to South Korea. In addition, NKHR assists the daily lives of North Korean refugees in China through local partners. As of December 2013, a total of 24,614 North Koreans have re-settled in South Korea.

## Annual Assistance Funds

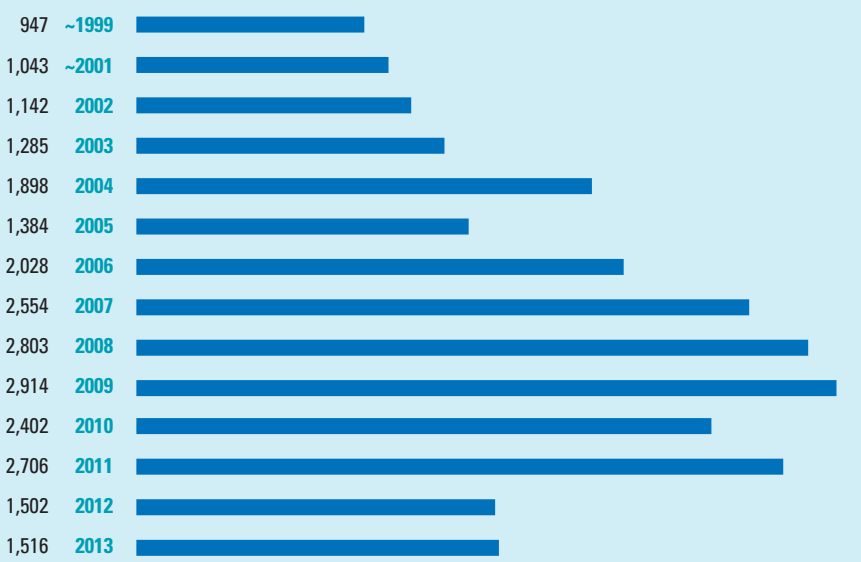


In 2013, NKHR directly assisted 50 refugees (27 women, 6 men, 6 teenagers, and 9 young children). NKHR spent approximately \$95,000 in relief activities for North Korean refugees. We maintain a special Sharing Hope Fund where interested people can donate money to help North Koreans who are still waiting in temporary countries of transit.

# Adjustment Programs for North Korean Re-Settlers in South Korea

With a firm belief that education illuminates the path to a better life, we provide educational assistance to North Korean children and youth to help them achieve an easier transition into South Korean society. A large portion of North Korean re-settlers consist of youth who were forced to discontinue their education in North Korea due to the food crisis and other difficulties in the school system. When North Koreans arrive in the South, they face tremendous challenges in adjusting to the highly competitive and advanced South Korean education system. These differences hinder their successful integration into school life and in many cases lead them to discontinue their education, making it difficult to find decent employment in South Korea. In response, NKHR’s programs aim to reduce the dropout rate and assist refugee youth in fulfilling their academic potential. This endeavor includes educating them on human rights and civic engagement.

## Annual Number of North Koreans Arriving in South Korea



\* Figures represent information updated by the Ministry of Unification as of December 2013





The 24th Hangyoreh Winter School provided intensive classes in math, English, and history to youth from North Korea.

## Hangyoreh School for North Korean Youth

The Hangyoreh School is an alternative winter school for North Korean youth and has been held every January since 2001. The program aims to alleviate academic difficulties, foster creativity, hone logical thinking, and encourage consideration and service for others.

### The 24th Winter Hangyoreh School

On January 7, NKHR held the 24th session of Hangyoreh School at the Education Center for Unification in Seoul with 25 students from North Korea. Every session's success depends on the passion and dedication of volunteers who spend two weeks teaching, mentoring, and living side-by-side with the students. NKHR was grateful for this year's group of 13 volunteers, who ranged from college students to professional teachers.

From January 7 to January 23, the school provided intensive classes in math, English, and history. Additionally, for those North Korean youth who do not know the Korean language well due to their prolonged stay in China, NKHR held private reading and writing sessions to improve literacy. The students also focused on public speaking, giving several presentations on diverse topics throughout the two weeks.

### "Do Dream" College Preparatory and Career Training Program

The college preparatory and career training program for North Korean high school students started this year with funding from the Seoul City Government. Students went on visits to college campuses, participated in college entrance info sessions and career exploration activities, and received one-on-one mentoring sessions. The program was intended to introduce new academic and career tracks that matched students' interests and talents.



Students get a hands-on opportunity to explore different careers.

April 20	Career exploration activities at Job World
May 4	Career exploration activities at Job World
May 17-18	Career camp
June 24	College information sessions
July 13	On-the-job training (Incheon Airport, Seoul Station)
July 30	On-the-job training (Sanggye Hospital)
October 9	Visits to Korea University and Seoul University
November 9-10	Career camp

## 9th Leadership Program for North Korean College Students

NKHR established a leadership program for North Korean university students in 2005. Its purpose is to teach students how to achieve a well-balanced and desirable campus life so as to help them succeed in a post-university work environment. NKHR believes that investing in the successful adjustment and career development of North Korean youth will create a community of professionals who will eventually lead the reunification effort between the two Koreas in the future.

Ten students met regularly throughout the year and were guided through mock job interviews and resume workshops. They also practiced effective professional communication. The students volunteered in other NKHR education programs for younger students from North Korea, such as the Saturday Visits to Hanawon. Fifteen sessions were held in 2014.

### Leadership Camp in Washington, D.C. for North Korean University Students

Six students from North Korea who are now studying at universities in South Korea participated in a challenging three-week leadership program in Washington, D.C. The program was designed to foster leadership skills and



Six college students from North Korea participated in the Leadership Program in Washington D.C. The students found the Korean War Memorial especially compelling, with its inscription of the Martin Luther King quote, "Freedom is not free."

provide a global perspective. Students visited various organizations, government offices, and NGOs, like the World Bank, U.S. Congress, and the Committee on Human Rights in North Korea. Students also learned about history and culture at a number of museums and memorials. The students found the Korean War Memorial especially compelling, with its inscription of the Martin Luther King quote, "Freedom is not free." At the Holocaust Museum, the students found the mountain of Holocaust victims' shoes deeply moving. To them, the image represented the experience of North Koreans today.

To be selected for the Leadership Program, the North Korean students went through a rigorous application process that evaluated their character, development, social contribution, experience, talent, and English ability.

The 2013 Leadership Program was jointly organized by NKHR and the Korean American Sharing Movement (KASM). Established in 1997, KASM is comprised of Korean-American community leaders and professionals in the D.C. area. It has run a youth leadership camp for Koreans and ethnic Koreans living abroad since 2003.

## Weekly Saturday Visits to Hanawon Government Complex

Hanawon is a government-run resettlement and education center for defectors from North Korea that has two locations in Ansong and Yangju, Gyeonggi Province. Hanawon is the first gateway for refugees in experiencing South Korean society. As such, all refugees must stay at these facilities for a period of several months before entering South Korean society.

NKHR has been conducting special programs at Hanawon every weekend since 1999. The programs provide teens with English language and math classes, as well as various recreational activities in the afternoon. This year, our weekly Saturday visits to the Ansong campus were from 10 am – 3 pm, with two hours

dedicated to math and English, and two hours dedicated to sports, art, music, and cooking. Volunteers also made biweekly visits to Hanawon to teach a second class made up of young children.

## Scholarship Program

NKHR has been offering monthly scholarships to North Korean students in order to support and encourage their commitment to education. The primary sponsors are KPX, Samjeong KPMG, Mr. Park Hyung Shik, and Mr. Lim Yoo Chul. In total, 19 North Koreans (1 graduate student, 8 undergraduate students, 5 children, 1 young professional, and 4 family members) were awarded scholarships. NKHR also recommended North Korean university students for scholarships to study abroad in the United States.

NKHR adviser Mr. Lim Yoo Chul presents a student with her scholarship certificate award.



## L4 Soccer Team

The L4 Soccer Team consists of North Korean students and NKHR volunteers who meet regularly for practice and competition. They placed third in the 5th Wooyang Welfare Foundation Soccer Tournament on September 14 in Paju City.





# Domestic Educational and Academic Programs

## North Korean Human Rights Workshop for South Korean High School Students

The workshop was funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Seoul. The program consisted of lectures that provided general education on human rights with a focus on the situation inside North Korea and the plight of North Korean refugees. The lectures were complemented by documentaries, group discussions with North Korean students, and presentations made by South Korean workshop participants. They also visited the Cheonan, a South Korean Navy ship that was torpedoed by the North Korean government in 2010, killing 46 seamen.



60 high school students from over 15 schools gathered from July 24-26 for the 3rd annual Human Rights Workshop.

## Essay Contest: "If you were the President of South Korea, what would you do for North Korean Human Rights?"

Inspired by the need to train the next generation of North Korean human rights activists, NKHR held an essay competition sponsored by the Embassy



NKHR board member and professor Won Jae Chun meets with Justice Michael Kirby at the Palais de Wilson.

Justice Kirby is the head commissioner of the UN Commission of Inquiry (left).

The team visits with Janice Lyn Marshall at the headquarters of UN Refugee Agency in Geneva (right).

of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Seoul. We asked students to write on their course of action to improve North Korean human rights if they were the president of South Korea. The contest was only open to high school and college students who had participated in our human rights workshop. Three winners (one South Korean high school student, one South Korean college student, and one North Korean college student) were chosen to participate in a weeklong human rights training in Geneva, home to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

In Geneva, students attended meetings with representatives from the UN Commission of Inquiry, UNHCR, Human Rights Watch, UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Students were also asked to read *The Diary of Anne Frank* and visited the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam. The group of young activists was led by NKHR board member and law professor Jae-chun Won, Joanna Hosaniak, and Lilian Lee.

## Educating the Public

Throughout the year, NKHR hosted training and information sessions to educate high school and college students as well as members of the air force and the public about North Korean human rights.

- March 20 – Lecture on North Korean human rights for members of the South Korean Training Institute for Court Officials
- June 13 – Lecture by Kim Hyuk, who spent his childhood on the streets in North Korea, followed by music from the Seokyeong Music Society. The event was held for more than 300 students at Seokyeong University.
- June 26 & August 28: Over 90 students from Ilsan and Uiwang High Schools participated in two workshops, which included a lecture, documentary screening, and conversations with a North Korean college student.
- August 7 – NKHR conducted a half-day North Korean human rights program for 70 members of the Korean Air Force

# Other Activities

## English Program with the Embassy of Canada

The Embassy of Canada and NKHR continued its partnership on the “InsideCanada” program, an English-language program for North Korean college students in the South. The program aims to give students exposure to global perspectives in a native English-language context. In 2013, there were two intensive sessions in January and in August, timed to students’ academic holidays.

## Legal Activities

### The North Korean Human Rights Bill

On April 25, NKHR joined with Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea (LHUK) and other organizations to charge South Korea’s National Assembly with violating the Constitution in failing to pass the North Korean Human Rights Bill eight years after it was introduced. The charge was made to the Constitutional Court of Korea.

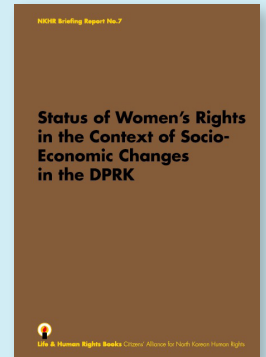
### Lawsuit Against South Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On June 19, following the May 28 repatriation of nine North Korean youth from Laos to North Korea, NKHR filed a lawsuit against South Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The group of refugees had requested emergency assistance from the South Korean embassy in Vientiane, but no assistance was given. Nor was a visit by any South Korean embassy personnel made to the young refugees in detention. The Ministry claimed that the embassy followed protocol but did not make public what those steps were. NKHR’s suit called for the Ministry to make public the procedures in place for the protection of refugees coming to South Korea and passing through transit countries.

# Publications

## Human Rights Briefing Report: Status of Women’s Rights in the Context of Socio-Economic Changes in the DPRK

NKHR launched its 7th briefing report on human rights on June 28 at the British Embassy in Seoul. The report, Status of Women’s Rights in the Context of Socio-Economic Changes in the DPRK, documented the condition of women’s rights in North Korea and assessed positive and negative changes in the country after the adoption of the new 2010 law on women. In the past three years, North Korea made amendments to its Constitution, adopted new laws on women and children, and made changes to its criminal code. The report took a closer look at the development of the status of women by surveying 60 women who left North Korea between 2011 and 2012 and conducting in-depth interviews with 20 North Korean women and men who, due to their experiences in North Korea, could provide significant information to the trends identified in the surveys. The report was sponsored by the British Embassy in Seoul.



## Monthly North Korean Human Rights Newsletter

The monthly newsletter is composed of the following content: a forward from the representative, news on NKHR’s activities, media reports, a public forum-opinion page and testimonies from refugees. This newsletter is printed only in Korean and 22,000 copies were circulated in 2013.

## FNN e-mail newsletter

Every second month, the major activities of NKHR are compiled in English and sent out to about 500 different NGOs, UN agencies, media outlets, embassies,



research institutes and private subscribers. The newsletter includes past activities, testimonies from North Koreans and announcements of important upcoming events.

Website: [www.nkhumanrights.or.kr](http://www.nkhumanrights.or.kr)

NKHR’s website is in Korean and English and is an online forum for information and news on North Korean human rights and refugee issues. It also provides updated information on NKHR’s activities and upcoming events.



Social Media:

NKHR is available on social network sites:  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nkhumanrights](http://www.facebook.com/nkhumanrights)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/nkhumanrights](http://www.twitter.com/nkhumanrights)



# Where We Work

- Where do we work**
- Relief projects for North Korean refugees and field missions
  - NKHR’s domestic programs for North Korean refugees re-settled in South Korea
  - No access for human rights groups



## Mission Mandate

On December 10, 1948 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the Universal declaration of Human Rights, which proclaimed freedom of press, freedom of religion, freedom from fear and freedom from poverty as universal rights for all human beings. The General Assembly at the time advised people of all member states to put in all efforts to realize these aims.

Over the past four decades, Koreans on the southern half of the peninsula have endeavored to achieve these universal freedoms. With pride, therefore, we were able to advocate freedom and human rights for all. The international community has acknowledged our achievements in improving the human rights situation in South Korea, though it may not be yet equal with that of more developed countries. Nevertheless, under the scrutiny of a free press, South Korea maintains hope for further improvements in our human rights situation.

It is now time for us to turn our eyes to the North. It is well known that the four universal freedoms are nonexistent there. Let's take a look at the situation in North Korea. Can there be freedom of press when all media organizations are scrutinized under the guidance of the Korean Workers Party? Can there be freedom of religion when prisoners are killed for praying before meals? Can there be freedom from fear when a foreigner is sentenced to prison for questioning the Kim Il Sung worship of North Korea? Can there be freedom from poverty, knowing that without any foreign aid, thousands will die of hunger?

North Korea experts around the world expect that North Korea's control over its people will only strengthen. It is inevitable. When a society destabilizes and the economy weakens, political prisoners and prisoners in labor camps are the first to experience harsher persecution. They are imprisoned merely for expressing opinions different from those of the ruling power, or for having tried to leave North Korea. Amnesty International estimates that this group numbers over 150,000.

By studying North Korea's concept of human rights, we can infer how North Korea treats its political prisoners. An article in the official party's newspaper Rodong Shinmun, stated that 'We do not hide class in our concept of human rights. Those who oppose socialism and impure factionists who violate the interests of the people do not deserve freedom and human rights. The paper also labeled political prisoners as anti-revolutionary factionists, saying that they are the true traitors of the people's interests: violators, betrayers, and degrading human scraps. These statements make it clear that political and labor prisoners will continue to be oppressed.

We plan to cooperate with human rights organizations around the world to publicize the human rights atrocities in North Korea. I believe this will lead our 20 million North Korean brothers and sisters to gain the freedom that we enjoy today and will hasten the day of our peaceful, democratic unification.

Finally, the mandate of our mission is as follows: With regard to the main composition of this movement, it will be a citizens' movement. With regard to its goals, it will create a solid foundation for the reunification of North and South Korea. With regard to its direction, it will be an international movement. With regard to its history, it shall be a peaceful movement.

May 1996