



# Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights

## 2016 Activity Report

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

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

- Collect and publicize facts and research on the current North Korean human rights situation.
- Advise international organizations in prosecuting and condemning the North Korean human rights situation, especially with respect to political prison camps.
- Protect the lives and human rights of North Korean refugees.
- Assist North Korean resettlers living in South Korea by focusing on youth education.
- Coordinate efforts with other domestic and international human rights organizations to fulfill the objectives mentioned above.

**NKHR has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the John Diefenbaker Defender of Human Rights and Freedom Award (2011).**

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



The year 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights. The Citizens' Alliance has continued to prosper, producing historic work since its inception, despite initial concerns that working on the issue of North Korean human rights would be the cause of endless frustration.

For two decades we have aimed to transform the North Korean human rights crisis from a marginalized issue to a prioritized item on the international agenda. In order to achieve this, we have led multiple advocacy campaigns pushing for global cooperation toward a resolution. Our efforts have resulted in unprecedented, active UN intervention. In 2016, this intervention included the creation of the UN Panel of Experts on accountability for North Korean human rights. Following this development, the Citizens' Alliance hosted a closed-door international conference to discuss transitional justice and state accountability, as well as strategies for approaching the current situation on the ground in North Korea. Results from these discussions informed the report released by the UN Panel of Experts on accountability.

People living in North Korea remain in a human rights blind spot and, because of this, the Citizens' Alliance has been confronted with a number of troubling situations throughout the past twenty years. In one case, due to a lack of funding we were unable to prevent a group of young North Korean girls from being sold to human traffickers. Each one of us broke into tears. Despite these difficulties, we have also been blessed by the support of many people who have helped us with our fundraising campaigns over the years. Koreans residing in Canada and Austria have started fundraising campaigns in their respective regions to support our cause, as have members of the Saemun Church. In addition, we have received a number of special contributions, including a remarkable donation from an anonymous contributor who had relocated to the Middle East. This year NKHR received a total of close to 112,000 USD for rescue missions, allowing 70 North Korean refugees safe passage to South Korea. Over the span of 20 years, NKHR has aided the rescue of 700 refugees in total.

Our work doesn't stop there. Our social and educational programs for young North Korean resettlers provide an avenue for the students to explore various career and academic opportunities, as well as to develop concrete plans for their future. We have seen many resettlers achieve their dreams to become painters, rappers, writers, nurses, accountants, CEOs and NGO staff. I am extremely proud of their success, and believe their ongoing contributions will be critical in building a unified Korea.

On December 13, 2016, NKHR was awarded the Korean DMZ Peace Prize in the "Exchange and Cooperation" category for its continuous advocacy and reunification efforts. The prize was awarded by the Provincial Government of Gangwon and the Gangwon Ilbo. We accepted the award as a humbling recognition of our hard work and unwavering commitment to the issue of North Korean human rights over the past 20 years. More importantly, the award serves as a reminder that we would never have been able to come this far were it not for the passionate contributions of our members and volunteers. Finally, we would like everyone to know that the Citizens' Alliance will continue to work as hard as ever. We would also like to express our most sincere gratitude for your generous support and attention throughout our history.

January 2017

Benjamin H. Yoon

Founder & Chairman

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

# NKHR Awarded DMZ Peace Prize

On December 13, NKHR was awarded the 12th DMZ Peace Prize in recognition of its longstanding efforts within the North Korean human rights movement. The prize, granted by the Gangwon Province government and the Gangwon Daily, acknowledged NKHR's contributions to world peace and harmony between the Korean people. At the ceremony, NKHR was presented with a plaque and US\$4,415.



# Advocacy & Campaigns

The Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights has been at the forefront of international advocacy for North Korean human rights since 1996. By organizing international conferences and other campaigns around the world, NKHR has exposed numerous human rights violations in North Korea and amplified victims' voices by bringing their stories to the attention of media, foreign governments, international NGOs and the United Nations. NKHR regularly advocates at the UN headquarters in Geneva and New York. Over the years, we have garnered international support for UN resolutions addressing North Korea's human rights situation, the establishment of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, and the creation of the UN Commission of Inquiry for the DPRK and the UN Panel of Experts on Accountability. We have briefed experts from the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child before those committees' regular reviews of the North Korean government. We have also prepared information and conducted briefings before cycles of North Korea's Universal Periodic Review. NKHR additionally advocates for South Korean nationals who were abducted to North Korea and submits individual cases to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on behalf of these victims and their families. In addition to our UN advocacy, NKHR also works to develop a network of NGOs in South East Asia, Africa and South America committed to improving the North Korean human rights situation. We are a member of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network.

## **Advocacy to Establish the UN Panel of Experts on Accountability in the DPRK**

Following the UN Commission of Inquiry for North Korea, NKHR aimed to continue its advocacy efforts by undertaking a campaign in support of the UN Special Rapporteur's initiative to introduce a UN Panel of Experts on Accountability into a new Resolution on the Human Rights Situation in the DPRK. Efforts were successful and the initiative was adopted in March 2016.

NKHR advocated for the necessity of the panel in letters to the EU states, Japan, and the U.S., and in over 15 advocacy meetings with UN member states involved in the drafting of the Resolution. In addition, NKHR also participated in the submission of a joint letter from various NGOs, which was distributed mid-February both to members of the UN Human Rights Council and the press. The Panel, set to introduce its report during the March 2017 session of the UN Human Rights Council, was tasked with mapping out strategies beyond the

existing call for the referral of North Korean leadership to the International Criminal Court.

## **Meeting on Accountability Strategy and Advocacy with the UN Group of Experts on Accountability in the DPRK**

From November 18-23, NKHR invited 18 international specialists, scholars, and practitioners to a special closed strategy meeting for the purpose of laying out NKHR's proposal to hold North Korea accountable for its human rights violations. Discussants at the meeting included Marzuki Darusman, former Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Justice Michael Kirby, Former Chair of the UN Commission of Inquiry for DPRK; experts directly involved in transitional justice institutions and processes; specialists on international sanctions and international prosecutions; and doctors working with victims and on exhumations following large-scale human rights violations. As a result of discussions, a 25-page report was submitted to the UN Panel of Experts on Accountability.

The following were our major recommendations to the Panel of Experts on Accountability:

1. All documentation efforts and methodology must be consistent with international criminal standards and must be conducted in accordance with the best practices of international criminal investigation procedures.

2. All previously collected evidence and other materials must be reviewed by international crimes experts for accuracy and usability. Future documentation efforts must aim to fill in gaps and further support and corroborate existing evidence. These efforts will assist in eventual prosecutions and therefore may require additional financial and specialist resources to be directed to the UN Human Rights Office in Seoul. These resources will support the Office in devising a documentation/ investigation strategy to map patterns of criminality in the DPRK as well as collusion with other states.







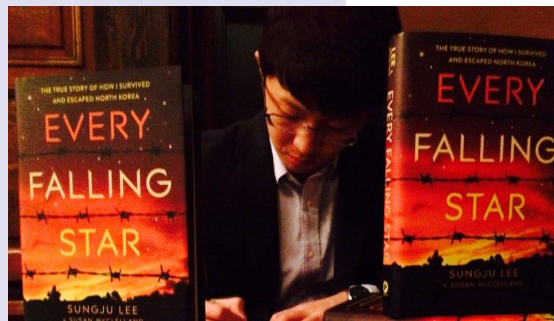
### **Advocacy for Korea's Separated Families at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva**

On March 15, 2016, in cooperation with the British Embassy in Seoul, the UK Mission in Geneva, and the Korean Assembly for the Reunion of Ten Million Separated Families, NKHR hosted an event urging international support for families separated during the Korean War. The meeting was opened by British Ambassador Mr. Mark Matthews and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights, Mr. Marzuki Darusman, and moderated by NKHR.

The situation of separated families has been identified as a serious human rights violation in the UN Commission of Inquiry's report, by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, and in the recent report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The 2016 Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK included new content on the issue and also stressed the need for "necessary arrangements for confirming the fate of family members, exchanging letters, visiting their hometowns and holding further reunions on a larger scale and a regular basis."

### **"For the Freedom" NKHR Awareness Events in New York**

In late October, NKHR's International Advocacy and Campaign Team traveled to New York City with North Korean resettlers Chunhyok Kang, hip hop and visual artist, and Sungju Lee, author and Chevening scholar, to raise awareness, advocate for North Korean human rights, and strengthen local partnerships. Major highlights of the trip included a panel discussion on "North Korea's Legal Obligations and the Rights of the Child" at the New York City Bar Association and a concert at Starr Bar in Brooklyn, featuring the world premiere of Chunhyok Kang's music video "For the Freedom." Mr. Kang was interviewed by music website Track Record about his use of rap as a means of expression and



advocacy for North Korean human rights, and Sungju Lee signed copies of his new book, *Every Falling Star*, which was also on display at the Barnes & Noble on 5th Avenue.

Additionally, during the trip, NKHR Deputy Director Joanna Hosaniak met other NGO representatives and the new UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK to discuss the current issues and strategies for moving forward. She also traveled to Washington, D.C. for a conference on "The Evolution of North Korean Human Rights Discourse and Activism." There she spoke about how NKHR founder Mr. Hyun Yoon changed the approach to North Korean human rights with the establishment of the Citizens' Alliance, by instituting a platform of international advocacy and coordination.

### **Professor Tae-Ung Baik, Member of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Visits the NKHR Office**

On January 10, 2016, Professor Tae-Ung Baik, 2015 appointee to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, visited the NKHR office to meet the families of several South Korean citizens abducted by the North Korean government. Originally from South Korea and currently an associate professor at the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law, Dr. Baik spent several hours listening to the victims' relatives recount their stories. He also participated in an informal discussion on various strategies the





Working Group could employ to solve the ongoing issue of forced disappearances.

### **Submission of Cases to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)**

On December 14, 2016, NKHR submitted 10 abduction cases to the WGEID, a product of interviews conducted between the months of June and November with the families of 10 South Korean abductees. To date, NKHR has submitted a total of 64 such cases to the WGEID. Upon submission of our most recent 10 cases, NKHR also asked for updates on these previous submissions. The WGEID confirmed that all cases had been received by the WGEID and excepting those 10 most recently received, have now been passed on to the appropriate North Korean authorities for response.

### **NKHR Activities with the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)**

As a member of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), NKHR works with members of NGOs from other Asian nations in pursuing justice for those who have been forcibly separated from their families by government-sponsored disappearances. In July 2016, NKHR participated in AFAD's annual conference and capacity building workshop in Bangkok, Thailand. Attendees worked together to develop plans for overcoming various human rights crises currently experienced by member countries.

Among other AFAD-related activities, NKHR also participated in the International Week of the Disappeared in May and produced a video in honor of AFAD's 18-year anniversary. NKHR helped advocate for the release of AFAD's Chairperson, Khurram Parvaiz of Kashmir, who was arbitrarily detained on September 16 while en route to participate in the UN Human





Rights Council meeting in Geneva. We are happy to announce that Mr. Pravaiz was released in November.

## 10th Annual Beautiful Dream Concert

Held at KBS Hall on October 12, this year's Beautiful Dream Concert marked one decade since NKHR began hosting its annual fundraiser to support educational and empowerment programs for North Korean resettlers. Since 1997, NKHR has continued to touch new audience members with the stories of challenges faced by newly resettled students and the impact that educational programs have had on their lives. This year's concert was no exception, and featured interviews with former students who spoke to the importance of NKHR's programs in terms of confidence-building, preparing for the future, and garnering friendships.

## 'For the Freedom' Rap Concert

On December 16, NKHR hosted a showcase and concert at a bar in Hongdae in honor of resettled North Korean rapper Chunhyok Kang. Mr. Kang, who previously shocked audiences by exposing the truth about life in North Korea on the Korean TV show "Show Me the Money," performed new songs and



released the music video for single “For the Freedom.” At the forefront of activism for North Korean human rights through artistic expression, Mr. Kang also spoke about his life and the need for greater awareness and understanding. Afterwards, local indie band Nice Legs and electronic pop musician Danké also entertained the audience with energetic performances.

## Rescue Fund Volunteer Team

The NKHR Rescue Fund is a special team of volunteers who, in cooperation with the Advocacy and Campaign Team, organize awareness and fundraising events to help rescue North Korean refugees in hiding. After raising US\$21,000 for 13 refugee rescues in 2015, the team raised US\$15,498 in 2016, supporting the rescue of 7 refugees.

June 2016 marked the successful completion of NKHR Rescue Fund's third annual Running 4 Resettlement fundraising campaign. After months of collecting donations for vulnerable refugees, over 60 participants took to the sidewalks of the Han River to raise awareness for North Korean human rights while taking part in the Kim Dae Jung Peace Marathon. Volunteers raised US\$10,700 total, enough to help four people escape the threats of human trafficking and forced repatriation in China.

In October, the NKHR Rescue Fund partnered with local music scene guru Ali Safavi, who organized a two-day music festival called “I Like Many II.” NKHR Rescue Fund volunteers spoke to the crowd, sold baked goods, and staffed an information booth for audience members. Mr. Safavi and the group raised about US\$360 for refugee rescues.

In November, the Rescue Fund worked to raise awareness on the issue of Korean families separated in the war. The team hosted an event at Bedrock bar that included a screening of J.P. Elliott's short film “Orphans” and a panel discussion with both Mr. Elliott and humanitarian law expert Dr. Eunbum Choi,



who is a member of a separated family. The event doubled as a winter wear drive for North Korean refugees in hiding; attendees donated coats and sweaters in addition to funds for refugee rescues.

## **Global Giving Campaign**

NKHR became an official member of Global Giving in 2013. The website offers U.S. donors a way to make tax-deductible donations to NKHR's projects. NKHR now has two projects to which donors can contribute using the Global Giving platform:

Our “Learning Freedom” project helps fund NKHR's education programs for North Korean youth resettling in South Korea.

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/learningfreedom/>

Added in April 2016, “Give Life and Hope to a North Korean Refugee” funds humanitarian assistance for North Korean refugees in hiding in China, which includes the provision of daily necessities in addition to rescues.

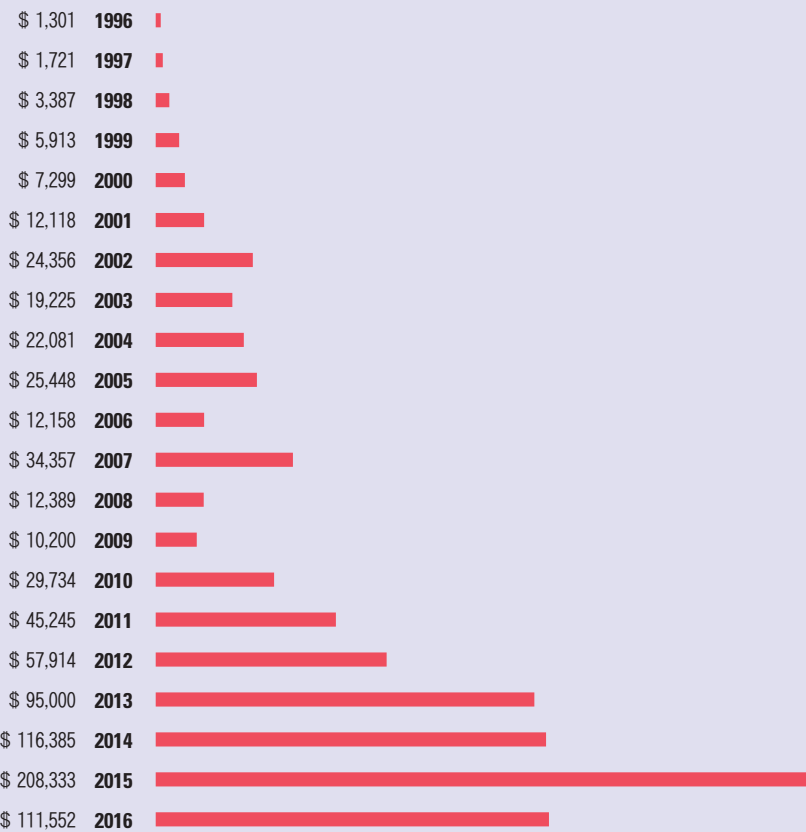
<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/give-life-and-hope-to-a-north-korean-refugee/>

# Relief Activities for North Korean Refugees

In aiding North Korean refugees, NKHR prioritizes those who are most in need, such as women, children, and those who may face death upon forcible return to North Korea. NKHR provides refugees with shelter and a secure route to South Korea through a third country such as Thailand. As of December 2016, a total of 30,000 North Koreans have resettled in South Korea. To date, NKHR has directly assisted a total of 700 of these refugees in their journeys to South Korea. Through local partners, NKHR also provides daily necessities to North Korean refugees in hiding in China.

In 2016, over US\$111,552 was devoted to our relief activities for North Korean refugees, and we directly assisted with the rescues of 70 refugees (40 women, 6 men, 5 teens, and 19 children). We have two safe ‘hideouts’ to protect North Koreans in China, and we provide them with living essentials like clothing. We maintain a special fund, the “Sharing Hope Fund,” where individuals can donate money to help North Koreans who are still waiting in third countries.

## Annual Assistance Funds





# Adjustment Programs for North Korean Resettlers in South Korea

With a firm belief that education illuminates the path to a better life, NKHR provides educational assistance to North Korean children and youth to help them more easily transition into South Korean society. A large percentage of young resettlers were forced to discontinue their education in North Korea due to the food crisis or other factors. After arriving in the South, they face tremendous challenges adjusting to the highly competitive and advanced South Korean schooling system. These differences can hinder their successful integration into school life and, in many cases, can lead them to give up on their studies, making it difficult to find employment in South Korea. NKHR’s programs aim to reduce this dropout rate and assist North Korean youth in fulfilling their academic potential. Our programs include education on human rights and civic engagement.

## Annual Number of North Koreans Arriving in South Korea

~1998	947	1999	148	2000	312
2001	583	2002	1,142	2003	1,285
2004	1,898	2005	1,384	2006	2,028
2007	2,554	2008	2,803	2009	2,914
2010	2,402	2011	2,706	2012	1,502
2013	1,514	2014	1,396	2015	1,276
2016	1,418				
Total	20,213				

\* Figures represent information updated by the Ministry of Unification as of December 2016

## The 27th Hangyoreh School for North Korean Youth

Since 2001, NKHR has hosted an annual alternative school for North Korean youth. Lasting about three weeks, the school aims to help resettler students in South Korea advance academically by offering general education classes, encouraging creativity and analytical thinking, and providing a safe and stable atmosphere. The instructors at the Hangyoreh School also strive to impart upon students the importance of respect and consideration for others, thereby fostering citizenship skills and democratic values.

Since the school’s institution, over 680 North Korean students have participated in its math and English courses. Because of its focus on building



confidence and providing a space for students to concentrate on their studies, the program has proved very effective.

The 27th session of the Hangyoreh Seasonal School was sponsored by YBSS - former Yonsei University students. From January 4 to January 20, seventeen North Korean students lived side-by-side with seven South Korean volunteer teachers and three NKHR staff members. Major courses included Korean, math, and English, which were taught according to the students' levels. Evening courses featured one-on-one tutoring sessions and special activities like art and physical education, playing board games, and learning magic. In addition, on weekends students enjoyed local cultural experiences such as visiting a strawberry farm and making a field trip to Yeoncheon. According to volunteers, this year's cohort was so passionate that they felt sleeping was a waste of the valuable time they could be using to learn. More than just an educational program, the Hangyoreh School also fosters integration between North and South Korean students.

### **Weekly Saturday Visits to the Hanawon Government Complex**

In 2001, NKHR began conducting special Saturday programs for new North Korean resettlers at the Hanawon complex in Ansong. This year the program received support from the Community Chest of Korea and was organized by NKHR staff and six volunteers who met early every Saturday, venturing to the Ansong center to work with students. Starting at 10am, the volunteers taught English and math to 15 young adult resettlers; in the afternoons, students enjoyed physical education, art, and social culture activities until 3pm. Additionally, two volunteers met every other Saturday to teach art, physical education, and music classes to 10 kindergarten and elementary school students.

### **The NKHR Leadership Club for North and South Korean Students**

The objective of NKHR's Leadership Club for North and South Korean university students is to promote logical thinking, communication, and



broader understanding through readings and discussion of history and literature. In 2016, with support from the Export-Import Bank of Korea, 27 students engaged in book club discussions or participated in a cultural activity each month. Throughout the course of the program, students strengthened their own academic abilities while also naturally developing mutual understanding.

Date	Book Title or Activity	Contents of Discussion/Activities
March 30	How Asia Works	Pros and cons of national support for large corporations
April 28	Brave New World	The concept of freedom in the primitive age vs. happiness in the enlightened age
May 14-15	The Misfit Economy	Spring camp: biking and kayaking in Chuncheon Discussion: Institutional vs. individual education
June 24	On the Origin of Species	Human self-centeredness vs. altruism
July 27	No, We are Sorry	Should records of crimes committed by youth be retained or deleted?
August 24-26	Korean historical site visit and cultural experience	Museum and historical site visit and mentoring by Mirae Corporation representative
September 23	Egalia's Daughters	Working toward gender equality; questioning gender roles and expectations
October 28	Screening of educational lecture	Should the Seoul City government provide funds to young people preparing for employment?
November 27	Spring at Unhyeon Palace	The positive vs. negative effects of ancient ruler's policies on modernization
December 23	Originals	Is it more beneficial to live life as an original or to fit in with the status quo?

### “Do Dream” University Entrance and Career Training Program

In April 2013, NKHR launched its “Do Dream” career training program for North Korean resettlers entering university. In North Korea, where citizens have no freedom to choose their own professions, their careers are determined by the North Korean government. This program aims to assist



students in overcoming difficulties in adjusting to South Korean society and making meaningful decisions that will pave the way for successful careers by offering on-the-job experience, demonstrating a variety of professional options, introducing

labor rights, and making visits to universities.

In 2016, with support from the Community Chest of Korea, a total of 99 students took part in the “Do Dream” program and also received one-one-counseling in regards to their individual plans for the future.

**April 16** – Orientation and career aptitude test

**May 21** - University visits and conversations with current students (at Korea, Seogang, and Ehwa Women’s universities)

**June 18** – Special lecture on composing cover letters

**July 29** – Folk village visit: Making direct comparisons between the past and present

**September 11-12** – “Do Dream” Camp: career experience at Ansan Daebudo fishing village

**October 22** – Culinary career experience with professional chef

**December 22-23** – Working professionals meeting and presentation on democratic citizenship and labor rights

## Scholarship and Mentorship Program

In order to provide young North Korean resettler students with an opportunity to focus on their academic aspirations, NKHR grants selected students monthly scholarships through its mentorship program. With support from Yoo-cheol Im, Jin-yeong Lee, Seon-young Lee, Heong-sik Park, Gwa-gyoon Mo, Yeon-su Kim, and Samjong KPMG, 12 college students received scholarships totaling over 36 million won. The mentoring program provides students not only with financial assistance, but also with counseling and guidance as they plan and pursue their academic goals.



## L4 Soccer Team

Founded in 2008, the L4 (Learn to Love, Love to Learn) soccer team is composed of 20 young North Korean resettlers and NKHR volunteers, and aims to increase understanding organically through teamwork and exercise.

Every Saturday in 2016, the team met at Mapo Elementary School for a friendly match, playing with the 'Unification League' the first weekend of every month. The team joined the 'Unification Soccer Workshop' held November 25-26 and took part in the 'Unification Soccer Tournament' on November 29. This year, the team was ranked 2nd overall in its league. The only requirement for joining the L4 team is being young at heart!



# Domestic Educational and Training Programs

Since its inception, NKHR has continued to enlist the partnership of young people to help improve human rights in North Korea and as well as helping North Koreans who have resettled in South Korea. These students have served as volunteers and interns, and have contributed to the creation and execution of a variety of domestic and international activities. In addition, NKHR has emphasized raising public awareness through training and educational programs. Awareness programs include lecture, video, and testimony presentations to students at home and abroad on subjects related to North Korean human rights violations.



## NKHR's North Korean Human Rights Workshop for Young Adults

For three days and two nights in July, 60 Korean and international high school students from all over Seoul came together to learn about North Korean human rights.

In order to inspire continued interest and involvement, the students were taught about the meaning of human rights, current issues related to human rights in North Korea, and reunification; they also watched and discussed *Under the Sun*, a documentary filmed in North Korea. The students were able to engage in discussions with young North Korean resettlers, and they even designed and conducted their own public awareness street campaigns.

## "Tong Tong" Talk Concerts

NKHR created its "Tong Tong Concert" series specifically to connect with



South Korean youth. Many South Korean high school and university students have limited knowledge about North Korea and have never had the opportunity to meet and talk directly with North Korean resettlers in South Korea. NKHR's Tong Tong Concerts feature musical acts and discussions with North Korean resettlers, with the goal of raising awareness about North Korean human rights and unification issues. These talk shows inform South Korean students about the reality of life in North Korea and impress upon them the kinds of difficulties North Koreans must overcome even after they arrive in South Korea.

In order to prepare for reunification, it is essential that North and South Koreans communicate with each other to narrow the cultural gap between the two Koreas. At presentations, students ask a variety of questions, fostering a dialogue and a deeper understanding of North Korea, resettlers, and unification efforts. NKHR will continue holding Tong Tong Concerts in schools around the country to help build bridges between North and South Korean youth.

In 2016, talk concerts were hosted by honorary ambassador Heuiyeong Kim, Every Falling Star author Sungju Lee, and artist/rapper/activist Chunhyok Kang. Mr. Lee and Mr. Kang spoke of their school lives back in North Korea, their dangerous escapes, and the difficult adjustments they had to make after reaching South Korea. Students heard from resettlers from varying backgrounds and enjoyed accordion and rap concerts and music video screenings. From May until November, NKHR held concerts at 7 high schools and universities, reaching over 1200 students.

**May 18** – Gangneung Wonju University – 50 students

**May 18** – Gwandong Catholic University – 70 students

**May 27** – Gangneung Myeongryun High School – 600 students

**July 8** – Seoul Kyeonggi Women's High School – 60 students

**July 14** – Seoul Cheongryang High School – 60 students

**October 6** – Daegu Gyeongbuk University – 80 students

**December 2** – Kwangmyeong High School – 300 students

## Educating the Public

Throughout the year, NKHR hosted various training and information sessions to educate members of the general public and elementary, high school, and college students about North Korean human rights:

**January 26** – Lecture at Yonsei University Graduate School for International Studies

**April 5** - Presentation at Korea Criminology Institute

**May 25** - Lecture for international students at Kyung Hee University

**June 1** – Awareness-raising and interview at Dongguk University

**June 16** – Jaehyeon High School information session

**August 30** – Training session at Hyeonhwa High School

**October 7** - Elementary school students visit NKHR's office

**October 7** - Training session for volunteers of the Youth Alliance for the Future of Korea

**October 14** – Awareness-raising session at Korea Christian University

**October 31** – Training at Hanbit General Welfare Center



# Other Activities



## NKHR's 20th Anniversary Celebration

On August 31, nearly 200 donors, North Korean resettlers, volunteers, and other activists gathered in Myeongdong for an appreciation dinner celebrating 20 years since the founding of NKHR. Presided over by Board members Jaechon Won and Youngseon Eom, the night's activities unfolded with a 20-year anniversary video; celebratory remarks; the presentation of gratitude, service and commendation awards, and congratulatory performances. The Citizens' Alliance recognized the following individuals for their contributions:

- Appreciation Awards: Hyesook Kim, Hyeongsik Park, Byeongwon Lee, Hwangyoung Jang, Peter Jang
- Service Awards: Eunjoo Kim, Hyeok Kim, Youngho Park, Sungju Lee
- Commendation Awards: Kyeongeun Kim, Namsoon Kim, Miri Kim

Two decades have passed since the inception of activism in the previously ignored field of North Korean human rights. These days the topic has gained international prominence, and growing support has led to great achievements in providing humanitarian assistance to North Korean refugees, who have long languished in a human rights blind spot. NKHR further strives to assist young resettlers through educational programming. The 20th Anniversary celebration dinner recognized the individuals who have consistently walked this difficult path alongside the Citizens' Alliance. Staff vowed to continue pursuing NKHR's original founding goals while also taking steps to make



further advances in new directions.

Many attendees to the event provided words of support, but one message was particularly powerful:

“These 20 years of the Citizens’ Alliance for North Korean Human Rights represent the history of North Korean human rights activism in South Korea.

In the future, when they write the story of Korea’s reunification, your work will be recognized as being at the forefront. Let’s work together toward that day.”



### **NKHR at Seoul’s 2016 Unification Expo**

In May, NKHR joined Seoul’s 2016 Reunification Expo, hosted by South Korea’s Ministry of Unification in central Seoul’s Gwanghwamun Square. Attended by thousands, the event aimed to accelerate reunification efforts on the Korean Peninsula by introducing the general public to human rights and humanitarian organizations, media, and academic institutions working on North Korean issues. NKHR hosted an

information booth at the Expo with the theme “I am an honorary ambassador of North Korean human rights!” Visitors to the booth posed for Polaroid photos and were given fortune cookies with messages related to North Korean human rights.

### **NKHR Staff Training Workshop Series**

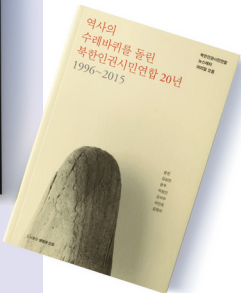
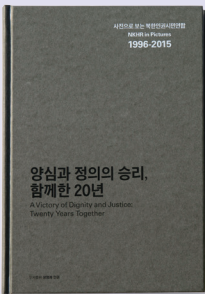
From March until July, NKHR organized 11 staff- training sessions on the topics of North Korean human rights law, understanding North Korean refugee and resettlement issues, North Korean human rights and the United Nations, transitional justice, North Korean political prison camps, modern Korean history, preparing for reunification, and reunification of separated family members. Sessions were held at the NKHR office and led by North Korean resettlers, practitioners, experts, and academics.



# Publications

## Publication of 20th Anniversary Commemorative Photobook and Newsletter

In honor of 20 years in operation, NKHR published the commemorative photobook “A Victory of Dignity and Justice: Twenty Years Together” and a newsletter entitled “Turning Back the Wheel of History: 20 Years of Citizens’ Alliance for North Korean Human Rights.”



## Monthly North Korean Human Rights Newsletter

NKHR’s monthly newsletter, published in Korean, provides the public with information about NKHR and the North Korean human rights situation. Each issue includes a forward by NKHR, news on NKHR’s activities, media reports, a public forum and opinion

page, and testimonies from North Korean resettlers. In 2016, NKHR distributed 20,000 copies of the newsletter to its subscribers and to the public.

## FNN E-mail Newsletter

Once every three months, the major activities of NKHR are compiled in English and sent to roughly 1,000 different NGOs, UN agencies, media outlets, embassies, research institutes, and individual subscribers. The newsletter includes news on NKHR’s activities, testimonies from North Koreans, and announcements of important upcoming events.

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

NKHR’s website, offered in both Korean and English, provides information

about NKHR, our activities, and our upcoming events. It also features news on North Korean human rights and refugee issues.

The NKHR Rescue Fund can be found on Facebook and at [www.nkhrrescuefund.org](http://www.nkhrrescuefund.org).

### **Social Media:**

NKHR is available on social media:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nkhumanrights](http://www.facebook.com/nkhumanrights)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/nkhumanrights](http://www.twitter.com/nkhumanrights)

### **Op-eds**

“Why Human Rights Organizations Stand Behind the UN Office in Seoul”

Written by Deputy Director Joanna Hosaniak for NKNews.

“Why Sending North Korean Laborers Back Home Won’t Improve Their Human Rights”

Written by Deputy Director Joanna Hosaniak for NKNews.

“Do North Korean Children Truly Have Nothing to Envy?”

Written by Senior Officer Miri Cha for the Bokji Times.

# 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 scums. 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.



## **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 those escaping the country, 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 one-time or 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

**Donors can also make U.S. tax-deductible donations through Global Giving to our project 'Learning Freedom : Help Educate North Korean Youth' <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/learningfreedom/> or to: 'Give Life and Hope to a North Korean Refugee' <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/give-life-and-hope-to-a-north-korean-refugee/>**