

North Korea: Did You Know?

- ◆ Three million people have died from starvation in North Korea since the famine that started in the 1990s.
- ◆ Over two hundred thousand North Korean men, women AND children are held in political prison camps. Children are not only sent to these camps but are born there and remain there.



- ◆ Three generations of a family are sent to the political prison camps if just one member is accused of a “crime.” Crimes include listening to a foreign radio broadcast, believing in God, not properly showing respect to Dear Leader Kim Jong-il, or repeatedly trying to flee the country.
- ◆ Between four hundred thousand and one million people have died in these political prison camps where prisoners are worked to death and starved to death.
- ◆ Approximately, 500,000 North Koreans have crossed the border into China escaping famine-like conditions in their homeland.

◆ Refusing to acknowledge that these refugees will be subjected to torture, detention and execution if they are forced back to North Korea, Chinese authorities continue to forcibly repatriate the refugees back to North Korea.

◆ As a result of their dangerous and precarious position, North Korean male refugees become slave laborers in China, while female refugees are subjected to sexual trafficking sold to brothels or to Chinese “husbands” as there is a shortage of Chinese women due to China’s one child policy. Approximately, 80% of North Korea females have been “sold” and victimized by human traffickers.



◆ The international community has sent enough food and economic assistance to feed every family at risk in North Korea, yet starvation continues because Kim Jong-il uses international assistance as a weapon against his own people feeding his elites and diverting finances for his nuclear program.

◆ North Koreans are not the only ones suffering under the Kim Jong-il regime: After years of denial, North Korea finally admitted in 2002 to the abduction of thirteen Japanese citizens, including a thirteen year old girl, Megumi Yokota. Since that time the Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea (AFVKN) and the National Association for the Rescue of Japanese Kidnapped by North Korea (NARKN) have identified that North Korea abducted citizens from at least 12 different countries and there may in fact be hundreds of abductees.

◆ North Korea was also responsible for the abduction of 82,959 South Korean citizens during the Korean War and close to 500 South Korean citizens since the Korean War.

◆ North Korea continues to hold at least 300 South Korean POWs from the Korean War, with eyewitnesses suggesting that figure may be as high as 560 still living South Korean POWs in North Korea. There have also been reports of American POWs being held after the Korean War up until the year 2000. Sixty South Korea POWs have escaped the DPRK since the early 1990s

◆ North Korea abducted, tortured and killed permanent American resident Rev. Kim Dong Shik in January 2000. Rev. Kim was helping shelter North Korean refugees in China, when he was taken by North Korean agents to Pyongyang.

◆ North Korea abducted two American journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, from China on March 17, 2009, and is holding them in Pyongyang. These two brave journalists were trying to report about the horrible conditions facing North Korean refugees.

“North Korea is the worst human rights situation in the world today. While there are many tragic situations and terrible atrocities occurring in the world today, the North Korean people are the most isolated, most persecuted, and most suffering.”

Suzanne Scholte, Seoul Peace Prize Laureate 2008

“The miasma ensuing from the broad range of egregious human rights violations in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea requires urgent attention at all levels, from national to international . . . Life in North Korea . . . is dire and desperate.”

Special Rapporteur Vitit Muntarbhorn, reporting to the U.N. Human Rights Council March 2009

North Korea Freedom Week 2009

April 26-May 2, Washington, D.C.

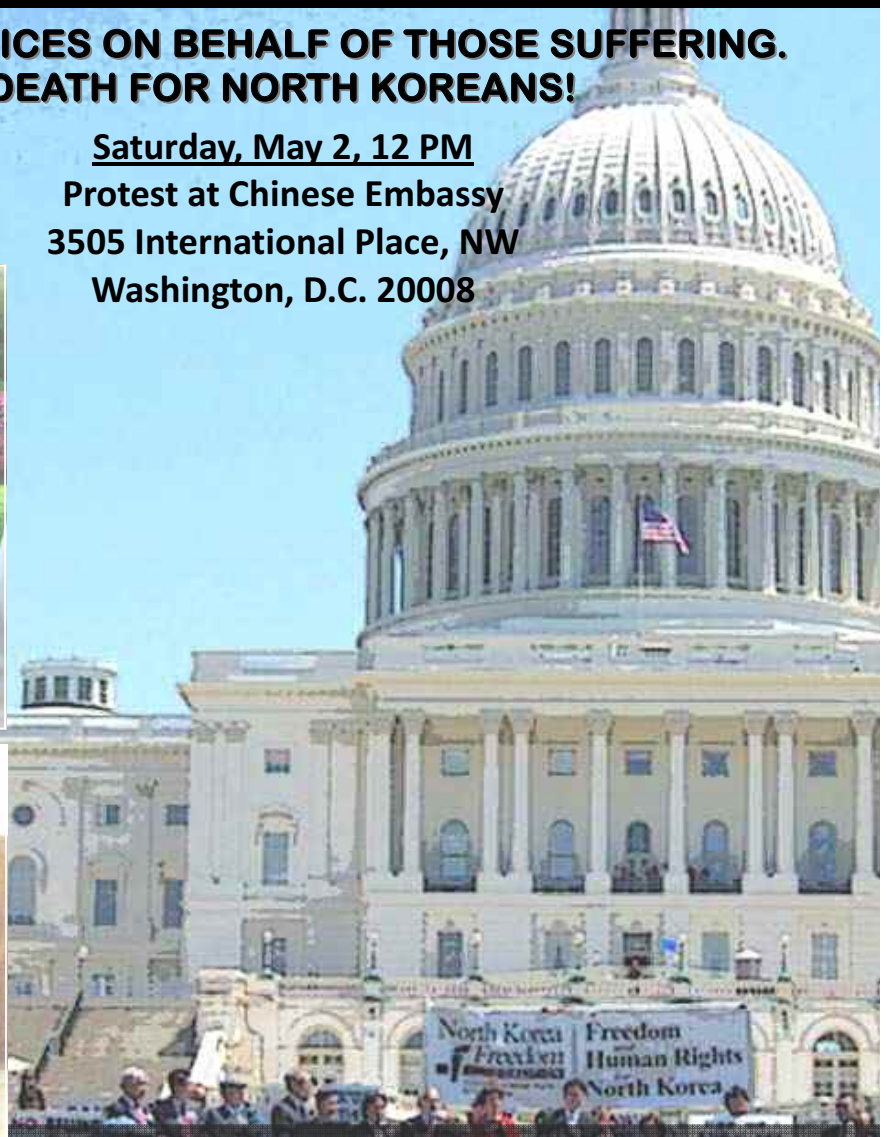
**JOIN US IN RAISING OUR VOICES ON BEHALF OF THOSE SUFFERING.
OUR SILENCE IS DEATH FOR NORTH KOREANS!**

Tuesday, April 28, 11 AM

**Music & Rally, U.S. Capitol, West Front
All Day Genocide Exhibit**

Saturday, May 2, 12 PM

**Protest at Chinese Embassy
3505 International Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008**



With a new U.S. President & administration as well as many new Members of Congress, with the uncertainty & speculation about North Korea's current "Dear Leader", & with governments continually sidelining human rights concerns to try to resolve the nuclear issue, this year's North Korea Freedom Week is more critical than ever before as we raise our voices to advocate for a people more isolated & arguably more persecuted than any in the world today.

Join us in welcoming a special delegation of visiting North Korean defectors as we lift our voices together!

For full schedule of events, visit WWW.NKFREEDOM.ORG or call 202-341-6767