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*organizations of North Korean defectors

Contact us at: www.nkfreedom.org
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December 10, 2014

President Lt. Gen. Choummaly Sayasone
 c/o His Excellency H.E. Seng Soukhathivong
 Laos Embassy
 2222 S Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear President Choummaly Sayasone:

We are writing with an urgent request for the assistance of your government in determining the status of nine Korean young persons returned from Laos through China to North Korea last May. As you know, these nine young people had requested, and had been accepted for, resettlement in the Republic of Korea. Recent reports from North Korea, however, suggest that some or all of the nine have been since executed or perished in political prison camps. These reports demand immediate investigation. Your government, in collaboration with the government of China, denied these children safe passage to South Korea and instead they were repatriated to North Korea. Therefore, your government bears a responsibility to call on the DPRK to allow the UNHCR access to these children to confirm their well-being. You have an obligation to determine they were treated properly on their return to the DPRK.

We further request that in light of the findings by the United Nation's Commission of Inquiry regarding the DPRK's treatment of repatriated citizens and its gross violations of human rights, that you vote in favor of the referral of the North Korea regime for prosecution in the International Criminal Court.

We do deeply appreciate the fact that since that incident last year we understand that your government has not forced any other North Korean refugees – either adult or children -- back to North Korea. We urge you to continue this humanitarian policy which is consistent with international refugee law and we urge you to continue to work with the Republic of Korea and other nations on the safe resettlement of North Korean refugees until conditions improve in that country.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Scholte Sin U Nam Rabbi Abraham Cooper Pastor Heemoon Lee
 Chairman Vice Chairman Vice Chairman Vice Chairman

Ann Buwalda Louise Van Horne Sue Yoon Logan Teresa Ost
 Treasurer Legislative Chair Administrator Secretary