



North Korea Freedom Week 2017 Acknowledgements.
14th Annual North Korea Freedom Week April 23-29: *Preparing for Regime Collapse and Peaceful Unification* Washington, D.C.

NKFW 2017: *The Truth Shall Set Them Free*

It is our great honor and pleasure to present to you the acknowledgements report for the 14th annual **North Korea Freedom Week**. NKFW's success was a direct result of the many individuals and NGO leaders who make it happen and the powerful witnesses we hosted for the week. Honestly, it was very hard to proceed forward this year without our beloved co-chair, Kim Seong Min, founder and director of Free North Korea Radio. We found out not long before NKFW of his serious illness, and we ask everyone to continue to pray for his complete healing. Fortunately, Seong Min had already inspired and raised up a such tremendous delegation of leaders and eyewitnesses to participate in NKFW that everything went full speed ahead on the Korea side. On the USA side, we are very grateful to the many individuals and NGO leaders that hosted events, presented as expert speakers, and participated in the sessions that made their visit meaningful and successful.

NKFW 2017 was an amazing week. This year we had three events for the first time: the World Congress of North Korean Defectors hosted by South Korea's Ambassador for Human Rights Jung Hoon Lee; a North-South Unification Concert featuring musicians from North and South Korea hosted by George Washington University THiNK, and a spirited demonstration at CCTV (the Central Chinese TV station) decrying Xi Jinping's cruelty to refugees and ongoing support for the Kim regime.

Because our theme this year focused on regime collapse and preparing for peaceful unification, we explored several new topics during the week: how to save the prisoners in North Korea's political prisons organized by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea and hosted by GW THiNK; how to rescue North Korea's orphans organized by the Isabella Foundation and hosted by Georgetown THiNK; and how the defectors are utilizing information to end the Kim regime organized by the Defense Forum Foundation and hosted by Members of Congress.

While we were at first disappointed that we were not able to secure a Congressional hearing as in the past (Syria was main focus of Congress that week: too many dictators, not enough time!), we got something so much better: a roundtable discussion with 14 Members of Congress hosted by Congressman Ted Yoho focused on how the defectors are getting information in and out of North Korea. The heartfelt comments and sincere questions by the Republican and Democratic lawmakers during the roundtable were deeply touching and showed how much American lawmakers care about the people of North Korea. Though it was a private session, Congressman Yoho instructed the Free North Korea Staff in attendance: *"Please tell the people of North Korea we are meeting you during North Korea Freedom Week to show our care for the people of North Korea!"*

We also got the opportunity to hand deliver to Congressmen Ed Royce and Chris Smith and to Senator Ted Cruz's staff the portraits made of them secretly by two brothers in Pyongyang, North Korea, who listen to the Free North Korea Radio broadcast. These two brothers risked their lives to make these beautiful handwoven silk portraits and to send this message: *"please tell the American politicians there*

are some people in a dark place who still have hope.” You can well imagine how much the lawmakers were moved by these two brothers’ heartfelt gesture.

This physical evidence of just how important the flow of information is to North Korea was a central theme of NKFW: *The Truth Will Set Them Free* was articulated numerous times by the delegation. In fact, nearly the entire delegation worked for organizations directly involved with getting information in through radio broadcasting, balloon launches, and smuggling in USBs, shortwave radios, cell phones and Notetels.

In addition to participating in these many public events and meetings with Members of Congress, the delegation also met with Department of State staff, National Security Council staff, the Congressional Executive Commission on China staff, and met privately with Trump appointees serving the President at the State Department and at the White House.

The daily broadcast of Free North Korea Radio was expanded in April AND May so that the people of North Korea would learn about all the events. The FNKR staff worked nearly 24 hours a day, attending events all day and then preparing the broadcast at night for the people of North Korea to hear.

Please enjoy these photos and acknowledgements of the North Korea Freedom Week 2017.

Until They Are FREE,

Suzanne Scholte and Choi Jeong Hun

Co-Chairs, North Korea Freedom Week 2017

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK 2017 DEFECTOR DELEGATION

Defector NGO leaders

Choi Jeong-hun (Chair) (Free North Korea Radio & North Korea People’s Liberation Front)

Hu Kang-il (Committee for the Democratization of North Korea)

Han Jin-myung (NK Intellectuals’ Solidarity)

Cha Ri-hyuk of NKPLF

Lim Hye-jin of New Korea Women’s Alliance

Park Sang-hak of Fighters for Free North Korea

Park Jung-oh of Keun Saem Education Center

Han Gee Hee of Free North Korea Radio

Ji Seong-ho of NAUH (Now, Action, Unity, Human Rights)

Kim Keun-woo of NAUH

Paek Yosep of Future Korea

Jinhye Jo of NKinUSA

Grace Jo of NKinUSA

Special Witnesses and Performers for Events and News Coverage

Park Ms. (FNKR Editor)

Noh Ms. (FNKR News caster)

Kim Ms. (FNKR Editor)

Myeong Sung-hee (Soprano)

Kim Cheol-woong (Pianist)

Kim Ji-young (FNKR Reporter)

Choi Jeong-ho (Keun Saem Education Center)

NKFW Translators:

Kim Hyo-ju
Seo Kang

Major Grant Donors Supporting NKFW 2017

Ambassador Jung Hoon Lee and the Yonsei Center for Human Liberty
Defense Forum Foundation
Free North Korea Radio
Dr. Jai Ryu

Additional Supporters

Reverend Phillip Buck
Dr. Thomas Chung
Eric Ferguson
Timothy and Janice Haahs
Peter Kang and the Korean Freedom Alliance
Hannah Kim
Soon Ja Ji
Dr. Pavel and Susan Klein

Woo Joo & Sukyong Koh
Ms. Marguerite Lause
Dr. Tai Lee
Young Leigh
Honorable Tidal W McCoy
Dr. In Young Park
Dr. Ok Cha Soh

Donors Supporting Broadcast to North Korea on Free North Korea Radio

Chicago Jubilee Prayer Group
Korean Church of Bloomington Normal (IL)
Korean Central Presbyterian Church (VA)
Korean Community Presbyterian Church (SC)
Pilgrim Community Church (VA)
JoAnn Andren
Thomas Barker, Esq
Kathleen Conley
Jack David
Don W. Joe Charitable Fund
Min Hee Jyun
Sarah Kim

Melanie Kirkpatrick
Bok Song Lee
Roxann Moss
Lisa Orme
Robert and Nancy Purcell
Jessica Pustejovsky
MaryLynn Qurnell
Brian Rogers
Cassandra Scholte
Miyoung Seo
Harry Valentine
Helen Yeon

Sunday, April 23rd: Opening Day Begins with Church Service hosted by Pastor Hyong Shik Sohn and Pilgrim Church



Wreath Laying Ceremony, organized by North Korea Freedom Coalition, hosted by the Korean War Memorial Foundation; A special thank you to **Jim Fisher** of the KWMF; North Korean defectors led by the North Korean People's Liberation Front pledge to honor the Americans who sacrificed for South Korea's freedom to work for North Korea's freedom.



Teaching the tourists how to say the two most important Korean words: **JAYU BUKHAN!**

<http://bit.ly/2qnDlta> (Free North Korea Radio)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3586698.html> (Voice of America)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3823217.html> (Voice of America)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3823192.html> (Voice of America)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3825110.html> (Voice of America)

Visiting **David's Tent** organized by **Nancy Purcell**: Praying for North Korea with David's Tent



Monday, April 24th

State Department Meeting: Special Thank you to Julie Turner



North Korea's Gulag: Addressing an Ongoing Humanitarian Emergency, organized by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, hosted by George Washington University Truth and Human Rights in North Korea

GW THiNK Executive Board: Jason West, Myunghwa "Cathy" Kim, Jaemin Baek, Kelechi Wachuku, Margaret Ton, Caroline Bland

HRNK: Greg Scarlatiou, Rosa Park

Speakers: North Korea Escapees Huh Kwang Il and Lim Hye Jin, Suzanne Scholte, Greg Scarlatiou, Roberta Cohen, Anthony Ruggiero, Nicholas Eberstadt, Jason West, Rosa Park



Photo from HRNK

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2017/05/652_229306.html

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3823910.html> (Voice of America)

Tuesday, April 25th

Radio Free Asia Visit Thank you to ALL our friends and colleagues at RFA!



Special Thank You to South Korea's Deputy Chief of Mission Woongsong Lim for a great lunch at Woo Lae Oak.

Meeting with the Congressional Executive Committee on China Special Thank you to Elyse Anderson and Paul Protic



Film Screening of *I AM GRACE* and Discussion on Refugee Resettlement Issues in the United States, Organized by NKinUSA, hosted by the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law
Speakers: Grace Kang, Grace Jo and Jinhye Jo of NKinUSA



Vigil for North Korean Refugees, organized by the North Korea Freedom Coalition



<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3828713.html> (Voice of America)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3826293.html> (Voice of America)

Wednesday, April 26th

The Orphans of North Korea, organized by the Isabella Foundation, hosted by Georgetown University Truth and Human Rights in North Korea

Georgetown THINK Executive Board: Lynn Lee, Julia Rhodes, Kayla Yoon, Kayla Garrett, Shaquille James

Speakers: Lim Hye-jin (New Korea Women's Union), Kim Ji-young (Free North Korea Radio), Park Jung-oh (Keun Saem Education Center), and Greg Scarlatoiu of HRNK; Suzanne Scholte of NKFC, and host Dr. Pavel Klein of the Isabella Foundation



<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-orphans-north-korea-tortured-faith-jesus-christ-activists-say-181916/> (Christian Post)

<http://kr.christianitydaily.com/articles/91485/20170426> (Christianity Daily)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3828580.html> (Voice of America)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3827091.html> (Voice of America)

Delivering the portraits secretly made by two brothers in Pyongyang who listen to Free North Korea Radio to thank American Leaders The Honorable Chris Smith and The Honorable Ed Royce



With the Honorable Ed Royce



With the Honorable Chris Smith

North Meets South Unification Concert and Cultural Event, organized by the North Korea Freedom Coalition, hosted by GW THiNK

GW THiNK Executive Board: Jason West, Myunghwa "Cathy" Kim, Jaemin Baek, Kelechi Wachuku, Margaret Ton, Caroline Bland

Performers: Hunter Lang (Georgetown Piano Bar), Myeong Sunghee

District K K-Pop Dance Group: Ada Wang, Avery Wu, Bingchun Lou, Camillia Ezeiruaku, Caroline Bland, Hannah Hayward, Jenobia Ser, Rachel Brown, Sally Pak, Tiffany Chai, Yueqi Wang, Zitong Qui



<http://kr.christianitydaily.com/articles/91488/20170427/> (Christianity Daily)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3830461.html> (Voice of America)

Thursday, April 27th

World Congress of North Korean Defectors, organized by the North Korea Freedom Coalition, hosted by Ambassador Jung Hoon Lee

Featuring: Opening remarks by Ambassador Lee Jung Hoon and Suzanne Scholte; Defector Leaders Huh Kwang Il, Choi Jeong Hun, and Park Sang Hak, and Expert Panel session on preparing for unification with Dr. Tara O, Dr. Katy Oh, and Greg Scarlatoiu of HRNK.



<http://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/8979/20170428/north-korea-freedom-week-information-outside-shortcut.htm> (Christianity Daily/English)

<http://kr.christianitydaily.com/articles/91501/20170427> (Christianity Daily)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3828062.html> *Ambassador Lee Jung-Hun Interview* (Voice of America)

<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3828618.html> (Voice of America)

<http://fnkradio.com/board.php?board=newfnkb101&page=3&command=body&no=15890> (FNKR)

Demonstration Against Chinese Repatriation Policy and Support of DPRK at the CCTV station, organized by the North Korea Freedom Coalition



Special Roundtable with 14 Members of Congress hosted by Congressmen Ted Yoho with Brad Sherman (Subcommittee Chair and Ranking Democrat) and twelve other Congressmen



Special Thank you to **Ambassador Jung Hoon Lee** for hosting dinner for the NKFV delegation and the World Congress Speakers at Heebien Restaurant.

Friday, April 28th

Capitol Hill Forum Working for Regime Change in North Korea Through Broadcasting and Other Means, organized by the Defense Forum Foundation, hosted by the US Congress
Special Thank you to **Congressman Rob Wittman** and **Congressman Bob Goodlatte** and **Jordan White** for arranging a great room for the Forum.

Speakers: Choi Jeong Hun, Park Sang Hak, and Cha Ri-hyuk



Presenting Portrait Made for Senator Ted Cruz by listeners of Free North Korea Radio living in Pyongyang.



<http://www.voakorea.com/a/3830436.html> (Voice of America)

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/north-korean-defectors-say-kim-jong-uns-chokehold-information-access-weakening/> (Washington Free Beacon)

Saturday, April 29th

Shopping and sightseeing

Sunday, April 30th

Thank you to McLean Bible Church and Pam Pryor for hosting a very special visit to an American Church

Thank you to Jinhye Jo and Soonja Ji for organizing outing to Baltimore.

Monday, May 1

Meeting with Staff at the National Security Council, White House Thank you to Allison Hooker of the NSC for hosting the NKFV delegation.





Mark C. Toner: Department of State Statement
Washington, DC April 27, 2017

... I also want to acknowledge another North Korea focus to this week, which is North Korea Freedom Week. North Korea Freedom Week is an annual event held to promote the freedom, human rights, and dignity of the North Korean people. And it's organized by the North Korea Freedom Coalition, which is a nonpartisan coalition of NGOs and religious groups, and features events in DC highlighting the work of defector-led organizations and other NGOs working to shine a light on the situation of human rights in North Korea.

For more than 60 years, the North Korean regime's – regime has reigned with tyranny, and its human rights record is, quite frankly, among the worst in the world. The North Korean regime denies nearly all the universal freedoms, including freedom of speech, press, religion, freedom of assembly and association, and systematically commits violations that include summary executions, torture, arbitrary detention, rape and sexual violence, forced abortions, and forced infanticide. We remain gravely concerned and deeply troubled that the North Korean regime under Kim Jung-un prioritizes the advancements of its missiles and nuclear program at the expense of the well-being of its people.

And so to commemorate this day, **the United States reaffirms our commitment to the North Korean people.** We're going to continue to press for accountability for those responsible for the ongoing gross human rights violations that have taken place there, and we're also going to continue our efforts to increase the flow of independent information into, out of, and within this isolated state.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2017/04/270502.htm> (US Department of State)