

Save North Korean Refugees Day 2017

Organized by the North Korea Freedom Coalition

"Rescue those being led away to death"

Activists Worldwide Call on Xi Jinping: Stop Repatriating North Koreans



While Kim Jong Un's latest provocations divert the world's attention from the suffering people of North Korea, the North Korea Freedom Coalition organized the annual Save North Korean Refugees Day on September 22, 2017. Petitions were delivered to the Embassies and Consulates of the People's Republic of China calling on Xi Jinping to *stop repatriating North Koreans to face torture, imprisonment and execution and work with South Korea to bring about peaceful unification by ending China's support for Kim Jong Un.* Activities occurred in 21 cities in 10 countries. North Korean defectors reported during this year's North Korea Freedom Week that eighty percent of North Korean escapees carry poison so they can kill themselves if they are arrested in China, as they would rather die than be repatriated to North Korea. Just recently, **a family of five committed suicide** rather than face repatriation to North Korea. Defectors stated, "**China's "repatriation policy is a death sentence for North Koreans"**. The situation for North Korean refugees is worse than ever. Kim Jong Un fears nothing more than the people of North Korea who have defected and educated the world about the horrible suffering in the DPRK. The repatriation of North Korean refugees is **a violation of international law.** The People's Republic of China signed the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol on September 24, 1982. Yet, the Chinese government refuses to allow the UN High Commissioner for Refugees any access to these refugees, but gives free reign to the DPRK's Ministry of State Security agents to hunt down refugees and to murder those who try to help them. Even Chinese citizens have been jailed and murdered for helping North Korean refugees.

The following is a report of action taken around the world for Save North Korean Refugees Day 2017.

AUSTRALIA

Although Anthony "Tony" Boyle of Melbourne led efforts in Australia setting up a petition for Australian citizens to sign at <http://chn.ge/2ypAJpc>. Ensuring their voices were heard by the Chinese authorities, he delivered the appeals to the PRC embassy in **Canberra** and the consulate in **Melbourne**. *"I'm doing my best to get information out to the public and to try to get ordinary Australians to care about the people in North Korea,"* he explained as not much news about North Korea is reported in Australia beyond the missile and nuclear tests.

COLUMBIA

An activist for the persecuted and needy in Latin America, Pastor Jose Alexis Velandia Gutierrez of Zoe Ministerio Misionero led the way in Columbia delivering a petition in **Bogota** and hosting a prayer service for the North Korean people. He also is working to ensure that the regional newspaper in Bogotá Colombia "Los Pregoneros del Llamo" writes about what the North Korean refugees face in China so that the citizens of Columbia will be more aware of their suffering. He wrote we are: *"Hopeful for this great opportunity to help North Koreans suffering!"*



Vigil in Columbia for North Korean refugees.

BRAZIL

Marcelle Torres of **Rio de Janeiro** led efforts in Brazil focusing specifically on the refugee situation and calling for China to end their policy of repatriation.

FINLAND

Mikko Heikkonen once again led efforts in Finland successfully delivering the letter to petition to the PRC embassy in **Helsinki**.

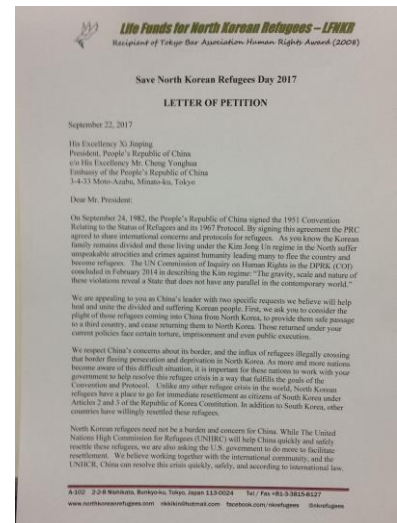


JAPAN

Kato Hiroshi and Shioe Okamura of Life Funds for North Korean Refugees made sure that appeals on behalf of the refugees were delivered to the PRC embassy in **Tokyo** as well as the consulates in **Nagasaki, Osaka, Sapporo, and Fukuoka.**



NorthKoreanRefugees.com



MEXICO

China: ¡Cese la repatriación de refugiados norcoreanos!

Activists Chris and Michelle Edwards from Mexico wrote. *“Even though Mexico City faced two major earthquakes, we still delivered the petitions on Save North Korean Refugees Day, because North Koreans, we love you! The guards very much insisted we could not leave the petition and said we should focus on our own country’s situation. We walked away, waited a bit and returned with the petition in an envelope with 253 signatures and dropped it in the mailbox. Of those signatures, 109 were to our online petition in Spanish from the following nations: **Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Great Britain, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, and USA.**”*



Activists in Mexico City deliver petitions.



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

In **Seoul**, Kim Tae hoon of the Lawyers for Human Rights and Korea Unification (LHUK) led the way and was joined by many leading North Korean defector activists including Leean Ran, Park Sang Hak and

Choi Jeong Un for a demonstration on behalf of the North Korean refugees. Kim pointed out that recently: *“The Chinese government sent one hundred and twenty five North Koreans back to North Korea and there are still numerous North Korean defectors who are being detained in China....It’s important that on September 22 we raise attention from the whole world about this horrible tragedy.”*



Activists in Seoul stage demonstration against China’s repatriation policy.

SOUTH AFRICA

Atabongwoung Gallous of Africa Solidarity for Sahrawi led efforts in South Africa. Not only did they deliver an appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Pretoria**, they also held a conference at the Centre for Human Rights featuring Magnus Killander, Associate Professor, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, Seife Tadelle Kadane of Africa Speak and Ata Gallous. The conference invite explained: *For decades, mainstream media and global politics have focused on the ‘crazy Kim’s’ and the Nuclear Weapons’. North Korea is treated as a threat towards a hopeless tragedy. Meanwhile, twenty-four million people—ordinary people like you and me—face the world’s most repressive government. But they have been lost in this definition of North Korea. The over politicized and securitized narrative has created a barrier of apathy, preventing global citizens from engaging with the subject, causing a huge deficit in the support of North Korean people.*

<http://www.chr.up.ac.za/index.php/centre-news-a-events-2017/1897-invitation-human-rights-in-north-korea-seminar.html>



In

Celebration of the International saves North Korean Refugees Day on the 22nd September 2017;
Defense Forum Foundation, Free North Korea Radio, Centre for Human Rights, Africa Solidarity
for Sahrawi and North Korea Freedom Coalition

Cordially invite you to a Seminar titled:

Human Rights in North Korea

For decades, mainstream media and global politics have focused on the 'crazy Kim's' and the Nuclear Weapons'. North Korea is treated as a threat towards a hopeless tragedy. Meanwhile, twenty-four million people—ordinary people like you and me—face the world's most repressive government. But they have been lost in this definition of North Korea. The over politicized and securitized narrative has created a barrier of apathy, preventing global citizens from engaging with the subject, causing a huge deficit in the support of North Korean people.

Date: 22 September 2017

Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Venue: Hotel 224 Conference Venue

RSVP: Email: africasolidarity4sahrawi@gmail.com



Magnus Killander
Associate Professor

Centre for Human Rights University of Pretoria



Mr. Atabongwoug Gallous
Africa Solidarity for Sahrawi



Mr. Seife Tadelles Kidane
Africa Speaks



Activists in Pretoria organized a conference and a petition to PRC.

UNITED KINGDOM

Ben Rogers, East Asia Team Leader for Christian Solidarity Worldwide-UK led efforts in England delivering a petition to the PRC Embassy in **London** on behalf of CSW-UK calling for the PRC to stop repatriating North Koreans. Ben has long led efforts to expose the human rights situation in North Korea

and was the main person who spearheaded the establishment of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in the DPRK.



Ben Rogers at PRC Embassy in London.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Thanks to the leadership of Jack Rendler of the Minnesota Lawyers for Human Rights, the PRC consul general in **Chicago** received a petition with the following message: *Dear Consul General Hong: We hope and trust this finds you well. We, the undersigned residents of Minnesota, wish to bring to your attention a matter most urgent. It is our understanding that the People's Republic of China is still forcibly returning North Koreans from China to North Korea. It is also our understanding that these North Koreans, for exercising their right to freedom of movement, are likely to be charged with treason. When returned, these men, women and children are likely to be subjected to forced abortions, torture, imprisonment and execution. We cannot understand why a country such as China would collude with the North Korean perpetrators of these crimes. We would be grateful if you could explain to us why this is happening, and what plans you may have to rectify the situation. We look forward to your prompt response.*

In **Los Angeles**, Pastor Kim Young-koo led a spirited demonstration at the PRC Consulate in Los Angeles joined by NK FREEDOM / 3.1 Society / ONE FREE KOREA / NK Mission / 나라사랑본부(NASABON) / With Korea / 남가주 한인목사회 / 나눔장로교회 / 남가주 이복오도민 중앙회 / NKIA 선교회 / 탈북인 자유인권 위원회 / 재미탈북자동지회





Activists in Los Angeles demonstrate at the PRC Consulate.

The Los Angeles activists also posted their event on youtube and facebook at these links:

<https://youtu.be/5gJkMlb4Od8>

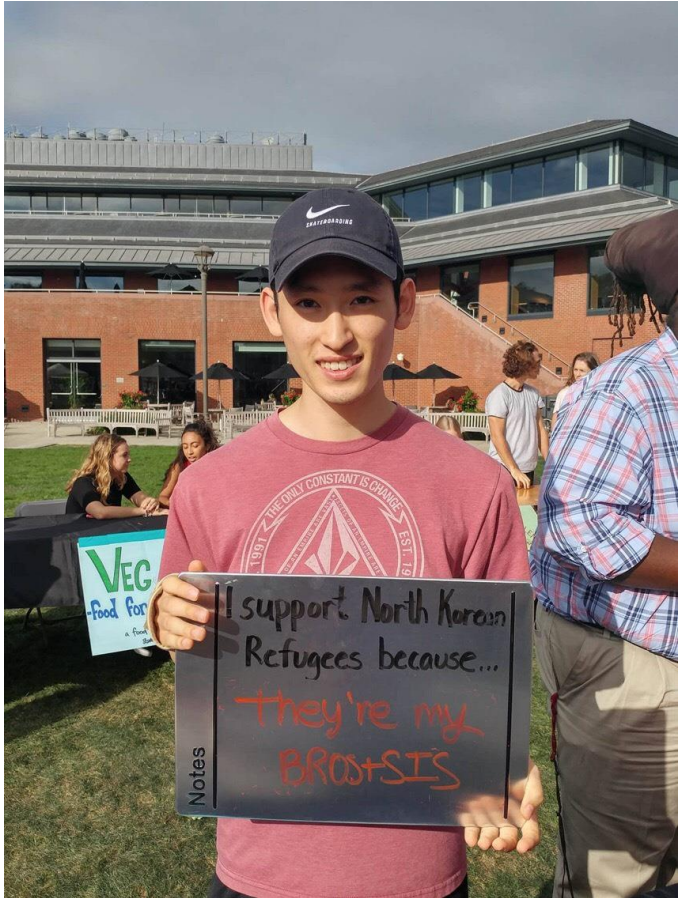
<https://www.facebook.com/nkmissionpray>

<https://www.facebook.com/nasabonusa/>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=271179453400689&id=100015259097547

<https://www.facebook.com/nasabon3.1>

Pastor Mark and Tracy Teyler of 3Crosses Church in California made sure that an appeal was sent to the PRC consul in **San Francisco** via priority mail express, while Na-Yeon Park and Shaquille James joined by several others visited the PRC consul in **New York City**. Na-Yeon Park also collected messages from friends at the Wesleyan Refugee Project.



In **Washington, D.C.**, the North Korea Freedom Coalition members demonstrated at the Chinese Television Station in downtown Washington, D.C., and then proceeded to the Embassy of the PRC. At the PRC Embassy, they held a candlelight vigil where volunteers read aloud THE LIST of the names and incidences of when China forcibly repatriated North Koreans back to North Korea. They then marched in front of the PRC Embassy. Alana Johnson who participated for the first time said: *"It was an honor to be with brothers and sisters who took part around the world. Here in Washington, D.C. I was especially moved by the reading of the names and ages of those who had been repatriated back to North Korea. We here in America have no idea what so many others suffer."*



Chant in front of Chinese Central TV:
HEY HEY HO HO
XI JINPING HAS GOT TO KNOW
STOP KILLING NORTH KOREANS
HEY HEY , WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HOW LONG WILL WE LOOK AWAY?
SAVE NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES!



In **Ithaca**, New York, Ji Hwan Seung of debuNK at Cornell University orchestrated a photo campaign on campus to raise awareness of the plight of North Korean refugees.



SAVE NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES DAY 2017 SEP 22
 nkfreedom.org

PRAYER VIGIL
 Korean Veterans Memorial on the T.C. bay
FRIDAY 2pm-4pm

MOVIE SHOWING
 Creation Farms
 3679 Frankfort Hwy, Frankfort
FRIDAY 7pm

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
 Official Entry - Korea - Best Foreign Language Film

'A "Schindler's List" for North Korea' - Wall Street Journal

CROSSING
 directed by KIM Tae-kyun

Solidarity Cities Activities in Ithaca, New York and Traverse City, Michigan

In **Traverse City**, Michigan, Sally Jo Messersmith, author of *Awaken, Hana*, held a prayer vigil for North Korean refugees and then showed the film *Crossing* in **Frankfort**, Michigan. She wrote: *The hearts of those who watched it were broken and shocked by what they saw. We prayed after the movie and signed the letter of petition to the Chinese Embassy in D.C. Then, we let go of 7 purple star balloons with the word Hana written on each one, also written in Korean: 7 balloons represent 70 years of the*

Kim regime. We are asking God for the dismantlement of the DMZ and the reunification of a free Korea without military intervention.”



PRC Embassy windows reflect the candles from the vigil in Washington, DC.



Posters used at the Save North Korean Refugees Day demonstrations.

Hannah Cole of George Mason University made this montage of photos from events in Washington, D.C. for Save North Korean Refugees Day.

