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*Executive Director*

April 16, 2010

Suzanne Scholte  
North Korea Freedom Coalition  
P.O. Box 1673  
Lorton, Virginia 22199

Dear Ms. Scholte,

On behalf of Freedom House, I extend my sincere congratulations for the outstanding contributions you and North Korea Freedom Week have made in the continuing struggle to bring freedom to the people of North Korea. As a dedicated participant in previous North Korea Freedom Week activities, Freedom House applauds the achievements of the North Korea Freedom Coalition and its members and extends our strong support for its essential work.

For decades Freedom House has been deeply troubled by the atrocities committed by the North Korean government and remains firmly committed to working towards a democratic North Korea. Since 1972 we have closely monitored the state of political rights and civil liberties in North Korea through our annual *Freedom in the World* report and have consistently rated the country as one of the “worst of the worst” performers in terms of democracy and human rights. This analysis continues to provide a critical basis for informed and responsible international policy towards the country. In 2005, in collaboration with numerous initiatives such as NKFV, Freedom House undertook a two year multi-faceted advocacy campaign to focus global attention on the need for concerted action on North Korea. This program helped focus attention on the horrific conditions in North Korea, including facilitating high level meetings between North Korea Freedom Week delegates and the President of the United States, the passing of historic resolutions on the United Nations, and the development of a cadre of trained activists equipped with the skills necessary to sustain international advocacy efforts.

Freedom House is proud of the achievements made in collaboration with courageous human rights defenders and activists and remains dedicated to the mission and spirit of North Korea Freedom Week in its ongoing work. We stand in solidarity with the citizens of North Korea and the millions of people throughout the world who continue to work tirelessly for their freedom.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Windsor  
Executive Director  
Freedom House

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