

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM COALITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2008

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North Korea Freedom Week to Focus on World's Most Persecuted People; Opening Event Aimed at Saving Refugees in China

Washington, DC – North Korea Freedom Week 2008 will begin this Saturday with a week devoted to promoting freedom and human rights for the people of North Korea and to focus the world's attention on their suffering. The first event will be an International Protest at the Chinese Embassy on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 12:00 pm-1:30pm (2300 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC) against China's brutal repatriation of North Korean refugees. Demonstrations against China's policy will occur in 6 U.S. cities and around the world including South Korea and Japan as the Olympic torch passes through those nations.

Additional major Washington, D.C. events include a Capitol Hill Rally for the North Korean people on Tuesday April 29 at the Taft Memorial Carillon Park (with music at 11 am by the Pyongyang Musical Mission Troupe and program at noon) and a Press Conference with Senator Sam Brownback and Congressman Frank Wolf on Thursday, May 1, 2008.

A delegation of twenty-one North Korean defectors, the largest ever to participate in NKFW since its inception, will testify and speak out publicly about the atrocities of the Kim Jong-il regime and the plight of refugees who flee North Korea trying to reach freedom.

"The North Korean people are the most persecuted in the world," said Suzanne Scholte, Chairman of the North Korea Freedom Coalition, "But, because we cannot see the suffering with our own eyes, we ignore it. Having these brave defectors speak and give eyewitness testimony is one of the most critical aspects of North Korea Freedom Week."

Among the organizations deeply involved in the week's events are Open Doors which is spearheading a lobby campaign for legislative initiatives aimed at promoting human rights in North Korea, while the Peterson Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, PSALT, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and its Task Force on Religious Freedom, the Korean American Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom, and the Defense Forum Foundation are organizing panel sessions, forums, briefings and prayer services throughout the week to address human rights concerns in North Korea.

As a testament to the importance of North Korea Freedom Week, the producer of the soon-to-be-released movie Crossing, Patrick Cheh, will show a special screening of this movie that is scheduled for theatrical release in South Korea in June. Crossing is the first feature film to deal with the refugee crisis in North Korea with a star studded cast including one of South Korea's most popular actors.

North Korea Freedom Week is an annual event organized by the North Korean Freedom Coalition. A complete list of NKFW 08 events follows below. For more information, please visit www.nkfreedom.org.

April 25, 2008

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to send another update on the events confirmed for **North Korea Freedom Week, April 26-May 3, 2008**. Please join these events to help save the North Korean refugees and take a stand for the freedom, human rights, and dignity of the North Korean people. This will be the most expansive NKFW we have ever held and have the largest delegation of North Korean defectors that have ever participated -- and it must be, because the North Koreans are suffering as much as ever before and they need your voice speaking out for them.

So, remember **wherever you are in the world, join the April 26 events and if you can, attend the events of North Korea Freedom Week 2008 April 26-May 3 in Washington, DC!**

Warm regards,
Suzanne Scholte, Chairman, North Korea Freedom Coalition
North Korea Freedom Week Confirmed Events April 26-May 3

Saturday, April 26: 11 AM Music by the *Pyongyang Musical Mission Troupe* and the *Seoul Presbyterian Church Praise Band*; 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm -- **International Protest vs. China's Violent Repatriation of North Korean Refugees** around the world at the PRC embassies and consulates, there will be protests, demonstrations and prayer vigils against China's ongoing and brutal repatriations of the North Korean refugees. Note that times and events will be different for different cities, so be sure to contact the city coordinator(s).

For Washington, D.C. Location: Chinese Embassy, 2300 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.
Host Organization: North Korea Freedom Coalition (NKFC) and the Korean Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom (KCCNK), Open Doors, and PSALT
Contact: Pastor Heemoon Lee at heemoonlee@hotmail.com, Sin U Nam at sun@nkparchitects.com or Suzanne Scholte at skswm@aol.com

2:00 pm Special Walk from the Chinese Embassy to the Embassy of South Korea to honor and welcome the new President of South Korea
Host Organization: KCCNK
contact: Sam Kim at skim@kccnk.org

Sunday, April 27: **International Day of Prayer for North Korea**

April 27th has been declared an International Day of Prayer for North Korea by the Global Justice Prayer Network in support of North Korea Freedom Week to focus prayers for the North Korean people and all those who work on their behalf. In Washington, DC, folks will gather to pray for North Korea.

Host Organization: Global Justice Prayer Network
Location: 2300 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Park area across from Chinese Embassy
Website: <http://www.globaljusticeprayernetwork.com>
Contact: Robert Park at letjusticerolldownlikewaters@gmail.com

7 pm – North Korea Freedom Week Evening of Prayer & Worship:

This will be a special prayer service in which everyone is invited to participate. Prayers for both North and South Korea, China, Russia, Japan and the United States will be part of the service as well as participation by the visiting North Korean defectors. The host organization is a young adults group representing 80 Korean churches.

Location: New Hope Church, 15121 McKnew Road, Burtonsville, Maryland 20866

Host Organization: PSALT and MDCN (a young adults group representing 80 Korean churches)
Host Contact: Michelle at michelle@psaltnk.org

Monday, April 28:

(Anniversary of the first North Korea Freedom Day)

Two special screenings of *Crossing* with the movie's producer, Patrick Choi, and director, Kim Chang Gyun -- this is the first feature film to deal with the refugee crisis in North Korea with a star studded cast including one of South Korea's most popular actors; it is scheduled for theatrical release in South Korea in June but the producer and director agreed to show a special screening during North Korea Freedom Week.

3-5 pm Special Screening of *Crossing*

Location: Mary Pickford Theater, 3rd Floor of the Library of Congress, James Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C.

Host: Congressman Trent Franks with the film's producer, Patrick Cheh

****INVITATION ONLY, RSVP REQUIRED due to limited seating****

Congressional RSVP: Tina Ramirez at Tina.Ramirez@mail.house.gov

Non-Congressional RSVP: Sin U Nam at sun@nkparchitects.com

6-8 pm Special Screening of *Crossing*

Location: Ebenezer's Coffee House, 201 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.

Host: Sin U Nam of the North Korea Freedom Coalition, *Crossing* producer Patrick Cheh, and Mr. Choi Eung-Pyo of the Korean American Freedom Fighters Movement

RSVP: Sin U Nam at sun@nkparchitects.com

Tuesday, April 29:

10:30 am Demonstration by Youth for Truth of what is happening to the North Korean Refugees in China

Location: Columbia Station Plaza -- right across from Union Station

Host: Nancy Purcell and the Youth for Truth: Chinese police officers played by Taylor Purcell and Noah Taylor and North Korean refugees played by Taliah Kurylak (mother) and Silas and Jed Taylor (children)

11:00 am Concert and 12:00 noon Capitol Hill Rally for North Korean Human Rights and to Save the Refugees:

Music by the *Pyongyang Musical Mission Troupe* and the *Seoul Presbyterian Church Praise Band*
Members of Congress, NGO leaders, and North Korean defectors will be speakers at the rally.

Location: Taft Memorial Carillon Park across from Union Station near U.S. Capitol (north side) located between Louisiana, Constitution and New Jersey Avenues

Host organization: North Korea Freedom Coalition and the Korean American Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom

Contact: Jane Yang at jane.e.yang@gmail.com or Suzanne at skswm@aol.com

Visits to Senators and Congressmen for North Korea Human Rights and Refugees Legislative Initiatives

Immediately after the rally, participants will be divided by states and go together to visit their Senators and Congressmen to gain support for specific legislative actions to help the North Korean people and the refugees. Each group will have a guide to help and Open Doors is preparing information for all participants.

Registration Highly Recommended at Open Doors website:

<http://www.opendoorsusa.org/content/view/416/1/>

Location: Capitol Hill Senate and House offices

Host Organization: Open Doors

Contact: Lindsey Vessey, Advocacy Director, Open Doors, at LindsayV@odusa.org

3:30-5 pm Briefing on North Korea's Persecution of Christians with Eyewitness Testimonies

Location: 2255 Rayburn House Office Building

Host: Congressional Human Rights Caucus Task Force on Religious Freedom, Co-Chairs Congressman Emanuel Cleaver and Congressman Trent Franks

Contact: Tina Ramirez at Tina.Ramirez@mail.house.gov or Cassandra Young at

Cassandra.Young@mail.house.gov

Wednesday, April 30: 10-11:30 am: Panel Discussion on North Korean Refugees Focusing on Two Reports: "Migration Experiences of North Korean Refugees: Survey Evidence from China," and "Exit Polls: Refugee Assessments of North Korea's Transition"

Location: The Peterson Institute, 1750 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

Host Organization: The Peterson Institute for International Economics

Contact: Marcus Noland, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute at mnoland@petersoninstitute.org

2:30-4 am Panel Discussion: Making the World Safer...for Kim Jong Il

Location: Wohlstetter Conference Center, Twelfth Floor, AEI, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington DC 20036

Host Organization: American Enterprise Institute

Contact: Megan Davy at MDavy@aei.org; press contact: VRodman@aei.org

4:30-6 pm: Capitol Hill Screening of *On the Border*, the recent documentary focusing on the human trafficking on the China-North Korea border produced by the Chosun Ilbo with leading international broadcasters. *On the Border* is Korea's first global cross-media program on North Korean refugees. Documentary is in Korean with English subtitles.

Location: 2255 Rayburn House Office Building

Host Organization: Congressional Human Rights Caucus

Contact: Hans Hogrefe at HansJ.Hogrefe@mail.house.gov

Thursday, May 1: 11:00 am Morning Press Conference: Senator Sam Brownback, Congressman Frank Wolf, Members of Congress, and former North Korean Refugees to release Congressional letter to Hu Jintao to save the North Korean Refugees; Activists for Tibet, Burma, Darfur and others persecuted by China's policies will be part of the event and all are welcome and encouraged to join.

Location: The Senate Swamp across the street from Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill

Contacts: Julie Kim at Julie_Kim@Brownback.Senate.Gov and Elizabeth Hoffman at

Elizabeth.Hoffman@mail.house.gov

Press contact: Brian Hart (Brownback) at Brian_Hart@Brownback.Senate.gov and Dan Scandling

Dan.Scandling@mail.house.gov

TBD Piano Recital with North Korean defector Kim Choel Woong

Location: TBD

Host: The Honorable David J. Kramer, Assistant Secretary of State for Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

Sponsors: US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea and the National Endowment for Democracy

Friday, May 2: 12 noon -- Capitol Hill Forum Honoring the North Korean Defectors

Forum is especially for Congressional staff, but open to the public

Registration Required to participate and fee of \$30 for lunch (email RSVP to skswm@aol.com)

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Host Organization: Defense Forum Foundation

Contact: Suzanne Scholte at skswm@aol.com

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS CONFIRMED FOR THE NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK:

NOTE OLYMPIC TORCH IN JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA APRIL 26 AND 27

If your city or country is not listed, let us know if you would like to be the coordinator.

CANADA

Ottawa and Toronto

Petition delivery to Chinese embassy and consulate in Ottawa and Toronto on April 26 with a three day protest also scheduled for May 16- May 18.

Host Organization: Council for Human Rights in North Korea

Contact: Kyung B Lee at kb19282001@yahoo.co.kr

BELGIUM

Brussels

Host organization: Human Rights Without Frontiers

Contact: Willy Fautre at w.fautre@hrwf.net

JAPAN

Tokyo and Osaka and Nagano -- note Olympic Torch in Nagano April 26

Host Organization: Japanese Coordinator for the NKFC

12:00 noon protest in Nagano for Olympic Torch and later in the day demonstrations at PRC embassies at 4 pm Toyko; also 10 am protest planned in Osaka

for Nagano and Toyko, contact Kan Ando at kanandoj@yahoo.co.jp

also at 6:30 pm at Sugunami Sangyousyoukoukaikan at Meeting speaker Kan Ando will address Human Rights Abuse in North Korea

for Osaka contact Hiroshi Miyake at h-miyake@agate.plala.or.jp (Japanese only)

NETHERLANDS

Host Organization: Open Doors Netherlands planning a number of activities and actions for North Korea Freedom Week 2008

Contact: MarianneB@opendoors.nl

PHILLIPINES

Day of Prayer for North and South Korea on April 27

Host Organization: HallelyYAH Prophetic Global Tower Foundation

Contact: Sister Catherine Azada-Amaca at 777@halleluyahpg.com

SOUTH KOREA: Has ongoing 444 Campaign in Seoul with daily activities and events. Also note Olympic Torch protest at the main entrance of the Olympic Stadium Seoul on Sun. April 27, 2008, 12 am
Host organization: 444 Campaign

Contact: Jy Hye Park at justice4nk@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM:

London:

Host Organization: Open Doors/UK planning demonstration on April 26 visit their website for updates!

Website: www.opendoorsuk.org

Contact: Alice Jones at alicej@opendoorsuk.org

UNITED STATES -- locations at Chinese consulates, embassy unless noted otherwise:

Chicago:

Host Organization: KCCNK

Contact: Sam Kim at skim@kccnk.org

Houston:

Host Organizations: Open Doors and The Korean Americans for Liberty and Human Rights

Contact: Gail Bielitz at HoustonWOW@aol.com and Casey Youn at youn@weeco-international.com

Los Angeles:

Host Organizations: Korean American Patriotic Action Movement and Open Doors

Contacts: Tom Byun at volcano21c@hotmail.com, Youngsohk Choe at yohngsohk@yahoo.com, or

Lindsay Vessey at LindsayV@odusa.org

New York:

Host Organization: PSALT

NYC PRAYER RALLY & PROTEST DEMONSTRATION 12- 3 pm

Location: West side of 12th Avenue at 42nd St. across from Chinese Consulate 520 12th Avenue, New York (Circle Line Cruise Docks, Pier 83)

Contact: Henry at hyun@psaltnk.org

San Francisco: confirmed to coordinate Sam Kim of KCC

Host Organization: Korean American Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom

Contact: Sam Kim at skim@kccnk.org

Washington DC: confirmed to coordinate Pastor Heemoon Lee, Sin U Nam, and Suzanne

Host Organization: North Korea Freedom Coalition and Korean American Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom

Contact: Pastor Heemoon Lee at heemoonlee@hotmail.com, Sin U Nam at sun@nkparchitects.com or Suzanne Scholte at skswm@aol.com

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