



## NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK 2018 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

15<sup>th</sup> Annual North Korea Freedom Week April 28-May 5, 2018, Seoul, Republic of Korea

*The Truth Will Set Them Free*

It is our great honor and pleasure to present to you the acknowledgements report for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual **North Korea Freedom Week**. It was quite ironic that the theme for NKFW 2018 was ***The Truth Will Set Them Free*** and focused on the work that North Korean defectors are doing to change the hearts and minds of the people of North Korea to peacefully bring freedom and human rights to North Korea. The irony was that the day before NKFW began, South Korean President Moon Jae-in had a summit with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un and promised the dictator that South Korea would stop information to North Korea! Thus, NKFW became immediately very timely because a lot of our events and plans were focused on the importance of information and getting the truth to North Korea. As a result, the media which our hosts feared would ignore NKFW due to South Korea's current political climate all of a sudden became quite interested in NKFW because of Moon's promise to the dictator. *Would we carry on with our NKFW plans?* Of course, Yes!

Despite the pressure we were immediately under, we were able to successfully highlight the importance of information to North Korea throughout the week and Free North Korea Radio broadcast successfully every day into North Korea, and we were able to participate in efforts to get information to North Korea through the rice bottle launch. While our NKFW public balloon launch was blocked by South Korean police and heavily attacked by pro-DPRK activists in South Korea, Park Sang Hak and Fighters for Free North Korea carried out a night balloon launch during North Korea Freedom Week which the North Korea Freedom Coalition helped finance.

Additionally, we are pleased to report that **Vice President Mike Pence** sent a tweet in support of North Korea Freedom Week and the **US State Department** issued a strong statement as well -- and of course the North Korean regime condemned "Freedom Week" and used it as one of their reasons to stop the summit with South Korea.

Earlier this year, our colleagues in Seoul were understandably very reluctant to host NKFW this year because of the current political situation they are facing now in South Korea. We did not want to change plans and bring it back to Washington, D.C., because it would seem like a retreat at such an historic time with all these talks of summits and Noble Peace Prizes! The defectors were concerned that whatever we did would be ignored by the media, and they were concerned that they would face heavy pressure to be silenced. That did occur and is occurring today: we know for a fact that a South Korean leading politician and Tae Young Ho, one of the highest ranking North Korean defectors, were being encouraged not to participate in North Korea Freedom Week. However, they would not be silenced and both spoke at the Opening Ceremony. So, North Korea Freedom Week 2018 achieved its aims which were as follows:

- 1) To highlight the North Korean defectors' actions to bring freedom to North Korea (including balloon launch, sending PET bottles with rice, and focusing panel sessions on information);
- 2) To save North Korean refugees in China and call for the Chinese government to stop repatriating North Korean refugees (*the refugees in which we focused during NKFW are now on their way to South Korea!*);

- 3) to introduce the education program for North Korean defector children (there were wonderful visits to schools and in depth sessions on this topic); and
- 4) to expose the ongoing human rights violation in North Korea's political prisons and human trafficking of refugees and to propose solutions. (The NKFW 2018 appeal with solutions was delivered to President Donald Trump and released to the media while sessions throughout the week focused on these topics with powerful testimonies of survivors.)

Emphasized throughout the week was the fact that while there was all this focus on the upcoming summits, we must never lose our focus on the PEOPLE of North Korea who are subjected to atrocious violations of human rights *every day*. We must remember that the Kim regime is committing crimes against humanity and his latest charm offensive should never shift our focus on the suffering people of North Korea who deserve to have the same freedoms that South Koreans and American enjoy every day.

Unlike any previous North Korea Freedom Week, this year the week began with an International Day of Prayer and Fasting for the freedom of the North Korean people. The call for a worldwide day of prayer and fasting came as a result of a US Congressional briefing in which Dr. Thomas Belke, one of the world's leading experts on Juche and author of *JUCHE: A Christian Study of North Korea's State Religion*, testified that the spiritual evil pervading North Korea can only be defeated by prayer **and fasting**. People all around the world joined in this opening day which was followed by 30 days of nonstop prayer which kicked off at Paju Island the second day of North Korea Freedom Week.

Please enjoy these photos and acknowledgements of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual North Korea Freedom Week prepared for you by **Kang Seo**. And, a very special thanks goes to **Jason West** who recorded many of the sessions, so all can view the NKFW events at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/nkfreedom.org/>

We are deeply grateful to **all the people** who helped organize events and who participated in NKFW 2018.

### ***The Truth Will Set Them Free!***

On behalf of the NKFW 2018 Organizing Committee  
Until They Are FREE,  
**Suzanne Scholte**  
**Chair, North Korea Freedom Week 2018**

### **NKFW Organizing Committee**

Honorary Chairman: Suzanne Scholte, North Korea Freedom Coalition

Co-Chairman: Kim Tae-hoon, esq., Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea

Pastor Lim Chang-ho, Koshin University

Lee Mi-il (Korean War Abductees' Family Union)

Park Sang-hak (Alliance of NK Defector Organizations for NKHR)

Professor Nishioka Tsutomu (Tokyo Christian University)

Organization Committee Chairman: Kim Seong-min (Free North Korea Radio)

Organization Committee Co-Representative: Pastor Kang Chul-ho (Saetu Church)

Kim Heung-kwang (NK Intellectuals' Solidarity)

Huh Kwang-il (Committee for the Democratization of North Korea)

Jang Se-yul (Gyereol United)

Choi Jeong-hun (North Korean People's Liberation Front)

## **Participating Defector Leaders and Organizations**

Kim Seong-min (Free North Korea Radio)  
Park Sang-hak (Fighters for Free North Korea)  
Choi Joo-hwal (North Korean Defectors' Comraderies)  
Huh Kwang-il (Committee for Democratization of North Korea)  
Yoo In-duk (Sungyi Society)  
Jang Se-yul (Gyereol United)  
Kim Heung-kwang (NK Intellectuals' Solidarity)  
Lee Ae-ran (Center for Liberty and Reunification)  
Choi Jeong-hun (North Korean People's Liberation Front)  
Kang Chul-ho (Christian Council of North Korea)  
Lee Myung-oak (Relief Union for North Korean Refugees)  
Park Jung-oh (Keun Saem Education Center)  
Huh Young-cheol (Culture Union for Liberty and Unification)

## **US Delegation for NKFW 2018**

Jason West, Esq. (North Korea Freedom Coalition)  
Greg Forman (North Korea Freedom Coalition)  
Nancy Purcell (North Korea Freedom Coalition)  
Ji Soon Ja (North Korea Freedom Coalition)  
Angela Fulton (*WORLD Magazine*)  
Kang Seo (North Korea Freedom Coalition)  
Suzanne Scholte (North Korea Freedom Coalition)

## **North Korea Freedom Week 2018 Photos and News Archive (Links and photos will also be available at [NKFreedom.org](http://NKFreedom.org))**

**April 28 Opening day of North Korea Freedom Week and *International Day of Prayer and Fasting for the Freedom of North Korea*:** Day of prayer and fasting was led by Rev. Thomas J. Belke (Capt., USN, ret), author, *JUCHE*; Rev. Bob Fox, Abundant Life Fellowship, author, *Healing America's DNA*; Dr. Suzanne Scholte, Chair, North Korea Freedom Week, Seoul Peace Prize Laureate; Dr. Ok Cha Soh, President, Korea-U.S. National Prayer Breakfast; Jeff King, President, International Christian Concern; Pastor Wally, Founder and President, Christians In Crisis; Rev. Paul Hwang, Former President and Senior Advisor, UPCA, General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in America; Rev. Young Hee Lee, President, UPCA, General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in America; Atabongwoung Gallous, Africa Solidarity For Sahrawi, and Michelle Kim, PSALT; and Alana Johnson of the Falls Church Anglican who also prepared special prayers for North Korea. Alana wrote: ***May our united prayers and praises serve to bring about the theme reality of NK Freedom Week, "The truth will set them free."*** A special website was created by Roxann Moss so people around the world could sign up to participate in the opening day of North Korea Freedom Week through praying and fasting for North Korea's freedom. The website can be visited at <https://www.april28.org/>

**Opening Ceremony** at the National Assembly Main Conference Room, organized by NKFW Organizing Committee. Special cooperation at the Assembly by Congressman Kim Seong-tae, Congressman Hahm Jin-kyu, Congressman Kim Yong-tae, and Congressman Kim Jin-tae. Remarks by Congressman Kim Young-woo, Congressman Kim Yong-Tae, Congressman Kim Jin-tae, Lawyer Kim Tae-hoon, Professor Nishioka Tsutomu, Former DPRK Ambassador to NK Thae Young-ho, and NKFC President Suzanne Scholte. A video of special remarks was also sent by US Congressman Ed Royce of California.





<http://www.newdaily.co.kr/site/data/html/2018/04/28/2018042800020.html>

<http://www.newdaily.co.kr/site/data/html/2018/04/28/2018042800004.html>

**Hope for Unification Prayer Vigil** at Hansarang Church, organized by Hope for Unification Prayer Vigil Organizing Committee (Chaired by Pastor Kang Chul-ho) in cooperation with the Christian Council of North Korea, Free North Korea Radio, Korean Committee for Supporting Resettlement of North Korean Christian Defectors, Esther Prayer Movement, North Korean Refugee Independence Support Center, Hope for Unification Mission, Jubilee National Prayer Movement for Unification and 33 North Korean defector churches. It was the largest gathering of North Korean defectors to pray for North Korea that has ever been held. Seventeen hundred people participated including fourteen hundred defectors.



<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/news/311879>

<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/news/311881>

<http://news.kmib.co.kr/article/view.asp?arcid=0923935150&code=23111111&cp=nv>



April 29

**Opening Service and Seoul Declaration for Human Rights of North Korea** at Saetu Church, organized by NKFW Organizing Committee and Saetu Church.



**New Korea Gathering Opening Service** at Paju Osanli Prayer Center Bethel Hall, organized by Youth with a Mission (YWAM) KONA – Northeast Asia DTS. Special remarks by Suzanne Scholte, sermon by Paul Childers (Director YWAM Kona base) and Loren Cunningham (Founder of YWAM)



April 30

**Wreath Laying Ceremony** at War Memorial, organized by NKFW Organizing Committee and North Korean People's Liberation Front





[http://www.newsis.com/view/?id=NISI20180430\\_0014039093](http://www.newsis.com/view/?id=NISI20180430_0014039093)

**Press Conference on Information Inflow to North Korea at Press Center.** Organized by NKPLF (Choi Jeong-hun), NK Refugees Human Rights Association of Korea (Kim Yon-hwa), Keunsaem Education Center (Park Jung-oh), No Chain (Jung Kwang-il) and Gyereol United (Jang Se-yul).



<http://news1.kr/photos/view/?3087993>

**Visit to Free North Korea Radio at Free North Korea Radio.** Organized by Free North Korea Radio





Meeting with Korea Liberty Party Representative Hong Jun-Pyo at Korea Liberty Party.



<http://www.ajunews.com/view/20180430212612969>

<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/bulletin/2018/04/30/0200000000AKR20180430148400001.HTML?input=1195m>

<http://news.naver.com/main/read.nhn?mode=LSD&mid=sec&sid1=123&oid=156&aid=0000023257>

<http://news1.kr/articles/?3304967>

**Unification Plaza Prayer Vigil** at Seoul Station Plaza, organized by Esther Prayer Movement. Special message from Suzanne Scholte, former Governor of Gyunggi Province Kim Moon-su, Pastor Peter Jung, Pastor Choi Sang-il and Professor Lee Yong-hee



<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/news/311955>

<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/news/311960>



May 1

**Rice Bottle Launch** at Kanghwa Island, organized by NK Refugees Human Rights Association of Korea (Kim Yon-hwa), Keumsaem Education Center (Park Jung-oh), No Chain (Jung Kwang-il)



<http://news.join.com/article/22587454>

[http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2018/05/02/2018050200062.html](http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2018/05/02/2018050200062.html)

<https://www.voakorea.com/a/4372058.html>

**Meeting with Defector Students** at Keumsaem Education Center, organized by Keumsaem Education Center (Park Jung-oh, Kwon Ryu-yeon)

May 2

**Press Conference on ROK-DPRK, US-DPRK Summit** presenting the letter for US President Trump at Press Center. Remarks from Kim Tae-hee (Coalition of North Korean Refugees for Freedom and Human Rights), Kim Heung-kwang (NK Intellectuals' Solidarity), Park Sang-hak (Fighters for Free North Korea), Choi Jeong-hun (NKPLF), Huh Kwang-il (Committee for Democratization of North Korea), Kawasaki Eiko (Korea of All), Choi Ju-hwal (North Korean Defector Comradery)





<http://www.munhwa.com/news/view.html?no=2018050201033609317001>

<http://www.newdaily.co.kr/site/data/html/2018/05/02/2018050200100.html>

<http://www.futurekorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=106235>

**Press Conference on North Korean Refugees Detained in China** at Press Center, organized by Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea and Lawyer Kim Tae-hoon. Four North Korean defectors whose family members are detained at a detention center in China called for the Chinese government to stop repatriation and for the South Korean government to negotiate with China to allow these 17 detainees, who were held over two years, to be released.



<http://news.kbs.co.kr/news/view.do?ncd=3643547&ref=A>

[http://www.seoul.co.kr/news/newsView.php?id=20180502500065&wlog\\_tag3=naver](http://www.seoul.co.kr/news/newsView.php?id=20180502500065&wlog_tag3=naver)

[http://www.unityinfo.co.kr/sub\\_read.html?uid=25997&section=sc4](http://www.unityinfo.co.kr/sub_read.html?uid=25997&section=sc4)



**Protest at Chinese Embassy to Stop Repatriation of North Korean Refugees** and delivery of the petition to release all detained North Korean refugees at Chinese Embassy, organized by Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea and Lawyer Kim Tae-hoon.



<http://www.fnnews.com/news/201805021419167804>

<http://www.futurekorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=105851>

May 3

**Press Conference to Commemorate North Korean Freedom Patriots** at Keumgang Pension, Kanghwa Island, organized by Gyereol United. NKFw participants paid tribute to the North Korean martyrs – those men and women who have sacrificed their lives getting information out of North Korea.





May 4

**International PEN Conference - North Korean Women: Their Stories in Literature** at Press Center, organized by International PEN North Korea Exile Center. Featured the writers of International PEN North Korea Exile Center, Park Joo-hee, Kim Jeong-keum, Kim Jeong-hwa, Kim Kyung-ae, and Lee Kyung-ok. Remarks by Suzanne Scholte, Lee Gil-won, Advisor of International PEN North Korea Exile Center, and Kim Seong-min, Free North Korea Radio. The session was moderated by Dr. Lee Ae Ran, the first North Korea defector to earn a PhD.



<http://www.munhwa.com/news/view.html?no=2018050401071009317001>

**Briefing on Alternative Schools for North Korean Defector Children** at Press Center, organized by Keumsaem Education center, Seong Vision Alternative School, Gyejeol School for North Korean defector students. Dr. Lee Ae Ran also moderated this session which included lively discussion from the audience.



May 5

**Balloon Launch** at Odusan Unification Observatory Parking Lot, organized by Fighters for Free North Korea.



<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/bulletin/2018/05/05/0200000000AKR20180505038800060.HTML?input=1195m>

<https://www.voakorea.com/a/4382659.html>

<http://news.join.com/article/22598726>

[http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2018/05/05/2018050500175.html](http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2018/05/05/2018050500175.html)

[http://news.tvchosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2018/05/05/2018050590054.html](http://news.tvchosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2018/05/05/2018050590054.html)

**Vice President Mike Pence tweeted to congratulate NKFW 2018:**

<https://twitter.com/VP/status/991716023874318341?s=20>

“On this North Korea Freedom Week, I remember the moving meeting w/ defectors who fled the oppressive regime in search of a better life and my time with Otto Warmbier’s amazing family. We are working hard on denuclearization and peace. It would be great for America and the world!”





**Vice President Mike Pence** ✓  
@VP



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12:28 PM - May 2, 2018

♥ 2,396 💬 706 people are talking about this

## US Department of State's statement on NKFW 2018:

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/05/281793.htm>

### ***“On the Occasion of North Korea Freedom Week”***

Press Statement by Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC May 2, 2018

On the occasion of North Korea Freedom Week, we must not forget the millions of North Koreans who continue to suffer under one of the most repressive and abusive governments in the world. For more than 60 years the people of North Korea have faced egregious human rights violations in virtually every aspect of life. In addition to the roughly 100,000 individuals, including children and family members of the accused, who suffer in political prison camps, North Koreans face an almost complete denial of fundamental freedoms by their government. Those trying to flee this oppressive environment, if caught, are often tortured or killed.

We remain gravely concerned and deeply troubled by these abuses. In tandem with the maximum pressure campaign, we will continue to press for accountability for those responsible. We are also going to continue our efforts to increase the flow of independent information into, out of, and within this isolated state to present everyday North Koreans with a more realistic picture of the outside world.”

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## On the Occasion of North Korea Freedom Week




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**Press Statement**

**Heather Nauert**  
 Department Spokesperson  
 Washington, DC  
 May 2, 2018

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## Interviews on Television and in Newspapers During North Korea Freedom Week 2018

[http://www.unityinfo.co.kr/sub\\_read.html?uid=26072&section=sc8](http://www.unityinfo.co.kr/sub_read.html?uid=26072&section=sc8)

<http://weekly.chosun.com/client/news/viw.asp?nNewsNumb=002507100003&ctcd=C01>

[http://news.tvchosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2018/04/28/2018042890112.html](http://news.tvchosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2018/04/28/2018042890112.html)

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20180504000841&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20180504000841&ACE_SEARCH=1)

[http://www.ichannela.com/news/main/news\\_detailPage.do?publishId=000000092097&cateCode=0005&subCateCode=000500](http://www.ichannela.com/news/main/news_detailPage.do?publishId=000000092097&cateCode=0005&subCateCode=000500)

## WORLD Magazine article written by Angela Lu Fulton

[https://world.wng.org/2018/05/acts\\_of\\_defiance](https://world.wng.org/2018/05/acts_of_defiance)

## Special Thanks to Jason West for Recording and Posting NKFW 2018's Events



For more information about the North Korea Freedom Coalition, please visit [www.nkfreedom.org](http://www.nkfreedom.org)