December 9, 2009

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

As the United Nations marks the 61st Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights tomorrow, we urge you to do all that you can within your authority as the Secretary-General to have the Declaration made available to the citizens of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, as was called for in the Preamble of the Declaration when it was adopted in 1948.

Many defectors from North Korea tell us that they had no understanding of the term “human rights.” As you pointed out during the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration, “The Declaration was the first global statement of what we now take for granted -- the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings.” As the Human Rights Council is conducting their Universal Periodic Review of North Korea, it is an especially important time to make the people of North Korea aware of this document and the fundamental rights to which they are entitled as human beings.

We believe this is an important step to promoting human rights in North Korea, as the authors of the Declaration fully understood when they called for it to be posted in educational institutions and schools. For our part, we intend to work closely with the North Korean defector organizations in publicizing this document through radio broadcasting and balloon launches. In fact, we are releasing today a 16 page report entitled: “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and North Korea” which we hope will “outrage the conscience of mankind” as it describes the “barbarous acts” being committed against the North Korean people today by the Kim Jong-Il regime.

Warm regards,

Suzanne Scholte  Sin U Nam  Rabbi Abraham Cooper  Pastor Hee Moon Lee
Chairman  Vice Chairman  Vice Chairman  Vice Chairman

Ann Buwalda  Mariam Bell  Sue Yoon Logan  Jane F. Yang
Treasurer  Legislative Chair  Administrator  Secretary

*organizations of North Korean defectors

Suzanne Scholte, Chairman
Sin U Nam, Vice Chairman
Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Vice Chairman
Pastor Hee Moon Lee, Vice Chairman
Marium Bell, Legislative Chairman
Ann Buwalda, Treasurer
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