

## **New Year's Messages Broadcast to North Korea February 2013**

### **FROM CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH PITTS, MEMBER OF U.S. CONGRESS:**

To the oppressed people of North Korea via Free North Korea Radio,

I write to you out of continued solidarity in your plight, as well as out of an every-increasingly hope for your future. The world around is changing rapidly, as people around the globe continue to struggle for their basic human rights and freedom. As you are on the outset of a new year, I wish to encourage you. Although many of you face hunger and fear, I have encountered firsthand some of your countrymen that have escaped the oppression of your government. They tell me about the grave injustices committed by your government, and the perils of living in a world cut off from the rest of humanity. As the world has become more aware of your plight through the testimonies of individuals and the use of digital devices, North Koreans will continue to assert their basic human rights – rights to freedom and prosperity that you have been denied for generations.

As you continue to struggle for your freedom through years of want and weariness, know that the free peoples of the world will continue to raise their voice on your behalf, and that the United States of America sees your eventual freedom from oppression as inevitable.

### **FROM CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF, MEMBER OF U.S. CONGRESS:**

I would like to wish the people of North Korea a very happy New Year. Just two days ago, I had the privilege to host the screening of a film about life in North Korea. We also heard testimony from a North Korean family that escaped and are now living in the United States. In this New Year, please know that there are people around the world that are dedicated to the cause of the North Korean people. I continue to hope and pray that in my lifetime, we will see a day when the Korean peninsula is free of gulags and oppression – may God bless you and your families.

### **FROM CONGRESSMAN ROBERT WITTMAN, MEMBER OF U.S. CONGRESS:**

I wish the proud and humble people of North Korea a hopeful New Year. We will continue to work for building freedom and assuring that the voices of North Koreans are heard here in the United States and around the world. We wish all of you increasing joy and God's blessing.

### **FROM CONGRESSMAN ED ROYCE, MEMBER OF U.S. CONGRESS:**

Hello, my name is Congressman Ed Royce from California in the United States. I would like to offer you my greetings and well wishes in this New Year. The New Year is a time to renew hope. It offers an opportunity for reflection and new beginnings. Having met with countless brave and inspiring North Koreans who have risked their lives for freedom, I share their hope and dream of a North Korea where basic human rights are respected, and where people have enough food to eat and clothes to keep warm. Your suffering is a great concern to people throughout the world.

I know that the challenges facing the people of North Korea are great. Your government denies you the most basic of human rights and will not cede power willingly. Only the North Korean people will be able to change that. As Martin Luther King Jr., a great American civil rights leader, once said, "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

In this New Year, I will stand with concerned people worldwide in hoping that the North Korean people will soon be able to enjoy the freedoms and rights already enjoyed by so many worldwide.

**FROM CONGRESSMAN JIM MORAN, MEMBER OF U.S. CONGRESS:**

Hello, I am United States Congressman Jim Moran from Virginia, and I send you my hopes for peace, in North Korea and throughout the entire Korean peninsula.

The preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations states: Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable right of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. And as the famous 18th English thinker Samuel Johnson said, "An injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere."

Although it might not seem so, the world is becoming a smaller place. A reality is that people all over the earth are becoming more and more aware of the many human rights violations of the North Korean government against its citizens.

I stand with the many people of the world who encourage you to believe in your future. As Reverend Martin Luther King, the great American civil rights leader once said, "The arc of history is long but it bends toward justice". ###