

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK 2015 DELEGATION LIST

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North Korea Freedom Week 2015 Co-Chairs

Suzanne Scholte and Kim Seong-min

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Kang Seo

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Federation of Korean Associations, Korea Institute for National Unification, Ministry of Unification, Yonsei Center for Human Liberty, Ambassador Jung-Hoon Lee, Free North Korea Radio and Defense Forum Foundation.

Defector NGO Leaders

Kim Seong-min (Chair of the NKFV Delegation) Director, Free North Korea Radio

Choi Jeong-hun Commander in Chief, North Korea People's Liberation Front

Park Sang-hak Representative, Fighters for Free North Korea

Kang Chul-ho Pastor, Saetu Church

Park Jung-oh Representative, Keun Saem Education Center

Park Kun-ha Executive Secretary, North Korea Intellectuals' Solidarity

Kim Young-il Representative, People for Successful COrean Reunification

Lee So-yeon Representative, New Korea Women's Alliance

Jung Kwang-il Representative, No Chain

Jay JO NK in USA

Lim Il Co-chair, International Network for the Human Rights of North Korean Overseas Laborers

Kim Joo-il Director, North Korean Residents' Society (UK) and Editor, Free NK Newspaper

Special Witnesses

Kim Hye-sook Special witness on Political Prison Camp No.18

Kim Gyu-min Special witness on the propaganda movie and media

Ju Ara Special witness on human trafficking

Choi Jeong-ho Special witness for drug production and trafficking

Bang Ung-cheol Special witness on illegal weapon trade and counterfeiting

Grace Jo

Other Defector Delegates

Lee Da-eun (NKPLF) (Witness on North Korean female soldiers)

Lee Yun-hui (FNKR)

Kwon Ryu-youn (Keun Saem) (Witness on persecution of families of defectors & political prison camp)

Jo Young-hwa (NKPLF)

Kim Dong-nam (No Chain) (Witness on persecution of families of defectors and political prison camp)

South Korean Delegation Led by Ambassador Jong-Hoon Lee, North Korea Human Rights Envoy

Ihn Ji-yeon (Liz), Esq. President, Now! Act for North Koreans!

Kwon Hyo-jin Media Strategy Director, NANK

Kim Jeong-ah NK Director, NANK

North Korea Week 2015 Delegation Biographies

Kim Seong-min (Chair of the NKFW Delegation and Director of Free North Korea Radio) was born in 1962 at Heechon, Jagang Province but raised in Pyongyang as the son of a famous Poet. He enlisted in the Army and after ten years of military service, he attended Kim Hyung-jik Teachers' College where he majored in the Literature. Kim was assigned to work as a propaganda writer at the Military Training Station No. 620 Art Propaganda Squad but he decided to defect when he found out he had family in South Korea. He fled to China in 1996 but was arrested and repatriated. While traveling from Onseong to Pyongyang to face execution for leaving the country without government permission, he jumped from a moving train to escape again to China where he worked as a laborer at a coal factory in Yenji, China, until his uncle in South Korea helped him to escape to South Korea. In South Korea, he attended Yonsei University and Graduate School at Joong Ang University receiving an Master of Arts. After serving in leadership roles in North Korean defector associations including the North Korean Defectors General Association and the North Korea People's Liberation Front, he founded Free North Korea Radio in April 2004, which has broadcast a daily radio show via shortwave to North Korea every day since December 2005. It has become the most popular single program ever broadcast to North Korea. Kim is the recipient of both the 2009 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award from the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy and the 2008 Media Award from Reporters Without Borders.

Choi Jeong-hun (North Korea People's Liberation Front) was born in 1971 and raised in Hyesan, Yangang Province. He served as the Platoon Sergeant at the Mirim University Security Platoon. Kim graduated from Kim Il-sung Politics College and was assigned as a Political Officer at the 144th Battalion. After military discharge, Choi was educated at Province Party Training Center to become a member of the Workers' Party and served as a Junior Party Secretary at the construction company in Hyesan. He arrived in South Korea in December 2006. Since 2012, he has worked for Free North Korea Radio as the Broadcasting Director and was elected as the Commander in Chief of North Korea People's Liberation Front in 2013.

Park Sang-hak (Fighters for Free North Korea) was born in 1968 at Hyesan, Yanggangdo. A member of the elites from Pyongyang, Park is a graduate of Kim Cheak Industrial University and worked at a Propaganda Unit in Pyongyang until 1999. His father was a North Korean spy in charge of collecting information about South Korea. While on a spy mission in Japan, Park's father sent a message to his family to defect when he realized that South Korea was much better off than North Korea. The family decided to escape, not because they believed the report, but because they knew they would be sent to a political prison camps if they did not flee. The family escaped to South Korea in March 2000 and realizing the truth about North and South Korea, Park became one of the most outspoken defector activists. Park is now leading Fighters for Free North Korea which focuses on sending information through balloon launches. He has previously served as the Representative of the Democracy Network Against the North Korean Gulag and a Vice Chairman of the Exile Committee for North Korean Democracy.

Kang Chul-ho (Saetu Church) is the first North Korean defector to be ordained as a Methodist minister. Born in 1968, he was raised in Hamheung, South Hamkyung Province, and graduated from Hamheung Teachers' College. Kang was a member of the elite class and his grandfather was an educator. His grandfather believed that they were teaching wrong history in the North Korean schools, and so he criticized Kim Il Sung. As a result, the family was ostracized and cut off from their status as elites; Kang's father was very upset at how unfair this was and approached the National Security Bureau to petition them not to change their status. The NSB refused his request, so Kang's father threatened to burn down the NSB building. So, the NSB arrested and forced Kang and his mother to watch his father be publicly executed. His brother fortunately escaped seeing this. His mother committed suicide shortly after this and Kang fled to China in 1995. A Chinese woman sheltered him and told him since God had saved him for a reason, he should serve God. He never forgot what she said and decided to become a pastor. He studied in the East North Seminary located in Shenyang, China and continued his education in Korean Methodist Seminary when he arrived in South Korea in 1997. He established the first North Korean defector church, Saetu Church which has made it their mission to tear down the huge statue of Kim Il-Sung and plant their church at that site when North Korea is free. He is the Vice President of North Korean Christian Association, a network of North Korean defector churches, and established the North Korean Defector Support Center to: 1) rescue defectors; 2) work for the democratization of North Korea; 3) support North Korean defector children; and 4) help family members in North Korea.

Park Jung-oh (Keun Saem Education Center) was born in 1968 at Hyesan, Yanggang Province. After graduating from Communication College, Park worked at Radio Wave Surveillance Station from 1993 to 1998 as a supervisor. He continued his education at Yangang University majoring in Agriculture from 1994 and graduated in 1998, but decided to defect with his five other family members in 1998. Park had to hide for two and half years in China until he made his way to South Korea in 2001. Since then he has helped his brother with the balloon launches and has also established an after school education center for North Korean defector children.

Park Kun-ha (North Korea Intellectuals' Solidarity) was born in 1963. After serving seven years in the military, he studied at Kanggye College of Education and majored in Biology. After graduation, he was assigned to work as a Chung-gang County Customs Inspector at Chagang Provincial Customs Inspection Office from 1993 to 1996. From 1997 to 2000, he worked at the Chung-gang County City Management Office as a laborer before he made his way to South Korea. Park studied Business Administration in Korea National Open University, and is now pursuing the master's degree on International Human Rights and Judiciary Affairs at Kookmin University. Since 2013, he has served as the Executive Secretary of NKIS, which represents the elites that have defected from North Korea.

Kim Young-il (People for Successful COrean Reunification) was born in 1978 at Hamheung. While in the military, he witnessed many people dying of starvation, especially soldiers. His uncle died of starvation and his cousins were let to wander the streets, so his family made the decision to defect in August 1996. They survived there for five years bribing the police not to turn them in until they safely defected to South Korea in January 2001. He pursued his education in South Korea and received a BA in Chinese from Hankook University of Foreign Studies in August 2006. Kim founded PSCORE in the fall of 2006, specifically to ensure the successful reunification of the Koreas would not adversely affect the South Korean economy.

Lee So-yeon (New Korea Women's Alliance) was born in 1975, at Heoryong, North Hamkyung Province. After graduating from high school, she enlisted in the military to serve as a First Sergeant at the 4th Corps Direct Command Communication Unit. She was discharged in 2006, and defected in 2008. In South Korea, she established the New Korea Women's Alliance in 2011 to help raise awareness of the situation that North Korean women face every day. NKWA has also been actively involved in rescuing the children whose mothers defected to South Korea.

Jung Kwang-il (No Chain) was born in 1963. He served in the military from 1979 until 1992 when he started his career at the Workers' Party at the 824th Communication Unit. From 1998 he worked as Cheongjin Branch Manager of Chosun Pyongyang Trade Company, but only a year later, was arrested for espionage by National Security Agency. He was sentenced to work at the political prison camp No.15, commonly known as Yoduk Political Prison Camp in 2000, but he escaped in 2003. A year after his defection, Jung arrived in South Korea in 2004. He worked at the NK Gulag since 2007, and established No Chain, also known as Coalition of North Korea Gulag Victims' Families.

Kim Joo-il (North Korean Residents Society) was born in Kilju, North Hamkyung Province. When he served as the Captain at the 5th Corps located at Choelwon,

Kangwon Province, he witnessed the severe famine which took his three year old niece's life. Noticing something was wrong with his country, he decided to cross the Tumen River in August 2005. He traveled across China, Vietnam, Cambodia, and finally Thailand where he could claim the asylum as a refugee. He is leading North Korean Residents Society based in UK and publishes the newspaper FreeNK to deliver the news from inside North Korea.

Jay JO (NK in USA) was born in Musan County, North Hamgyong Province in North Korea. Jo escaped North Korea with her mother and sister when she was 10 years old (07/19/1998), and lived in China as an unrecognized refugee until her family was granted asylum in the United States in 2008. Jo was forcibly sent back to prison camps in North Korea four times while living in China but made it to the United States with the help of UNHCR. She is now working for NKinUS, a human rights organization that helps North Korean refugees resettle in United States and brings public awareness on human rights violations in North Korea. Before joining NKinUS in 2012, Jo advocated on behalf of Christian North Korean refugees who were secret believers under the Chinese government, which put her in jail for a year and three months. Jo was educated in China by homeschooling that was run by missionary and went to underground theological schools in Shenyang and Yanji in China.

Lim Il (International Network for the Human Rights of North Korean Overseas Laborers) was born in 1968 in Daedong River District, Pyongyang. He worked at a Foreign Construction Company run by Ministry of Public Security for 12 years, which was and still is a highly prestigious job in North Korea. In November 1996, he was assigned to work in Kuwait as an overseas worker. Lim worked for 15 hours every day but never received any wages. He decided to defect in March 1997. Now he is a published author and the member of North Korean Exile Centre for PEN International. He now heads the International Network for the Human Rights of North Korean Overseas Laborers (INHL) which is dedicated to exposing North Korea's exploitation of its own citizens as slave laborers to bring in cash for the regime.

Special Witnesses

Kim Hye-sook was born in November 2, 1962 in Moranbong District of Pyongyang, and was raised in Dongdaewon District from the age of three by her grandmother. On October 28, 1970, without knowing the reason, all of her family members were sent to the political prison camp No.18 located at Bukchang, South Pyongahn Province. Kim worked as a coal miner from August 1978 until the end of September 1990. During that time, her mother died in 1979, her grandmother died in 1984, and her brother died in 1985. She also lost her husband in April 2001 to an accident in the prison camps. She was separated from her children during flooding in North Korea in 2003 and never heard from them again. In August of 2005, she was sold by a North Korean border guard to a restaurant in Yenji, China, where she worked until 2007 when she was arrested by Chinese Security Agents and repatriated. Kim was once again, incarcerated in political prison camp No.18 at Bukchang but managed to escape later. She crossed the border in June 2008 and made her way to South Korea through Laos and Thailand in April 2009. Because of her work at the coal mine, Kim was diagnosed with chronic obstructive lung disease and pulmonary hypertension. She is the longest survivor of a North Korean political prison camp and despite her poor health, she has

been actively working to expose the political prison camps in North Korea. **(Special witness on Political Prison Camp No.18)**

Kim Gyu-min was born in 1974 in Bongsan, North Hwanghae Province, and studied Literature at Lee Kye-soon Teachers' College. He wanted to become a movie star and decided to defect in 1999. He arrived in South Korea in 2001 and decided not to give up his dream: He produced his first short film 'Delusion' in 2003, 'Morning Call' and 'Crossroad' in 2004. In 2005 Kim joined in the production team as an assistant director for the movie "South of the Border", which depicted the defection of a North Korean musician. He also worked as an assistant director for the movie "Crossing" which vividly showed the plight of North Korean refugees. He graduated from Hanyang University in 2006 where he majored in film and finished his master's degree in Political Science at Kyungnam University in 2014. Kim produced his first full-length film on the life of North Koreans: "Winter Butterfly" which is based on a true story occurring in 2011, and he is now working on his second movie "The Present of Love." **(Special witness on the propaganda movie and media)**

Ju Ara was born in 1979 at Saetbyol County, North Hamkyung Province. She worked as a propaganda officer at the county's propaganda bureau in a coal mine village. In February 2007, when rations stopped and she had gone a week without any food, Ju decided to defect fearing starvation for her whole family.. Without any money to bribe the border guards, she decided to cross the Tumen River with her younger sibling where the river flowed the fastest and the border control was not as heavy. But in the middle of the river, she lost her sister and never knew what happened to her. She made her way to China but was arrested and repatriated just 5 months later. The National Security Agency Defection bureau was newly established in Saetbyol County at the time, and she was one of the first cases. During the interrogation, she was beaten from 9 am until the sun set. After dark, the agent never let her sleep but tortured her to confess. She still has the scars all over her body from the torture and she cannot sleep without a sleeping pill. She was asked 1) who was accompanied with her to defect and when; 2) why didn't she get married in China; 3) did she know about Hwang Jang-yop or had she ever met with Intelligence from South Korea; and 4) had she been to the church or met with South Koreans. There were two women in her cell that got pregnant in China but later they were both forced to have abortions. After the investigation, Ju was sentenced to work at a labor camp where she constructed apartments for the Party officers. The building was built only with the labor of the prisoners, without any machinery. She defected again in October 2007 only to become the victim of human trafficking in China. **(Special witness on human trafficking)**

Choi Jeong-ho was born in 1973 in Hyesan, Yanggang Province. He majored in Russian at Hyesan Foreign Language School, and until October 1998 served as the Platoon Sergeant at Kim Il-sung Military University Security Company. Choi graduated from Hyesan College of Agriculture in 2003 and worked as the Assistant Director at the Chosun Translated Film Production Rear Resources Base until he defected in 2011. Now he is working at Keun Saem, an after school program for North Korean defector children. **(Special witness for drug production and trafficking)**

Bang Ung-cheol was born in 1965 in Pyongyang. His father was a combat personnel at?? Workers' Party the First Investigation Bureau (Operation Bureau, later merged into General Reconnaissance Department, which is responsible for espionage operations in

South Korea). His mother was Chief of the Medical Clinic at Pyongyang Goksan Factory. Bang joined the 365th Corps (Workers' Party Sixth Bureau, Operation Department) in 1981 as a combat personnel where he worked for 17 years. He was discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1997, and then was appointed as the Chief in charge for West Sea District Foreign Trade at People's Army the 5454th Corps until 2011. He arrived in South Korea in 2013, and now is the Board Member of NKPLF. **(Special witness on illegal weapon trade and counterfeiting)**

Grace Jo was born in North Korea, a place where she almost starved to death as a child. Two of Grace's brothers died of starvation. Grace's father was tortured and starved to death. He passed away when North Korean agents transferred him from a detention center to a jail. His "crime" was that he left his country in search of food for his family. One of Grace's older sisters went to China to find food for her family, but went missing and was probably sold into human trafficking. Grace was repatriated twice to North Korea by the Chinese government, and suffered imprisonment after she was repatriated. Grace's mother and one of Grace's sisters were repatriated four times and suffered torture after repatriation. In 2006 Pastor Philip Buck bribed North Korean agents to let Grace and her two remaining family members escape North Korea. In 2008, the UNHCR rescued Grace and her family from China, and enabled them to enter the United States of America as legal refugees. Grace is one of 187 refugees from North Korea who have settled in the U.S. In 2013, Grace became a U.S. citizen.

Other Defector Delegates

Lee Da-eun (NKPLF) Born in 1976 in Baekahm County, Ryanggang Province. After graduating from high school, she enlisted in the Korean People's Army 657th Corps and was educated at Choi Hee-sook Artillery Academy. She worked as the Political Officer at the 671th Corps Unit Recruit Training Squadron, until she was discharged in 2000. Lee was assigned to be a Samjiyeon County Military Party Officer at Yanggang Province, where she worked until she escaped to China in 2007. **(Witness on North Korean female soldiers)**

Lee Yun-hui (FNKR) Born in 1980 at Hoeryong, North Hamkyung Province. She studied at an Agriculture College and worked as a laborer at a collective farm. Just like any other North Koreans who were trying to survive, she started her own business to sell things in the market, which led her to defect to China in 2002. After six years of wandering around China as a refugee, she decided to go to South Korea. She worked to save money to hire a broker to get her to South Korea. After she paid him, he dropped her off at the border of Mongolia and handed her a compass and told her to head North across the grassland and the Gobi desert. Alone, she walked for several days without knowing where to go, and finally was found by Mongolian Police. Once she reached South Korea, she taught herself sound engineering and is now the sound engineer for Free North Korea Radio.

Kwon Ryu-youn (Keun Saem) Born in 1971 in Musan County, North Hamkyung Province. After graduating from high school, she worked at the explosive manufacturing factory attached to Musan coal mine until 1997. She defected in December of 1997 where she hid for four years until she finally made it to South Korea in 2001. Now she is helping the balloon launches organized by FFNK and running Keun Saem

Education Center for defector children with her husband. **(Witness on the persecution of the families of defectors and political prison camp)**

Jo Young-hwa (NKPLF) Born in 1980 at Hamheung, South Hamkyung Province. Jo served as the First Lieutenant Security Advisor at the 27th Border Control Brigade 6th Battalion, and worked at Hamheung Labor Camp as an advisor until he defected in 2011. He now works as the Security Director with NKPLF.

Kim Dong-nam (No Chain) Born in 1959 at Pyongyang. He worked as an Advisor at Hoeryong Medical Herb Management Office, and arrived in South Korea in 2007. After his defection his son was arrested by Hoeryong Local Security Bureau and incarcerated in political prison camp No.16 at Hwaseong, North Hamkyung Province. He still doesn't know whether his son is alive or not. **(Witness on the persecution of the families of defectors and political prison camp)**

South Korean Delegation

Ambassaor Jong Hoon Lee is South Korea's Ambassador for Human Rights. He is also Director of the Center for Modern Korean Studies and Center for American Studies at Yonsei University. He serves as a senior member of South Korea's National Unification Advisory Council and chair of the Ministry of Unification's Advisory Committee for Humanitarian Affairs. He also is Co-Chair of Save NK, an NGO dealing mainly with North Korean human rights; Chair of the 'Committee for the Establishment of Refugee Camp for the North Korean Defectors'; and Vice-Chair of the Supporter's Group for the 'House of Sharing' where several remaining "comfort women" are housed.

Ihn Ji-yeon (Liz), Esq. is the Founder and President of NANK, Now! Act for North Koreans! She is the graduate from Handong International Law School, and the Attorney-at-law in Washington DC. She has been actively working for the enactment of North Korean Human Rights Act in South Korean Assembly.

Kwon Hyo-jin is the Media Strategy Director of NANK. She studied at Baekseok University majored in Information Security and Business, and worked for Korea Liberty Union before she joined NANK.

Kim Jeong-ah was born in 1976 in North Korea. She was forcibly adopted two times in her childhood, and her older brother died out of starvation. She graduated from Lee Je-soon Military College and served 7 years in military. Kim defected in 2006 and arrived in South Korea in 2009. She is now working at NANK as the NK Director.