

North Korea Freedom Week 2015 Acknowledgements

12TH Annual North Korea Freedom Week April 26-May 2, 2015 to promote the freedom, human rights, and dignity of the North Korean People:

Theme: *"Let us Lead the Way to Unification": The Activism of North Korean Defectors for Unification*

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to send you the list of the North Korea Freedom Week 2015 Acknowledgements – a small way to recognize and acknowledge the enormous efforts of so many wonderful people who made this 12th anniversary event a tremendous success. We have also included for you some sample photos from events and links to some of the media articles.

There was substantial coverage in the Korean press of the many events (over 185 articles and nightly news coverage) and, of course, because of Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and Free North Korea Radio the most important audience, the people of North Korea, heard about our efforts for them.

We did several new things this year. For the visiting delegation, we not only brought over special eyewitnesses to testify about the crimes against humanity of the Kim regime, but we also focused on what the North Korean escapees are doing to bring the peaceful unification of Korea. A major focus of the week was their heroic and successful activism in getting information in and out of North Korea, in reaching out to the military and the elites to show a way forward, and in rescuing those trying to escape. To showcase their efforts, we did something we have never done before: we held a major dinner at which hundreds participated to learn more about the incredible work of these brave individuals who will not rest until North Korea is free. We are hoping that everyone who came to that dinner – and all of you taking the time to read this report -- will become regular supporters of these defector NGOs, because they have the ways to accomplish amazing work, but only lack the resources.

We also went to New York City! Thanks to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, and the special event hosted by our Ambassador Samantha Power for the North Korean defectors, it was a very successful trip. The efforts of the DPRK mission there to silence the defector voices led to an altercation at the UN between the North Korean defectors and the DPRK mission. This underscored how far this movement has come. Our defectors were calm and poised and vigilant about speaking the truth about the situation inside North Korea, while the DPRK diplomats were confrontational, rude and visibly nervous.

The defectors testified on Capitol Hill, met with U.S. government officials, spoke at many seminars and forums, and lit candles in front of the Chinese embassy to recognize that nation's complicity in crimes against humanity. We held an additional event for the first time during NKFW: a Candlelight Vigil at the Chinese embassy. This was quite an emotional event to remember all who have been repatriated by the Chinese government and a powerful reminder of China's role in perpetuating the Kim regime.

No one understands the power of the North Korean defectors and their work better than North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Eun, who fears the nearly 30,000 North Koreans who have escaped. He fears them more than anyone – more than South Koreans, more than the American military, more than the international community. Fear is why he expends so much effort trying to silence their voices. But thankfully, North Korea Freedom Week not only gave them a voice, but showcased their amazing work to bring about the peaceful unification of Korea, freedom to the North Korean people, and the end of the Kim regime.

Please find below the acknowledgements for the 12th annual North Korea Freedom Week. One day soon we will celebrate NKFW in Pyongyang.

Acta Non Verba,

Suzanne Scholte
Co-Chair, North Korea Freedom Week

Our NKFW Delegation Sponsors:

These are the individuals and the organizations who helped support the visiting defector delegation:

Ambassador Jung-Hoon Lee, South Korea's Special Envoy for Human Rights – we simply could not have had the level of participation without the efforts of Ambassador Lee!

Federation of Korean Associations – not only did their members individually support the NKFW events but they also brought many supporters to the NKFW dinner!

South Korea Institute for National Unification

South Korea's Ministry of Unification

Yonsei Center for Human Liberty

Free North Korea Radio
Defense Forum Foundation
Korean Cultural Center
Connie Chang
Dr. Thomas Chung
Angela Chung
Timothy Haahs & Associates
Melanie Kirkpatrick
Bok Lee
Dr. Tai Young Lee
Sohee Lee
Carol Spurlock
Young Un
Judy Yoo

Our Delegation Coordinator and NKFW Assistant to the Co-Chairs: Kang Seo

Delegation Translators and Helpers: Bok Lee, Grace Jo, Jinhye Jo, Juan Sim, Henry Song, James Victory

Defector NGO Leaders

Kim Seong-min (Co-Chair of NKFW and Chair of the 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, delegation spokesperson
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

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 NKinUSA and spokesperson for the delegation

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, 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

Japanese Delegation

Kawasaki Eiko Special witness on North Korea's resettlement program for Korean residents in Japan

For complete biographies on the NKFW 2015 Delegation visit www.nkfreedom.org

NKFW EVENTS: THANK YOU to the following individuals and organizations for hosting, sponsoring and participating in NKFW Events which are listed below by each day of NKFW 2015:

Sunday's Events:

Pastor Eung Yul Ryoo for his special time and prayers and for the welcome of the congregation of the **Korean Central Presbyterian Church**



Photo: Pastor Ryoo and his wife speaking to the NKFW delegation; Photo: KCPC Church Service
<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/view.htm?id=282825>

John Phillips and **Jim Fisher** of the Korean War Memorial Foundation for their help with our Wreath Laying Ceremony and for **Ron Rothberg** and **Hank Beebe** of **Volunteers in the Parks** who gave the delegation a very meaningful tour of the memorial



Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Korean War Memorial; NKinUSA Concert at The Landon School
<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/view.htm?id=282824>

The **Landon School** and the **North Koreans in the USA** for hosting a special concert with North Korean pianist **Kim Chul Woong**, saxophone player **David Tauler** and his band, and North Korean American **Songwha Han** with special presentations by **Thomas Barker**, **Orson Maazel** and MCEE by Sovereign Grace Church Pastor Vince Hinders.

Monday's Events

Peter Hickman and the **National Press Club Newsmaker Committee** for hosting the week's opening press conference



http://www.worldmag.com/2015/04/north_korean_defectors_say_u_s_should_do_more
<http://www.segye.com/content/html/2015/04/28/20150428004909.html?OutUrl=naver>
<http://www.newdaily.co.kr/news/article.html?no=245181>
<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/view.htm?id=282861>
<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/video/2602000001.html?cid=MYH20150428002500038&input=1825m>
<http://www.voakorea.com/content/article/2736578.html>
<http://www.voakorea.com/content/article/2741317.html>

Peter Kang and the **Korea Freedom Alliance** for hosting a special lunch with the Korean American community to focus on getting information in and out of North Korea featuring **Kim Seong Min** and **Park Sang Hak**.



Korean Daily Photo

http://www.koreadaily.com/news/read.asp?art_id=3343520

Ambassador Robert King, Scott Busby, Julie Turner and other colleagues at the U.S. State Department for arranging and hosting meetings for the delegation.

Greg Scarlatiou and the **Committee for Human Rights in North Korea** for hosting the HRNK's latest report release "*Arsenal of Terror: North Korea's Role as a State Sponsor of Terrorism*," featuring the report's author **Joshua Stanton** with special remarks by **Nicholas Eberstadt** and **Marcus Noland**



HRNK Panel Session, Report author Josh Stanton with Kim Seong Min

http://www.koreadaily.com/news/read.asp?art_id=3343559
<http://www.seoul.co.kr/news/newsView.php?id=20150429009009>

Ambassador Hyun-dong Cho, Deputy Chief of Mission, **Embassy of the Republic of Korea** for hosting a wonderful dinner for the visiting delegation

Tuesday's Events

Bruce Klingner and the **Heritage Foundation** for hosting a special program entitled "*Maintaining Focus on North Korea Human Rights Violations*" which included panel sessions with North Korean defector NGO leaders **Kim Seong Min, Choi Jeong-Hun, Lee So-yeon**, and **Park Kun ha** followed by a panel discussion with **Roberta Cohen, Jared Genser** and **Professor Lee Sung-yoon**



Watch the Heritage Panels on line here: <http://www.heritage.org/events/2015/04/maintaining-focus-on-north-korea-human-rights-violations>

North Korea Freedom Coalition members including **Dr. Gregory Stanton** of **Genocide Watch** and **Pastor Kang Chul Ho** of **Seatu Church** led us all in a very special **candlelight vigil** at the **Embassy of the People's Republic of China** to focus on the PRC's brutal treatment of North Korean refugees. We appreciate the help of Youna Oh for updating THE LIST – each page of which was read during the vigil with pages being read in Korean and English and after a person read a page he or she lit a candle. It was a very powerful and emotional reminder that we must never forget each and every name on THE LIST as those names represent just a fraction of the thousands repatriated back to North Korea. We lit up the park that night while Jason West provided a video display of THE LIST against the brick wall opposite the Embassy. Thank you to our speakers: **Kim Seong Min, Ju Ara, and Dr. Gregory Stanton** and our **LIST readers: Nancy Purcell, Jinhye Jo, Kelley McLean, Lim Il, Grace Kang, Daeun Lee, Orson Maazel, Kim Dong Nam, Suzanne S., Park Kun Ha, Linda Dye, Lee So-yeon and Louise Van Horne.**



<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/view.htm?id=282923>

Wednesday's Events

Thank you to our **anonymous host** who led a discussion to help get more orphans out of North Korea – we hope these connections made will lead to more rescues and no more names being added to THE LIST.

Daniel Aum and the **Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Center** hosted: *The Information Campaign in North Korea* with opening remarks by **Santiago Canton** and a panel discussion with **Kim Seong-min**, **Park Sang-hak**, **Choi Jeong-hun**, and **David McKean**, Program Officer for Asia, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights.



RFK Center's Panel on Information

<http://fnkradio.com/board.php?board=newfnkb101&page=3&command=body&no=11835>

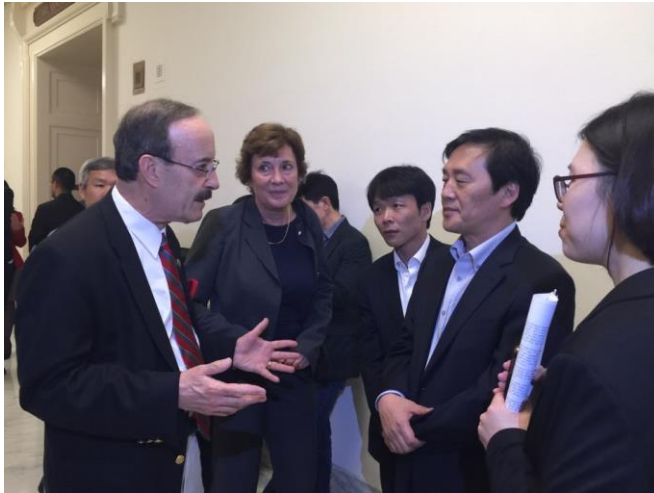
The **Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission** hosted a Congressional Hearing chaired by **Congressman Joseph Pitts** entitled: *North Korea's Forced Labor Enterprise: A State-Sponsored Marketplace in Human Trafficking* featuring Ambassador **Robert King**, **Greg Scarlatiou**, **Mr. Lim II**, and **John Sifton**.



On Capitol Hill with Ambassador Jong Hoon Lee and the visiting delegation just before the Congressional Hearing; Photo of Congressional hearing panel courtesy of Voice of America

<http://www.voakorea.com/content/article/2742816.html>

On Capitol Hill, the delegation also got the opportunity to meet **Congressman Eliot Engel** and **Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**.



Congressman Eliot Engel, Ranking Minority Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and sponsor of the North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act discusses the importance of getting information into North Korea with Kim Seong Min. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen joins chants of “Free North Korea!”

Ambassador Jung Hoon Lee hosted a special dinner for the NKFV visiting delegations after this successful events in Boston.

Daniel Aum also organized a Film Screening of *Winter Butterfly*, which was hosted by the **First Virginia Baptist Church in Springfield** and included testimony and comment by the film’s director, **Kim Gyu Min**

Thursday's Events

Ambassador Samantha Power and the **United States Mission to the United Nations** joined by **Ambassador Oh Joon** of the Republic of Korea, hosted an event entitled “*Human Rights in the DPRK*” at the United Nations featuring testimony from **Kim Hye Sook**, **Jo Jinhye**, and **Joseph Kim** which was moderated by award-winning author **Barbara Demick**.



US: Ambassadors Oh, King, and Power and witnesses Kim, Jo, and Kim **THEM:** DPRK Diplomats



Photo: Courtesy of Sunghan Kim and Liberty Herald; Photo: from KBS News Report and Peter Kang

In New York City, the delegation was joined by members of **PSALT** and **NKFC Vice Chair Sin U Nam** which included a visit to the DPRK mission and a march to the United Nations.

<http://www.newdaily.co.kr/news/article.html?no=247878>

<http://news.kmib.co.kr/article/view.asp?arcid=0923062520&code=231111111&cp=nv>

http://www.newsis.com/ar_detail/view.html?ar_id=NISX20150502_0013638394&cID=10301&pID=10300

<http://news.ichannela.com/politics/3/00/20150501/71030998/1>

http://imnews.imbc.com/replay/2015/nwdesk/article/3691424_14775.html

<http://www.ajunews.com/view/20150501112446394>

http://news.sbs.co.kr/news/endPage.do?news_id=N1002956395&plink=ORI&cooper=NAVER

http://www.newsis.com/ar_detail/view.html?ar_id=NISX20150501_0013636036&cID=10104&pID=10100

[http://libertyherald.co.kr/article/view.php?&ss\[fc\]=4&bbs_id=libertyherald_news&doc_num=10100](http://libertyherald.co.kr/article/view.php?&ss[fc]=4&bbs_id=libertyherald_news&doc_num=10100)

We appreciate the help of **Laura Dahlke** and **Lisa Orme** for producing the signs used during the demonstrations!



At the United Nations: “**Kim Jong Eun is NOT Our Dear Leader**”

<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/photos/19900000000.html?cid=PYH20150501046200013&input=1196m>

Friday's Events

Paul Protic, Scott Flipse and colleagues with the **Congressional-Executive Commission on China** hosted a briefing to hear from the delegation on the current situation in China.

The **Defense Forum Foundation** hosted a Capitol Hill Forum entitled: “*Ending the Kim Regime’s Reign of Terror in North Korea: What Must Be Done*” Speakers included **Kim Young-II**, who read a declaration from the NKFW defector delegation, **Kwon Ryu-youn**, **Pastor Kang Chul Ho**, and **Kawasaki Eiko**.



<http://www.dailian.co.kr/news/view/503221/?sc=naver>

<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/video/2602000001.html?cid=MYH20150502001100038&input=1825m>

<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/bulletin/2015/05/02/0200000000AKR20150502007100071.HTML?input=1195m>

The **North Korea Freedom Coalition** organized a fun and inspiring **silent auction and dinner** at the Elks Lodge in Fairfax, Virginia, to raise support for the work of the North Korean defector organizations. Every defector had the opportunity to meet community activists and leaders and discuss their work during the dinner. Making presentations on behalf of the work of the defector NGOs were **Kim Seong Min, Grace Jo, Lee So-Yeon, and Choi Joeng-hun**. And we were inspired by wonderful singing of award winning opera singer, Juan Sim.

One of the biggest events of North Korea Freedom Week, the dinner included the following volunteers who made this a most memorable evening:

Professor Ok Cha Soh, Dinner Chair

Louise Van Horne, Silent Auction Chair

Sue Yoon Logan One line Sales & Website Coordination

Jason West: Digital Media Promotion and Silent Auction Assistant

Jay Kim: Graphic Artist and Dinner Program Coordinator

Dinner Committee Members: **Sekon Chong, Jinhye Jo, Jennifer Kim, Susan Park, Greg Forman, Peter Kang, Shawn McCarty, Yan Russell, Quinn Kwocke Nii**

Volunteers: **Min Baek, Linda Dye, Laura Dahlke, Courtney Doucet, Raymand Ha, Grace Kang, Ami Khademi, Damon Kim, Esther Kim, Si Young Kim, So Yeon Kim, Amanda Mortwedt Oh, Lisa Orme, Rosa Park, Nancy Purcell, Bonnie Ryason, David Tian, Jane Yoon**

Translators: **Esther Park, Raymond Ha, Damon Kim, Kang Seo, Min Baek, Bok Lee, Henry Song and Juan Sim**

Dinner Sponsors: Platinum: **Tim Haahs, Defense Forum Foundation, Anonymous**

Gold: **Family Radio, Law Office of Maury B. Watts, III**

Silver: **Louise Van Horne, John Bohman, Open Doors Presbyterian Church, Ok Cha Soh, Judy Yoo, Anonymous (two)**

Bronze: **Sekwon Chong, Jinhye Jo, Peter Kang, the Korean Association of Greater Washington, Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington, Church of Philippi, Shawn McCarty, In Koo Park, In Yong Park, Red, White & Blue, US-Korea Institute at SAIS**

http://www.koreadaily.com/news/read.asp?art_id=3356843



Saturday's Events

Andrew Hong and Emancipate North Koreans (ENOK) held a Unification of the Mind Conference to discuss the fulfillment of our dreams: what needs to be done to prepare for unification!

<http://www.voakorea.com/content/article/2749701.html>



PHOTO from VOA: Andrew Hong looks on as Grace Jo and Nancy Purcell Discuss Steps to Prepare for Unification!

North Korea Freedom Coalition organized a demonstration and protest at the Chinese Embassy calling for an end to the force repatriations of North Korean refugees by the government of China.



NKinUSA organized a concert hosted by the **Korean Church of Philippi** featuring **Kim Cheong Wool**, **David Tauler** and **Songwha Han**

Additional Articles on NKFW 2015

<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/view.htm?id=282995>

<http://www.voakorea.com/content/article/2747351.html>

http://www.koreadaily.com/news/read.asp?art_id=3340380

<http://www.newdaily.co.kr/news/article.html?no=246002>

<http://www.christiantoday.co.kr/view.htm?id=282932>

[http://libertyherald.co.kr/article/view.php?&ss\[fc\]=4&bbs_id=libertyherald_news&doc_num=10100](http://libertyherald.co.kr/article/view.php?&ss[fc]=4&bbs_id=libertyherald_news&doc_num=10100)

http://www.chogabje.com/board/view.asp?C_IDX=61155&C_CC=AZ

http://insidetheworld.net/article/view.php?bbs_id=news&doc_num=22621

<http://sports.chosun.com/news/utype.htm?id=201504210100238980016499&ServiceDate=20150420>

<http://www.ilbe.com/5847756343>

<http://www.bluetoday.net/news/articleView.html?idxno=8875>

Blessed NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK.

WE LOVE YOU!

