

Save North Korean Refugees Day 2018

Organized by the North Korea Freedom Coalition

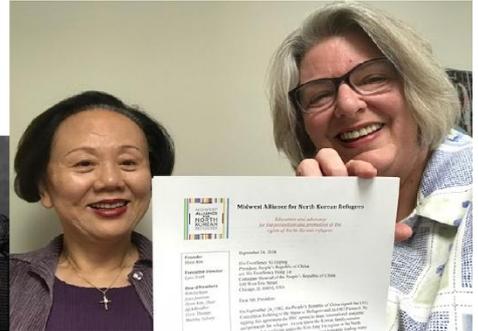
"Rescue those being led away to death"

Activists Worldwide Call on Xi Jinping: *Stop Repatriating North Koreans*

Report By Kang Seo



[Noord-Korea] Schrijfactie: Red Noord-Koreaanse vluchtelingen!
 21/09/2018



Despite the recent US-North Korea engagement and seemingly improving diplomatic engagements, the suffering that North Koreans face every day has continued unceasingly and for those trying to escape the situation is even worse, especially for those hiding in China. In order to raise awareness of their plight and to call for the Chinese government to stop the brutal repatriation policy, the North Korea Freedom Coalition organized the annual Save North Korean Refugees Day on September 24, 2018. This year petitions were delivered to the Embassies and Consulates of the People's Republic of China calling on Xi Jinping to *stop repatriating North Koreans to face torture, imprisonment and execution and work with the international community to safely resettle refugees*. North Korea Freedom Coalition chair, Suzanne Scholte, has pointed out, "Our goal for SNKRD is not necessarily to have a lot of people in one place but to have a lot of places where there are people taking action that is reported back to Beijing. It is so important that Xi Jinping and the PRC Regime recognize that the world has not forgotten their brutal crackdown on innocent men, women, and children that has led to so much death and despair." To give you a sense of the spirit of the day here are just two comments from coordinators on opposite ends of the Earth: Dr. Jones Chamangwana wrote: *"Malawi has responded to the call around the world "Save North Korean Refugees" and organized a spirited demonstration at the PRC embassy in Lilongwe; and Kris Han in New York City peacefully protested at the Chinese consulate when they refused the petition. She wrote "I am peacefully protesting, sitting down. This is America. The security team is on me. I will fight for freedom!"*

We are pleased to report that we had action in eleven countries and over 25 cities for this year's Save North Korean Refugees Day because of people taking action like Chamangwana and Han. During this year's North Korea Freedom Week, North Korean defectors held a press conference pleading to the Chinese government as well as South Korean government to release their family members who had been held in detention center in China so that they could be reunited. Some of them were actually held for more than two years. Later, all of them were released and made their way to South Korea, which shows that international pressure and awareness can bring about the change in this horrific situation.

Defectors often state, ***"China's "repatriation policy is a death sentence for North Koreans"***. The situation for North Korean refugees is worse than ever, as Kim Jong-un has ordered stricter

border control, fearing the people of North Korea would see the truth about the dictatorship. The repatriation of North Korean refugees is **a violation of international law**. The People's Republic of China signed the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol on September 24, 1982. Yet, the Chinese government refuses to allow the UN High Commissioner for Refugees any access to these refugees, but gives free reign to the DPRK's Ministry of State Security agents to hunt down refugees and to murder those who try to help them. Even Chinese citizens have been jailed and murdered for helping North Korean refugees.

The following is a report of action taken around the world for Save North Korean Refugees Day 2018. We deeply thank the folks in this report who participated in this important day.

1. AUSTRALIA



(Image by Ray Strange, Photo Source: The Australian <https://www.theaustralian.com.au>)

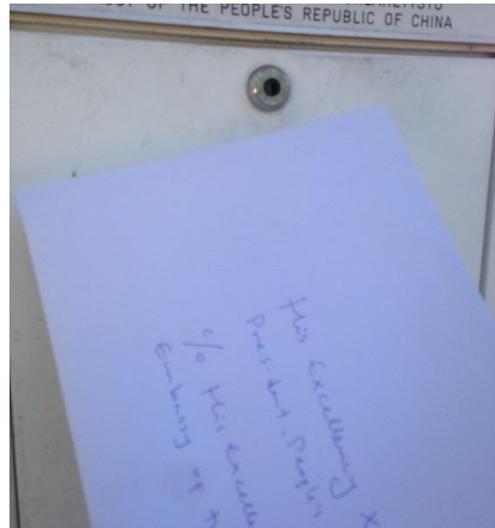
Anthony "Tony" Boyle reported that he delivered the letter to the Chinese Consulate in **Melbourne** and emailed it to the embassy in **Canberra**.

2. CANADA



Human rights activists in Canada led by Kyung B. Lee of HRNK Canada went to the Consulate General of PRC in **Toronto** to deliver the petition, but the personnel refused to accept it. So they mailed the letter to the Consulate and also, sent another petition under separate cover to the Embassy in **Ottawa**.

3. FINLAND



Mikko Heikonen in Helsinki visited the Chinese Embassy and dropped the petition at Embassy's mailbox.

4. JAPAN



Life Funds for North Korean Refugees – LFNKR

Recipient of Tokyo Bar Association Human Rights Award (2008)

Save North Korean Refugees Day 2018

LETTER OF PETITION

September 21, 2018

His Excellency Xi Jinping
President, People's Republic of China

c/o 大阪府大阪南西区鶴本町 3-9-2 中華人民共和國駐大阪総領事館

李天然総領事閣下

Dear Mr. President:

Our NGO, Life Funds for North Korean Refugees (LFNKR), is a Tokyo-based NGO founded in 1998. We are a humanitarian/human rights citizen group dedicated to helping North Korean refugees. LFNKR has so far helped more than 200 North Korean refugees reach safe destinations where they have been able to start new lives.

On September 24, 1982, the People's Republic of China signed the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. By signing this agreement the PRC agreed to share international concerns and protocols for refugees. As you know, the people in North Korea have been suffering unspeakable atrocities and crimes against humanity for so long, leading many to flee the country and become refugees. The UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK (COI) concluded in February 2014 in describing the Kim regime: "The gravity, scale and nature of these violations reveal a State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world."

We are appealing to you as China's leader with a request which we believe will help the suffering North Korean people. We ask you to consider the plight of those refugees coming into China from North Korea, to provide them safe passage to a third country, and to cease returning them to North Korea. Those returned under your current policies face certain torture, imprisonment and even public execution.

We respect China's concerns about its border, and the influx of refugees illegally crossing that border fleeing persecution and deprivation in North Korea. As more and more nations become aware of this difficult situation, it is important for these nations to work with your government to help resolve this refugee crisis in a way that fulfills the goals of the Convention and Protocol. Unlike any other refugee crisis in the world, North Korean refugees have a place to go for immediate resettlement as citizens of South Korea under

Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic of Korea Constitution. In addition to South Korea, other countries, including Japan, have willingly resettled these refugees.

North Korean refugees need not be a burden and concern for China. While The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) will help China quickly and safely resettle these refugees, we are also asking the Japanese government to do more to support their resettlement. We believe working together with the international community, and the UNHCR, China can resolve this crisis quickly, safely, and according to international law.

We look forward to your response to our requests and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hiroshi Kato, Executive Director
Life Funds for North Korean Refugees
www.northkoreanrefugees.com

Kato Hiroshi of Life Funds for North Korean Refugees sent out the petition letters on September 21, to all the seven Chinese diplomatic offices in Japan, including the Chinese embassy in Tokyo, Chinese Consulate in Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Nagoya, Niigata, Osaka, and Sapporo so that they will receive them by the Save North Korean Refugees Day on Sept. 24.

5. MALAWI



Rev Dr. Jones Chamangwana of Reach Out Malawi organized a demonstration, a prayer vigil with over 60 civil society organization leaders AND delivered the petition. Photos above are from his activities in front of Chinese Embassy at **Lilongwe**. Dr. Chamangwana wrote: *“Malawi has responded to the call around the world “Save North Korean Refugees Day Monday, September 24th to deliver a Petition to the Chinese Embassy, H.E. Liu Hongyang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Malawi. May the LORD save North Korea, May the LORD bless the people of North Korea with the blessings and peace they deserve!”*

6. MEXICO

#LOVE + PRAY + SIGN

REFUGIADOS NORCOREANOS



**¡NO MÁS REPATRIACIÓN DE
REFUGIADOS
NORCOREANOS!**



Activists in Mexico signed the letter and delivered it to Chinese Embassy located in **Mexico City**. NKFC member Teresa Ost who orchestrated this effort wrote: *“In Mexico City, on Monday, September 24, 2018, on the same day as others in the international community, Mexican citizens gathered signatures and submitted a petition to Xi Jinping at the China Embassy, pleading on behalf of North Korean refugees, for China to cease its systematic policy of repatriation of these refugees. We do this every year and China should listen to the voices of the citizens of many countries in the world which decry such practices.”*

7. NETHERLANDS

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Noord-Korea

Schrijfactie: Red Noord-Koreaanse vluchtelingen!

21/09/2018



U kent hen wel: Lili en Howick, de jonge asielzoekertjes die dreigden te worden teruggestuurd naar Armenië. Op het laatste nippertje werd uitzetting voorkomen. Veel minder bekend zijn de duizenden mensen die elk jaar uit Noord-Korea naar China vluchten. Zij krijgen geen pardon, maar worden direct teruggestuurd. Dat betekent marteling, gevangenschap of zelfs executie. **Kom nu in actie** voor deze vergeten vluchtelingen en **stuur op 24 september een brief** aan de Chinese ambassadeur!

De grens tussen Noord-Korea en China is één van de gevaarlijkste grenzen ter wereld. Xi Jinping heeft er samen met Kim Jong Un hard aan gewerkt om de grens tussen beide landen te sluiten, zodat Noord-Koreanen niet meer kunnen ontsnappen. Dat China 36 jaar geleden het internationale vluchtelingenverdrag ondertekende, lijkt geen verschil te maken. 'Hun beleid van gedwongen uitzettingen betekent de doodstraf voor Noord-Koreanen', zegt Suzanne Scholte, voorzitter van de North Korea Freedom Coalition.

Deze coalitie, waar ook Jubilee Campaign onderdeel van uitmaakt, komt al jaren in verzet tegen het onmenselijke beleid van China. Jaarlijks wordt de 'Save North Korean Refugees Day' georganiseerd, die dit keer op 24 september valt.

Doe mee!

U kunt meedoen door op maandag 24 september een brief te sturen naar de Chinese ambassade in Den Haag. Het heeft de voorkeur om dit via de post te doen, maar u kunt ook een e-mail versturen.

Via de post:

Print [DEZE VOORBEELDBRIEF](#) uit en zet onderaan de brief - onder de tekst maar boven de reeds ingevulde handtekeningen - uw naam en handtekening. Verstuur de brief naar het volgende adres:

Embassy of the People's Republic of China
Willem Lodewijklaan 10
2517JT Den Haag

Via de e-mail:

Kopieer de tekst van [DEZE VOORBEELDBRIEF](#) naar een nieuw e-mailbericht.

Zet onderaan de brief uw naam. Verzend de e-mail naar chinaemb_n@mfa.gov.cn.

Namens de Noord-Koreaanse vluchtelingen: bedankt!

Stichting Jubilee Campaign Nederland
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In Netherlands, Arienne Monstor and Mirjam of JCNL (Jubilee Campaign Netherlands) organized a public campaign asking the supporters to write a personal letter and send the appeal to the Chinese embassy in **The Hague**, either by e-mail or by mail. JCNL reported they wanted to "flood the Chinese Embassy with appeals" and reported up to 1000 received their request and many responded.

<https://www.jubileecampaign.online/single-post/2018/09/21/Schrijfactie-Red-Noord-Koreaanse-vluchtelingen>

[https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fjubileecampaignnl%2Fposts%2F2108698969142265& width=500](https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fjubileecampaignnl%2Fposts%2F2108698969142265&width=500)

8. SOUTH AFRICA

Atabongwoung Gallous of Africa Solidarity for Sahrawi organized a seminar at **Pretoria** titled 'Gruesome Crimes against Humanity in North Korea's Gulags and the Persecution of North Korean Defectors'. This is their second year to have a conference on North Korean issues to raise awareness in South Africa, and the fourth year they have delivered the petition to the Chinese Embassy on Save North Korean Refugees Day. Dr. Bright Nkrumah of Human Rights Advocate & Research Fellow at NRF/British Academy Chair in Political Theory and Atabongwoung Gallous of Living Stories & Memories presented the case of North Korea's political prison camp. The audience included human rights activists, college students from different universities in South Africa and several diplomats from embassies.



After the seminar, participants went to the Chinese Embassy to drop off the petition, and Mr. Gallous said *“two security guards at the embassy said we are not permitted to take photos. He pointed to the Camera upgrade and said everything is monitored so if we take any photo he surely will lose his job.”* But the PRC knew they were there for the North Korean refugees!!

9. REPUBLIC OF KOREA



Kim Tae Hoon of Hanbyun, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and Peaceful Unification, once again led efforts in Seoul. They are always raising their voices to save the lives of North Korean refugees and calling on China to end their illegal policy. Their most recent efforts led to the release of several North Korean family members who were allowed to go to the Republic of Korea after some had been detained in China for over a year. These positive results always make us hopeful. In addition, Aaron Peterson hand delivered a letter to the Chinese embassy in Seoul and emailed the Chinese Ambassador to the USA.

10. UNITED KINGDOM

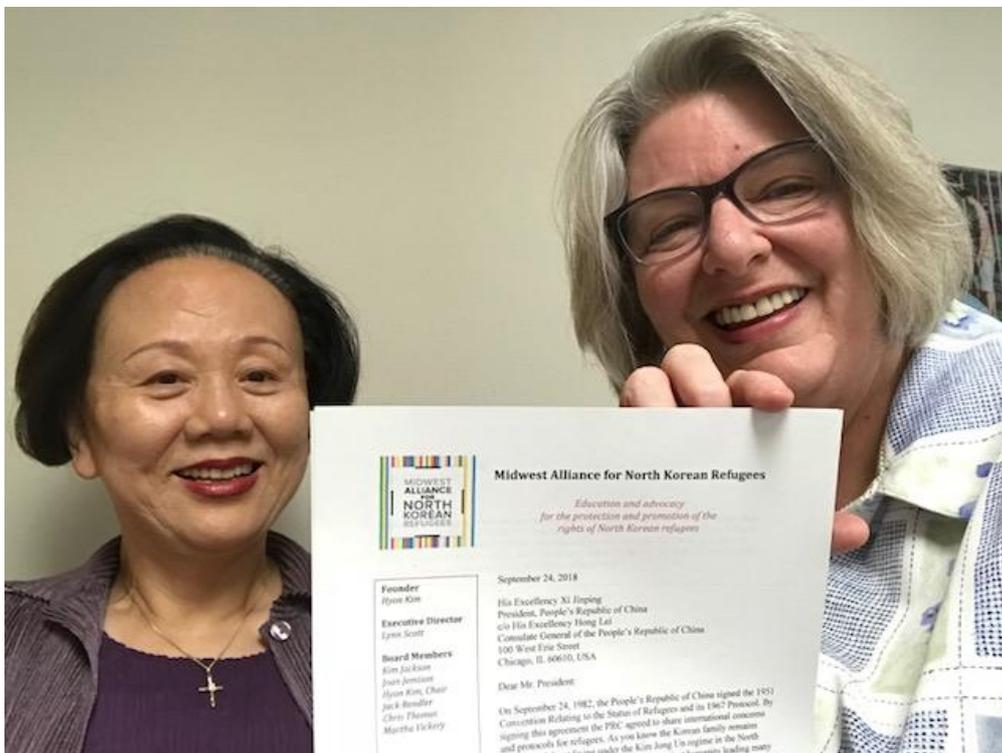


Benedict Rogers of East Asia Team Leader of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) delivered the petition to the Chinese Embassy in **London**. Ben has long led efforts to expose the human rights situation in North Korea and was the main person who spearheaded the establishment of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in the DPRK.

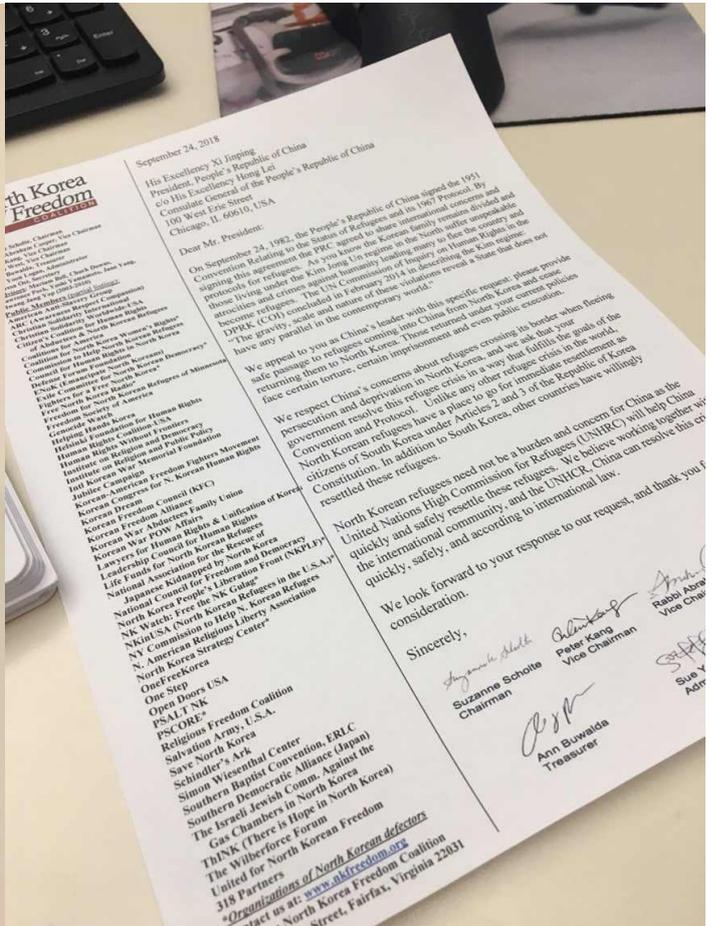
11. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CHICAGO

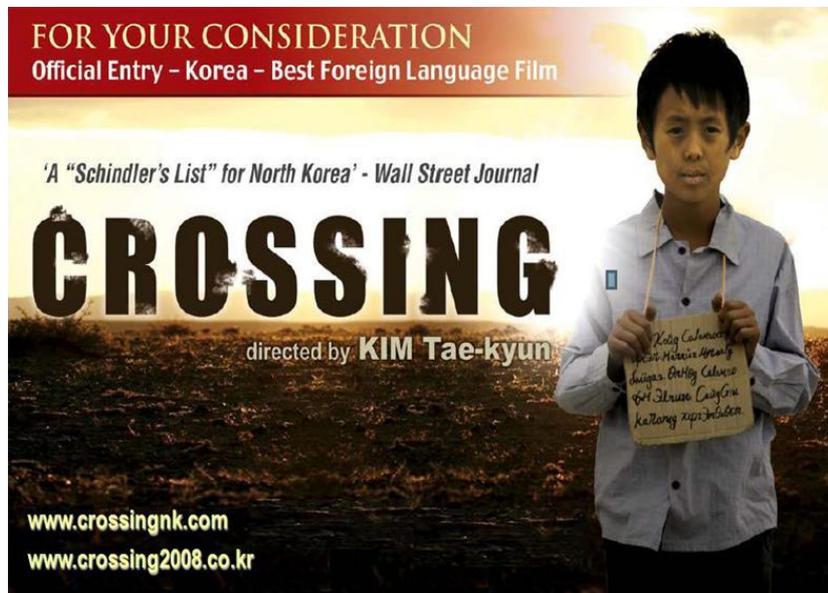
This year, three groups of activists from the Midwest participated by sending the petition to the Chinese Consulate in **Chicago** to cover their areas of Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan.



The Midwest Alliance for North Korean Refugees (Mid-ANKR) sent a letter by fax to the Chinese Consulate in Chicago. Mid-ANKR also invited others on their mailing list to send letters on their own and gave them the template and instructions. The picture above shows Hyon Kim, Founder and Board Chair, and Lynn Scott, Executive Director of Mid-ANKR with their letter.



Also, Mindy Eades hand delivered a letter to the Chicago PRC consulate photographed above.



Sally Jo Messersmith orchestrated a campaign among the activists in Michigan to send their letters to the Chicago PRC Consulate. She also organized a screening of the movie "Crossing", which is based on a true story of North Korean defectors, to help educate people in her area about the refugee situation. In addition she raised funds for the broadcast of Free North Korea Radio.

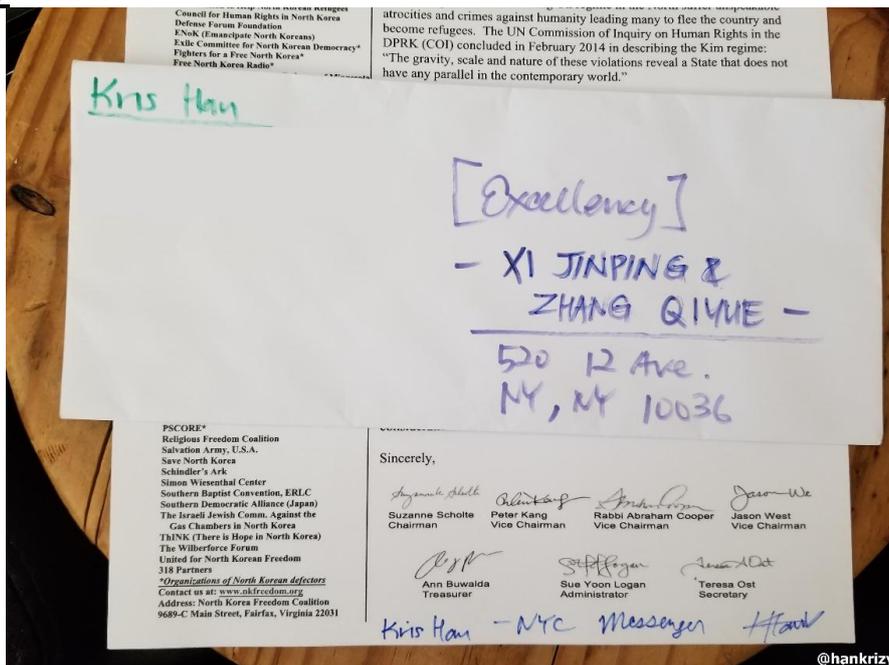
LOS ANGELES



In **Los Angeles**, North Korea Exile Government organized a rally in front of Chinese Consulate. This year, Pastor Kim Young-koo of NKIA led the prayer vigil, saying “we are here because we cannot stand China’s crime against humanity as they do not observe international law but send back North Korean refugees who cross the border because of starvation, extreme cold and massacre,” and “before we raise this issue to the international community, we should pray to God and ask for His help so that Kim Jong-un regime, the worst mass killer, totalitarian heretic regime in the world would collapse as soon as possible and the suffering 25 million North Korean people would be free.” Yoon Tae-yang, Chair of the Establishment Committee for North Korea Exile Government, also participated stating: “it is an inhumane policy that China sends back North Korean refugees knowing that they would be tortured or even executed once repatriated,” and “China is repatriating North Korean defectors, and because of that, heartbreaking things are happening now that North Korean are lured to sell their organs in exchange of getting help to defect.” Rand Miller from Irvine read the petition to Xi Jinping at the end of program, and delivered the letter to the Chinese Consulate, which was not accepted.

<http://ny.koreatimes.com/article/20180926/1205299>
http://www.christiantoday.us/sub_read.html?uid=25542

NEW YORK CITY



Kris Han went to the Chinese Consulate in **New York City** to deliver the petition. She waited in the line with others who were there to apply for the visa. When her turn came, she gave the petition to

the officer who refused to receive it. She wrote *"I am peacefully protesting, sitting down. This is America. The security team is on me. I will fight for freedom!"*

https://www.instagram.com/p/BoJqV_vBXSZ/?utm_source=ig_share_sheet&igshid=7splxfvpl0

WASHINGTON DC



In **Washington, D.C.**, the North Korea Freedom Coalition members demonstrated at the Chinese Television Station and at the Foggy Bottom metro station in downtown Washington, D.C., and then proceeded to the Embassy of the PRC. At the PRC Embassy, they delivered the petition to the Embassy and held a candlelight vigil where volunteers read aloud THE LIST of the names and incidences of when China forcibly repatriated North Koreans back to North Korea. Lauren from Liberty College who participated for the first time said at the VOA interview, “we are out here today in order to raise awareness so that other people can be aware of what’s happening and we can all fight for their lives can be saved.”

Peter Kang, a long-time member of NKFC said after reading the list of refugees repatriated back to North Korea, “there are so many names and horrible cases, and I don’t know whether I could sleep tonight.” For the DC events, American University student Ryan Davies dressed as the Grim Reaper with the mask of Xi Jinping, to dramatize how Xi’s actions lead North Korean refugees to death. Also, NGO leaders and concerned citizens including Wendy Wright of Christian Freedom International, Dr. Jai P. Ryu of One Korea Foundation, Kenji Sawai of Global Peace Foundation and Jason West from NKinUSA along with students from VA and DC area, Chester Gore and James Gore and Tory Blymier came to participate in the DC events. A special guest from Seoul, Liz Ihn, the Spokesperson of Korea Patriot Party and longtime North Korean human rights activist joined the Washington DC rally.

We sincerely appreciate Professor Ok Cha Soh, Alana Johnson, Minjung Kim, and Shawn McCarty who prayed for the events, and Deanna, Allie and Violet List for the special send off for DC events. We also thank Youna Oh for helping us update THE LIST.



Save North Korea Refugees Day 2018 VOA Korea news report:
<https://www.voakorea.com/a/4587110.html>



This year the image of Winnie the Pooh was used on some posters because he has been banned in China allegedly due to his resemblance to Xi Jinping. In China, the mere fact that people can relate the cartoon character to their leader is considered a challenge against the absolute authority of Xi, and thus Pooh has been banned.

**HEY HEY HO HO
XI JINPING HAS GOT TO KNOW, STOP KILLING NORTH KOREANS
HEY HEY , WHAT DO YOU SAY?HOW LONG WILL WE LOOK AWAY?
SAVE NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES!
-chants in front of Chinese Central TV Station (DC)**

For further information, visit www.nkfreedom.org