

Save North Korean Refugees Day Report 2021

Organized by the North Korea Freedom Coalition

Activists Worldwide Call on Xi Jinping:
Stop Repatriating North Koreans



Thank you to all of you who took part in the annual **Save North Korean Refugees Day** to appeal to Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China to stop his illegal, inhumane and cruel treatment of North Korean women, children and men. **This year we had North Korea Freedom Coalition members in 14 countries participate to successfully deliver letters of petition to Chinese embassies and consulates in 48 cities worldwide.** As September 24th is the anniversary of the date in 1982 when the People's Republic of China signed the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, we never want to stop raising the fact that China is violating its international treaty obligations whenever it forces a North Korean refugee back to North Korea to face certain torture, certain imprisonment and even public execution. ***All we are asking is for China to honor its international treaty obligations.***

This year's Save North Korean Refugees Day came at a most strategic time in the ongoing North Korean refugee crisis because COVID 19 has led North Korea to shut down its border. Thus, China has not been able to force North Korean Refugees back to their certain torture, imprisonment, and potential death in North Korea. We know that those who are detained today had to have had the resources to have been able to get out of North Korea. Thus, they fall into two main categories: these refugees are former Korean Worker Party members OR had family in South Korea that financed their escape. That makes them subject to execution if they are forced back. Furthermore, we hope that the recent missile tests by the Kim Jong Un regime will increase the possibility that China will allow safe passage to South Korea of the hundreds currently detained. We must be ever vigilant in raising our voices and help rescue those being led away to death (Proverbs 24:11) as joy will come to those who rise up against those who do evil (Psalm 94:19).

So, thank you to all those listed in this report who participated in Save North Korean Refugees Day 2021. Special thanks to **Teresa Ost** and **Johnny Park** for serving as our international coordinators and recruiting folks worldwide and preparing personalized letters of petition; to the **NKFC's A Team** here in Washington, D.C. who demonstrated at the CCTV, read aloud THE LIST and marched at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, to **Chelsea Hedquist of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice** for spreading the word on social media; and to our partners in Seoul **Hansaem Lee, Huh Kwang Il** and **Park Sun Young** that ensured a press conference and demonstration were held in this most important and strategic city.

Acta Non Verba,

Suzanne Scholte,

Chair, North Korea Freedom Coalition

Report prepared for you by Johnny Park, Human Rights Fellow, DFF

THANK YOU TO OUR COUNTRY AND CITY COORDINATORS FOR SNKRD 2021:

AUSTRALIA: Anthony Boyle

Anthony Boyle helped us deliver the NKFC appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Canberra** and the PRC General Consulates in **Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney.** **Anthony** commented: "Good luck with the campaign. You guys do great work."

BARBADOS: Anna Didier

Anna Didier participated in the Save North Korean Refugees Day 2021 from Barbados. She ensured delivery of the letter of appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Bridgetown**.

COLOMBIA: Amy Lorraine Cediel

Amy Lorraine Cediel helped us deliver the letter of appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Bogota** and the PRC General Consulate in **Barranquilla**.

FINLAND: Mikko Heikkonen

Mikko Heikkonen, on behalf of the NKFC and North Korean refugees, delivered the NKFC appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Helsinki**.

FRANCE: Mark and Denise Ost

Mark and Denis Ost participated in this year's SNKRD in France and delivered the NKFC appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Paris** and the PRC General Consulates in **Marseille, Lyon, Saint-Denis, Papeete, and Strasbourg**.



Helsinki, Finland

IRAN: Omid Jafarzadeh

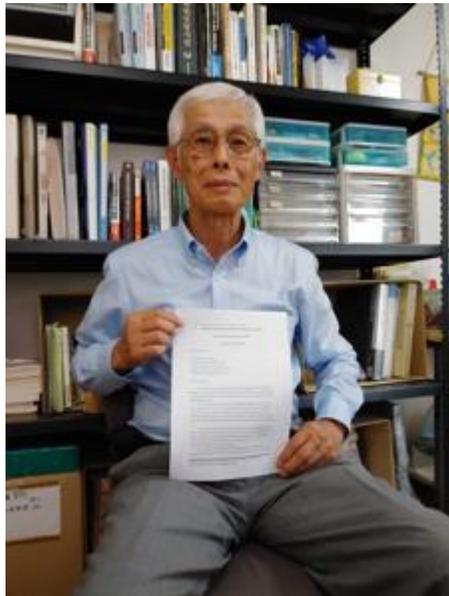
Omid Jafarzadeh volunteered to deliver the NKFC appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Tehran**.

JAPAN: Kato Hiroshi and Shioe Okamura of Life Funds for North Korean Refugees



Life Funds for North Korean Refugees – LFNKR

Kato Hiroshi and Shioe Okamura of Life Funds for North Korean Refugees successfully delivered their appeals from their NGO to the PRC Embassy in **Tokyo** and to the PRC General Consulates in **Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Nagoya, Niigata, Osaka, and Sapporo**.



Tokyo, Japan

MEXICO: Joy Ost

Joy Ost helped us deliver the appeal to the PRC embassy in **Mexico City** and the PRC General Consulate in **Tijuana**.

NEW ZEALAND: Anthony Boyle

Not only did **Anthony Boyle** help us deliver the NKFC appeal to the PRC Embassy and General Consulates in Australia, but he also electronically delivered the appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Wellington, New Zealand**, and as well as the PRC General Consulate in **Auckland**.

PERU: Agent A

The participant from Peru who shall remain anonymous helped us with delivery of the NKFC appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Lima**.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Hansaem Lee, North Korean Citizen of Republic of Korea, and Committee for the Democratization of North Korea

Seoul: **Hansaem Lee** helped us coordinate action in **Seoul** and delivered the appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Seoul** and the PRC General Consulates in **Pusan, Gwangju, and Jeju**. The events in **Seoul** included a press conference and a demonstration. Here's Hansaem's message to the members of the NKFC: "Thank you for your courageous activities. As you know, the Moon government really hates speaking out on North Korea human rights issues. The police prevented us from going to the Chinese Embassy and there were numerous restrictions on what we could do because of COVID-19. However, surprisingly, many foreign media came to the press conference and chairman **Huh Kwang-il** and **Park Sun-young** also joined us. We were able to finish the press conference very well." Their events were reported by The Epoch Times Korea, Radio Free Asia Korea, VOA Korea at the ensuing links: https://kr.theepochtimes.com/韓·美·북한인권단체-中·탈북민-강제복송-중단해_596669.html; https://www.rfa.org/korean/in_focus/human_rights_defector/ne-le-09242021082138.html; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDvtX0EEkY4> (12:08-).

Also, another member of the NKFC in **Seoul**, **Aaron Peterson**, delivered the appeal to the PRC Embassy in Seoul. **Aaron** wanted to share his message with everyone: "For this year's SNKRD, I hand-delivered a letter to the Chinese embassy in Seoul, calling on them to end their policy of forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees and to follow the recommendations of the U.N. Commission of Inquiry.



Seoul, South Korea



Seoul, South Korea



Seoul, South Korea

SOUTH AFRICA: Gallous Asong Atabongwong

Gallous Asong Atabongwong once again helped us deliver the appeal to the PRC Embassy in **Pretoria** and the General Consulates in **Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg**.

UNITED KINGDOM: Jihyun Park of Connect North Korea

North Korean escapee **Jihyun Park** joined us this year again to deliver the appeal to the PRC Embassy in **London** and the General Consulates in **Belfast, Edinburgh, and Manchester**. As a victim of forceful repatriation, she was able to personally attest to the horrors that face defectors when they are forced back to North Korea as she herself was imprisoned. Further, this year, she started her own campaign garnering support from the people of the United Kingdom.

Below is her message to the PRC Embassy and the General Consulates: "Dear Mr. President Xi Jinping. 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 Korean family remains divided and those living under the Kim Jong Un regime in the North suffer unspeakable atrocities and crimes against humanity, 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 UK people strongly demand that the Chinese government, China, is a member of the United Nations and it needs to grant refugee status to all North Korea refugees under the United Nations Convention relating to the status of refugees. Please stop sending North Korean Refugees back to North Korea.”

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Chicago: The NKFC letter of petition was successfully delivered by a NKFC member who has to remain anonymous due to their work. The participant who relentlessly pray for the liberation of North Korea shared one powerful message that she felt during her prayer. “Let my people go.”



Chicago

Los Angeles: Bro. Adalberto Santiago joined us from LA to deliver the appeal to the PRC General Consulate in **Los Angeles**. He would like to share his message with the members of the NKFC: “Brethren at the NKFC, [I’m] So glad to be able to help our brothers and sisters. So glad to be able to share with you to see North Korea free one day praising and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ freely! Father God, we pray in Jesus’s name, set North Korea free from communism! “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! (Luke 2:14)” “Without any bloodshed, without any military conflict, but by the power of God!”

Traverse City: Members of the NKFC from **Michigan** participated in this year’s SNKRD in **Traverse City, Michigan**. They held a prayer outreach for North Korean Refugees at the Korean War memorial.

New York: Michelle Kim of PSALTNK ensured that the PRC General Consulate in **New York** receives the NKFC appeal.

San Francisco: Mi-young Kim of Echo Korea delivered the appeal to the PRC General Consulate in **San Francisco**.

Washington, DC: The North Korea Freedom Coalition members led efforts in **Washington DC** that included a demonstration at the Chinese Central TV Station (CCTV) and



Traverse City

a Candlelight Vigil at the Chinese Embassy. At the CCTV, NKFC members held signs, urging China to stop forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees back to North Korea with some chants, "Hey hey ho ho Xi Jinping has got to know, stop killing North Koreans. Hey Hey ho ho Xi Jinping has got to know, save North Korean refugees."

At the Candlelight Vigil, NKFC members delivered the appeal to the PRC Embassy and **Don Choi, Alana Johnson, Monica Choi, Jerry Bogdan, Annie An, Wendy Wright, Steve Kim, Tori Blymier, Antonio Cho, Euni Evensen, and Suzanne Scholte** took turns reading THE LIST in Korean and English of all the incidences that are known of refugees from North Korea being forcefully repatriated by China to North Korea. After reading THE LIST, the participants held a slow march in front of the PRC Embassy, singing Amazing Grace. Special thanks to **Dr. Ok Cha Soh** for leading prayers at the event. We are also very grateful to **Rev. Lawrence Lee, Euni Evensen, and** many others for taking videos and photographs for us.



New York



Washington, D.C.



Washington, D.C.



Washington, D.C.



Thank you to the NKFC A Team: Euni Evensen for turning folks out and recruiting a driver AND a van, Professor Ok Cha Soh for leading songs, Alana Johnson for leading prayers and bringing Jenny Bogdan, Annie An, Daniel Cho for powerful chants, Pastor Samuel Kim for being our driver, Pastor Lee Joung-in and his family, Peter Kang, Antonio Cho, Paul Cho (our Xi Jinping “grim reaper” this year); Wendy Wright, Don and Monica Choi, Grace Koh and her family, Rev Lawrence Lee, Victoria Blymier, Steve Kim, Hyunseong Lee, and last but not least Johnny Park who helped prepare this report for you.

Some sample media coverage of DC SNKRD:

<https://www.chosun.com/international/us/2020/09/25/BM2U5WJOZ5BYJNNFQ3KLHQSUAU/>

<https://www.frcblog.com/2021/09/china-must-stop-sending-north-korean-defectors-back-grave-danger/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/voices/china-must-stop-sending-north-korean-defectors-back.html>

The Lantos Foundation coverage of DC SNKRD:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LantosFndn/status/1441428208184815622>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheLantosFoundation/posts/4370572076355173>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CUNrdihl3aZ/>

Power Station coverage of DC SNKRD:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KakQRIKLLyY> AND AT

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_J9E3tqarQ

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