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**Voices From Inside – Voice of the People**

**Free North Korea Radio’s Interviews of North Korean citizens**

Recordings made by Free North Korea Radio (all available on the website, [www.fnkradio.com](http://www.fnkradio.com)) include interviews with North Korean citizens complaining about the harsh and bleak living conditions inside North Korea; citizens lamenting the chaos resulting from the currency revaluation; interview with a citizen about the current state of the food distribution system; citizens complaining about Kim Jong-il.

These interviews with North Korean citizens inside the country provide a rare glimpse into the harsh realities of life under Kim Jong-il.

The transcript below is from an interview with a North Korean defector who was caught trying to enter the South Korean Consulate in Shenyang, China.

All SIX broadcasts of ‘Voice of People’ can be found here: <http://www.fnkradio.com/board.php?board=qqq820>

Hello, this is your emcee for “Voice of the People”, North Korean defector Kim Seong Min. This is already our sixth broadcast of interviews with North Korean citizens, but today we will air something different than what we’ve offered to you in the past.

On the 4th of this month, we at Free North Korea Radio reported to you on the unfortunate news of the 10 North Korean defectors who were caught trying to enter the South Korean Consulate in Shenyang, China. Fortunately, due to the South Korean media outlets that reported on this issue and worried regarding the defectors’ safety and fears of being repatriated to North Korea, the people of South Korea have begun to show interest as well.

Now that there is interest, the only thing left to do is to prevent their forced repatriation. These 10 are defectors who face immediate repatriation if the South Korean government doesn’t help, and if the Chinese government doesn’t act in a humanitarian manner… These are people who have vowed that they would rather choose death than get dragged back to North Korea and end up in a political prison camp.

Also, as they desire for their plight to be made known more and more through our stations broadcasts, they have appealed to us that through the South Korean people’s interest and consideration, that at least forced repatriation back to North Korea will be stopped. I want to believe that that will happen. I pray and pray again that these brothers and sisters of ours from the North will be able to withstand their current difficulties and be able to come to South Korea.

As we pray together for the 10, we will hear the story of one of the defectors, Mr. Lee Seong Chul (alias; age 38), who was caught by the Chinese security forces as he and the group attempted to make their way into the South Korean Consulate in Shenyang through the front gates at 2PM on the 28th of last month.

***NK Defector:*** *“….There’s nothing like that, and they don’t allow us to use the telephone.”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“Then, how are you able to make calls?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“We paid money….”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“How much do you pay to make a phone call?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“I paid 200 won. That is, if there’s no benefit to them* [the guards], *they won’t allow us to use the phone. So they let us use the phone very, very cautiously…*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“How are you meals taken care of?”*

***NK Defector:*** *They give us rice with cabbage soup…*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“What’s happening in terms of the investigation?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Investigation… Another outside investigative unit has jurisdiction over us.”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“The investigative unit of the security apparatus…”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Yes, they come and ask our names, they ask us this and that… why we came to China, we tell them life is hard so that’s we came….”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“You were arrested in a crackdown while attempting to enter into the consulate, so won’t you be charged with violating laws?”*

***NK Defector****: “Yes, but they [the Chinese police] handed over our case to the border area security people.”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“The case of the crackdown of your attempt to enter the consulate will be transferred to the state security bureau?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Yes. When did we enter China? Where did we go? What did we do? Did we do anything bad since we entered China? They were asking these questions.”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“You’ve said that there are 7 women with you? Will those 7 be repatriated together?*

***NK Defector:*** *“We are all going together… They are sending us all at once. Not sending one or two at a time…”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“Ah – all 10 people… So, if repatriation to North Korea does occur now…”*

***NK Defector:*** *“If we are repatriated it is better to die. So, if there is no way to leave here by Tuesday… I don’t know about the women.”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“Tuesday, what date is that?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Today is the 5th, so if it’s not the 8th or 9th it’ll be the 10th.”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“So March 9th, or the 10th, on the 10th is when you’ll be repatriated?”*

***NK Defector****: “Yes… If there’s no news by then… Me and three of us North Koreans here are prepared. To commit suicide…”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“What will happen if you are repatriated?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“If we go we’ll be dealt with by the state security department [bo-wi-bu]… And then afterwards they’ll send us to the political prison camps.”****FNKR Reporter:*** *“To the political prison camps?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Yes, going in there means death. They’ll make us work the rest of our lives there to die…”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“Those who are there…. That’s what will happen, right?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Everyone all just in the prison… This detention center has no jurisdiction. This detention center, simply put, is like a storage room… They hold us safely here, and then some person in charge or agent comes and picks whoever they want to take. Just like a storage room. So if we were talking about it in North Korea…*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“So where you are is much like the North Korean state security holding room?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Yes, in that a person in charge comes in and picks whoever needs to be interrogation… I understand little bit of Chinese and overheard two times the Chinese speaking. Every morning there is a meeting. When these two came up after finishing their meeting, I overheard them speak of ‘these North Koreans’, ‘sending them back next Tuesday, Wednesday’… From overhearing them I found out that when the Chinese government captures North Koreans and repatriate them, the North Korean Embassy pays $1,500 to the Chinese.’*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“$1,500 is given to the Chinese government?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Yes, that they are in effect buying us back, to have us sent back.”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“Is that what the Chinese security forces are saying?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“What I’m trying to say is that if they exert that kind of strength and there is no benefit to the government would there be a reason for them to act like that? But, because there is a benefit and there is a government to government relationship that is why they act like this…*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“Do you think there are a lot of North Korean defectors that have been caught by the Shenyang police?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Yes, I think it was a month after I came… Some female defector was transferred out. She was working and was caught, along with her son. Son….*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“With her son?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Yes, the son was 14 so he couldn’t be incarcerated in the detention center… Because he was a minor… So he was in the police cell for three days, and then they picked him out first… Because he was a kid, they couldn’t keep him in the police cell for long either.”*

***FNKR Reporter:*** *“So if you are all repatriated you will all commit suicide, that’s the resolve?”*

***NK Defector:*** *“Regarding that I don’t even need to repeat myself. We are prepared now. First it’s just a matter of eating. Poison and whatnot… The doctors here give our some sort of heart medication, a few pills a day. But instead of taking them daily… I’ve saved and put aside about 250 pills.”*

To our fellow brothers and sisters in the North, we do not want to hide the fact that the road to freedom is fraught with dangers and a road filled with hardships. However, the road to freedom is one that should not be given up because that road is long and hard. It is a revolution to drastically oppose Kim Jong Il’s regime, but it is also another kind of revolution to seek freedom and escape from North Korea… with that, please defect from North Korea.

To our listeners in the South, today if we cannot save the 10 North Korean defectors being held in Shenyang, if we pray for them, and we cannot prevent their forced repatriation… Please remember that unification will be that much harder to accomplish.

Until next time, goodbye.

안녕하십니까. “인민의 소리”진행을 맡은 탈북자 김성민입니다. 벌써 6회째 북조선 인민들의 목소리를 프로그램에 담아 청취자 여러분들께 전해드리고 있는데요, 오늘은 조금 다른 이야기를 전해드려야 할 것 같습니다.   
  
지난 4일, 본 방송국에서는 중국 심양시에 위치한 한국영사관에 진입하려다가 공안에 붙잡힌 열 명 탈북자들의 안타까운 사연을 보도한바 있습니다. 다행스럽게도 탈북자들의 신변을 걱정하고, 저들의 강제북송을 우려하는 남조선 신문과 방송들이 이러한 문제를 이슈화 함으로 국민들의 관심도 모아지게 되었습니다.   
  
이제 관심이 모아졌으니 저들의 강제북송을 막아내는 일만 남았습니다. 한국정부의 도움이 없다면, 그리고 중국정부의 인도적 행동이 수반되지 않는다면, 당장 북으로 끌려가야 하는 열 명의 탈북자들...그들은 ‘북으로 끌려가 수용소로 갈 바에는 차라리 죽음을 택하겠다’고 호소하고 있습니다.   
  
또, 본 방송을 통해 저들의 사연이 속속들이 알려지기를 바란다면서 ‘남조선 인민들의 관심과 배려로 강제북송만큼은 막아 달라’고 호소하고 있습니다. 그렇게 되리라고 믿고 싶습니다. 반듯이 자유를 찾아 나선 우리의 북녘형제들이 지금의 어려움을 이겨내고 따뜻한 남쪽나라로 오게 되기를 기원하고 또 기원합니다.   
  
함께 기도하면서, 지난달 28일 오후 2시, 심양의 한국영사관 정문을 통해 진입하려다 중국공안에 붙잡힌 북한주민 이성철(가명. 38)씨의 이야기를 들어보도록 하겠습니다.   
  
***탈북자;*** *...그런거 없구 전화를 못하게 합니다.****기 자;*** *그러니까 전화 하는거 어떤 방법으로 해요?****탈북자;*** *돈을 주고서리....****기 자;*** *돈을 얼마 주고 해요?****탈북자;*** *저는 200원 주었습니다. 그러니깐 자기 리속 없으면은 전화를 못하게 한단 말입니다. 기니까 가만히 가만히 전화하게 합니다.****기 자;*** *그럼 식사는 어떻게 합니까?****탈북자;*** *밥은 이밥에다가 배추 국을 줍니다.****기 자;*** *그리구 조사과정은 어떻게 해요 지금?****탈북자;*** *조사는... 외사처에서 우리를 관리하게 합니다.****기 자;*** *공안 외사처에서...****탈북자;*** *예, 공안외사처에서, 예, 그사람들 와가지구 이름, 뭐 이런거 물어봐 가지구... 왜 중국에 왔는가고, 생활이 바빠서 이렇게 왔다구서리...****기 자;*** *영사관에 진입하다가 단속되가지고 이렇게 왔으니까 조항에 들어갈거 아닙니까?****탈북자;*** *예 그런데 가네, 그 문건을 변방대 갸네들한테 다 넘겼더란 말입니다.****기 자;*** *공안에 진입하려다가 단속한 일을요?****탈북자;*** *예. 중국에 언제 들어왔는가? 어디어디 갔었는가? 뭘 했는가? 이때까지...중국에서 나쁜 짓 한 거 없는가? 물어보더란 말입니다.****기 자;*** *지금 현재 탈북자 여자들이 7명 있다고 했지요? 그 7명두 같이 북송되는 것입니까?****탈북자;*** *같이 몽땅 다 같이 간단말입니다. 한 번에 뽑는단 말입니다. 한명, 두명 뽑는게 아니구...****기 자;*** *아~ 10명을... 그러니깐 이제 북송을 하게 된다면...****탈북자;*** *북송하면 우리는 죽는게 낫지. 그러니깐 화요일 날까지 나가는 방법이 없으면은...여자들은 모르겠습니다.****기 자;*** *화요일 날 이면 며칠입니까?****탈북자;*** *오늘 5일이니까 8일, 9일 날 아니면 10일 됩니다.****기 자;*** *3월 9일 날 아니면 10일 그러니깐 10일 날 북송이 되겠네요?****탈북자;*** *네...그때까지 뭐 소식이 없으면... 내하구 우리 여기 조선사람 3사람은 각오되여 있습니다. 저레 자살하자구....****기 자;*** *그러다가 만약 북송이 된다면요?****탈북자;*** *가면은 저레 보위부에 들어가 가지구 취급 받구... 그담 저레 그저 정치범 관리소에 보낼겁니다.****기 자;*** *정치범관리소에?****탈북자;*** *네 여기 들어가면은 종신이란 말입니다. 일생동안 거기서 일하다가 죽어라고...****기 자;*** *거기 있는 분들... 다 그렇겠죠?****탈북자;*** *몽땅 저레 그저 깜방안에서 야...이 구류소는 이런 권한이 없단말입니다. 이 구류소는 훨히(쉽게) 말해서 창고와 같단 말입니다. 안전하게 보관했다가 이 담당...취급이 와가지구 뽑아 간단 말입니다. 창고나 같습니다. 그니깐 조선에서 말 하문...****기 자;*** *북한에서 말하는 보안서 대기실이나 갔다?****탈북자;*** *예, 담당이 와가지고 뽑아가는 식으로... 두 번이나 말 하는거 내가 중국말 좀 알아 듣는단 말입니다. 아침마다 조회를 한단 말입니다. 회의 끝나고 올라올 때 둘이 말하는거 들어보니깐 <베이초센> 이 북조선 사람들을 <싼 리바이 얼>뭐, 다음주 화요일, 수요일, 그때 몽땅 <쵠씅>한다고 말입니다. 거 말하는거 보니깐 예 한사람을 이렇게 이 중국 정부에서 잡아 가지구 조선에 넘겨주는게 우리나라 조선정부 대사관에서 1500달라를 준다고 그럽디다.****기 자;*** *1500달라를 중국정부에 준다구?****탈북자;*** *네~ 잡은 족족 우린데 보내 달라고...이렇게 사간답니다.****기 자;*** *거 중국 공안에서 말하는 거예요?****탈북자;*** *그러니까 기(를)쓰구 잡아서 그런 리익이 없이면 정부에서 기(를)쓰구 잡을 필요 없잼까? 근데 리속이 있구 정부적으로 이런게 있으니까 이렇게 막 이러지...****기 자;*** *심양 경찰소 쪽으로 잡혀나간 탈북자들이 많은거 같아요?****탈북자;*** *예, 내 들어와서 한 달이 됐는가... 어떤 여자 탈북자가 하나 먼저 이관되여 나갔습니다. 저기 서탑에서 일하다가 아들이 같이 잡혔단 말입니다. 아들...****기 자;*** *아들하고?****탈북자;*** *네, 아들은 14살인데 구류소에 넣지 못하니까... 미성년이기 때문에...그러니까 파출소에 3일 동안 있다가 먼저 가를 뽑더란 말입니다. 그 아(이)땜에...쪼꼬만... 아(이)니까나 파출소에서두 오래 못 둔단 말입니다.****기 자;*** *아~만약 북송이 된다면 본인들은 모두 자살하겠다, 그런 결심이예요?****탈북자;*** *그거는 뭐 두말할 그렇거 없습니다. 저레 지금 다 준비되여 있으니까. 우선 먹으면 끝이니까. 약이나 뭐 다 받아가지구서리... 원래 이 의사들이 심장병 약 이라구 서리 하루에 몇 알씩 준단 말입니다. 근데 그거 먹지 않구... 지금 다 몽땅 내가 달라구 해서리 한 250알 정도 지금 건사하고 있습니다.*  
북녘에 계시는 동포여러분, 자유를 찾는 길이 이토록 살 떨리고 험난한 길이라는 것을 숨기고 싶지 않습니다. 하지만, 길이 멀고 험하다고 포기할 수 없는 것 또한 ‘자유의 길’입니다. 김정일 정권을 반대하여 과감히 일어나는 것도 혁명이지만, 자유를 찾아 북한을 탈출하는 것 역시 또 다른 혁명이라는 확신을 가지고...탈북하십시오.   
  
남녘의 청취자 여러분, 오늘 우리가 심양에 붙잡혀 있는 열 명의 탈북자를 구하지 못한다면, 저들을 위하여 기도하고, 저들의 강제북송을 막아내지 못한다면...통일은 그만큼 멀어진다는 사실을 기억해 주시기 바랍니다.   
  
그럼 다음 이 시간에 다시 찾아뵙겠습니다. 안녕히 계십시오.