

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights

2019 Activity Report

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The Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR) aims to protect the lives of North Koreans and defend their human rights. The ultimate goal is to create an environment for peaceful North and South reunification and a harmonious national community.

NKHR endeavors to accomplish these goals in the following ways:

- Collects and publicizes facts and other information on the current North Korean human rights situation, particularly regarding political prison camps.
- Advises international organizations to prosecute and condemn the North Korean human rights situation, particularly with respect to the political prison camps.
- Protects the lives and human rights of North Korean refugees.
- Assists North Korean resettlers living in South Korea by focusing on youth education.
- Coordinates efforts with other human rights organizations to fulfill the objectives mentioned above.

NKHR has been the recipient of numerous awards.

The John Diefenbaker Defender of Human Rights and Freedom Award was presented on March 10, 2011, to the Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights. The Diefenbaker Award honors individuals or groups who show exceptional courage and leadership in defending human rights and freedoms and was named after Canada's former prime minister, foreign affairs minister and defender of human rights John Diefenbaker (1895–1979).



Foreword



Last year marked the 60th anniversary of the first displacement ship's departure from Japan to North Korea with “returnees” on board. Deceived by North Korean propaganda, a total of 93,340 ethnic Koreans in Japan (Zainichi Koreans) left for North Korea until the “Paradise on Earth” repatriation project ended in 1984. Commemorating the anniversary, it was hard not to think about the miserable lives of “returnees” in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). It is meaningful that the Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR) had interviewed families of the disappeared “returnees” to prepare a report on the mass repatriation and subsequent enforced disappearances of “returnees.” The report will be a valuable resource condemning human right situations in the DPRK.

In 2019, there was also a lamentable incident where the South Korean government forcibly repatriated two North Korean sailors who sought asylum after arriving at a South Korean harbor in a wooden vessel. The deportation directly violates the domestic laws of the Republic of Korea and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, since it is evident that the deported would face severe punishment in the DPRK. It was a natural step for the NKHR to issue a joint statement with 21 other human rights NGOs to condemn the South Korean government's unlawful deportation.

NKHR Director General Youngja Kim, Chosun Ilbo journalist Bo-sik Choi and a local activist “Superman” joined a rescue mission in Laos and Thailand to raise awareness of the difficult journey that North Korean refugees have to go through in escaping North Korea, passing through China, and crossing borders of South-East Asian countries to reach South Korea. Journalist Choi interviewed a defecting North Korean couple in Laos and featured their stories in the newspaper.

Last year was also a heartbreaking year for the NKHR. Benjamin Hyun Yoon, Founder of NKHR who had been guiding the North Korean human rights movement, passed away due to age-related illness in June 2019. Commemorating Founder Yoon devoted his whole life to protect and promote North Korean human rights with his noble spirit. NKHR will continuously commit ourselves to defend North Korean human rights.

January 2020

Bum-jin Park

Chairman

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

Advocacy & Campaigns

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights has been at the forefront of international advocacy for North Korean human rights since 1996. Through organizing international conferences and other campaigns around the world, NKHR has exposed human rights violations in North Korea and brought victims to the attention of media, foreign governments, international NGOs and the United Nations.

NKHR regularly advocates at the UN in Geneva and New York. Over the years, we have garnered international support for UN resolutions addressing North Korea's human rights situation, the establishment of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, and the creation of the UN Commission of Inquiry for the DPRK and the UN Panel of Experts on Accountability. We have briefed experts from the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child before those committees' periodic reviews of the North Korean government. We have also prepared information and conducted briefings before cycles of North Korea's Universal Periodic Review. NKHR also advocates for South Korean nationals who were abducted to North Korea and submits individual cases to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

In addition to our UN advocacy, NKHR works to develop a network of NGOs in South East Asia, Africa and South America committed to improving the North Korean human rights situation. We are a member of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances, and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network.

Advocacy Activities in Preparation for North Korea's Third Cycle of Universal Periodic Review

The third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the DPRK was held in Geneva on May 9, 2019. In preparation of the UPR, NKHR sent a joint NGO submission to the UN with Conectas Human Rights. It contains information on the situation of women's rights in the DPRK and assesses the implementation of recommendations accepted by the North Korean government during the previous UPR sessions. The submission also includes recommendations for the third cycle of the UPR regarding activities of the Ministry of State Security (MSS/secret police) and MSS-operated pre-trial detention centers, lack of women's rights awareness and civil society organizations, and economic violence against women.

NKHR's officers also joined the briefings for Embassies in Seoul and gave brief presentations to diplomatic representatives on the implementation of recommendations on women's human rights issues by North Korea in the last two cycles of UPR and the reality on the ground as revealed through NKHR's

Joanna Hosaniak,
Deputy Director
General of NKHR,
briefing on North
Korean Women's rights
in the UPR pre-session
in Geneva



newest report on discrimination against women in North Korea issued in October 2018. Joanna Hosaniak, Deputy Director General of NKHR also participated in the UPR pre-session held in Geneva in April 2019 and conducted advocacy with the states.

Submission of 15 Cases to the UN Working Group against Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)

NKHR submitted one revised and 14 new enforced disappearance cases to the WGEID after interviewing families of South Korean abductees and disappeared Zainichi Koreans (ethnic Koreans in Japan) who had been displaced to North Korea between the 1950s and 1970s. Ten cases were related to the post-Korean War North Korean abduction of the South Korean citizens. The remaining five new cases are about the enforced disappearance of the displaced Zainichi Koreans. One revised case was submitted as there was a new finding regarding the whereabouts of an abductee whose case was previously submitted in 2017 while interviewing a former North Korean secret agent. Since 2004, NKHR has submitted a total 98 cases to the WGEID.



Researching Systemic Displacement and Enforced Disappearances of Zainichi Koreans

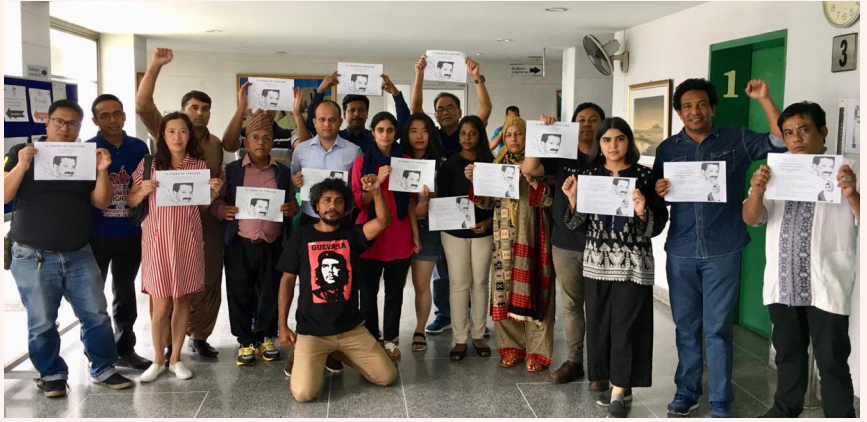
In 2019, NKHR staff continued to investigate the systemic engagement of the North Korean government in organizing “Paradise on Earth” repatriation project, which displaced 93,340 people in the Zainichi Korean (ethnic Koreans in Japan) community to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) from 1959 to 1984, and following enforced disappearances perpetrated against the ‘returnees’ by the North Korean government. In May during a trip to Japan, NKHR officers visited the Japanese Red Cross Society and met with the Deputy Director General of the International Department Operations Sector to collect more details about the organization’s involvement in the mass immigration to the DPRK. NKHR also has interviewed a total of 19 people and collected 102 enforced disappearance cases of the ‘returnees.’ The interviewees include six family members of disappeared ‘returnees,’ and they reported 17 enforced disappearance cases. Seven ‘returnees’ or their descendants who escaped from the DPRK and six other relevant witnesses gave testimonies about the ‘Paradise on Earth’ movement and provided information about the fate of 85 enforced disappearance cases of ‘returnees’ of which they had direct knowledge. Witnesses include Chongryon officers or former guards and detainees of political prison camps. The relevant investigation will soon finish, and the report will be printed in 2020.

Meeting with Deputy
Director General
of the International
Department
Operations Sector
at the Japanese Red
Cross Society

NKHR Activities with the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

As a member of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), NKHR joins with members from NGOs of other Asian nations to work for justice for those who have been forcibly separated from their families by enforced government disappearances. NKHR participated in AFAD’s module development workshop and campaign staff meeting in Bangkok held

AFAD's Module development workshop and campaign staff meeting in Bangkok



AFAD's Training of Trainers in Kuala Lumpur



in July 2019. Attendees shared the various human rights crises currently experienced by member countries and worked together to develop plans to overcome the problems. NKHR also joined the AFAD's Training of Trainers which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from October 28 to November 1. Attendees practiced how to conduct training based on the education module developed during the last workshop in Bangkok held in July.

Joint Advocacy to Protect North Korean Human Rights

On November 7, the South Korean government deported two North Korean fishermen, who crossed the maritime border in the East Sea via the truce village of Panmunjom, suspecting that the two fugitives were criminals who murdered 16 of their fellow sailors on a squid fishing boat while operating in the East Sea before escaping. On the 11th, 21 domestic and international groups including NKHR made a joint statement to condemn the South Korean government and its hasty decision to repatriate the North Koreans which violated international and domestic laws including Article 3 of the UN Convention against Torture. The statement also urges the DPRK to disclose the whereabouts and future plans of the deported men.

As the UN Security Council discussion on North Korean human rights was canceled, NKHR also cooperated with 67 organizations in 22 countries and sent a joint letter to the South Korean President Moon on December 16. The participating organizations expressed concerns about his disengagement from the situation of human rights in North Korea.



Facebook postings
informing enforced
disappearances and
state-sponsored
abductions by North
Korea

NKHR Facebook Campaign to Commemorate Victims of Enforced Disappearances Committed by the DPRK

With the support of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), NKHR created a series of posts on its Facebook page that spread awareness against enforced disappearances and state-sponsored abductions by North Korea for the International Week of the Disappeared (May 26 ~ 31, 2019) and International Day of the Disappeared (August 30).

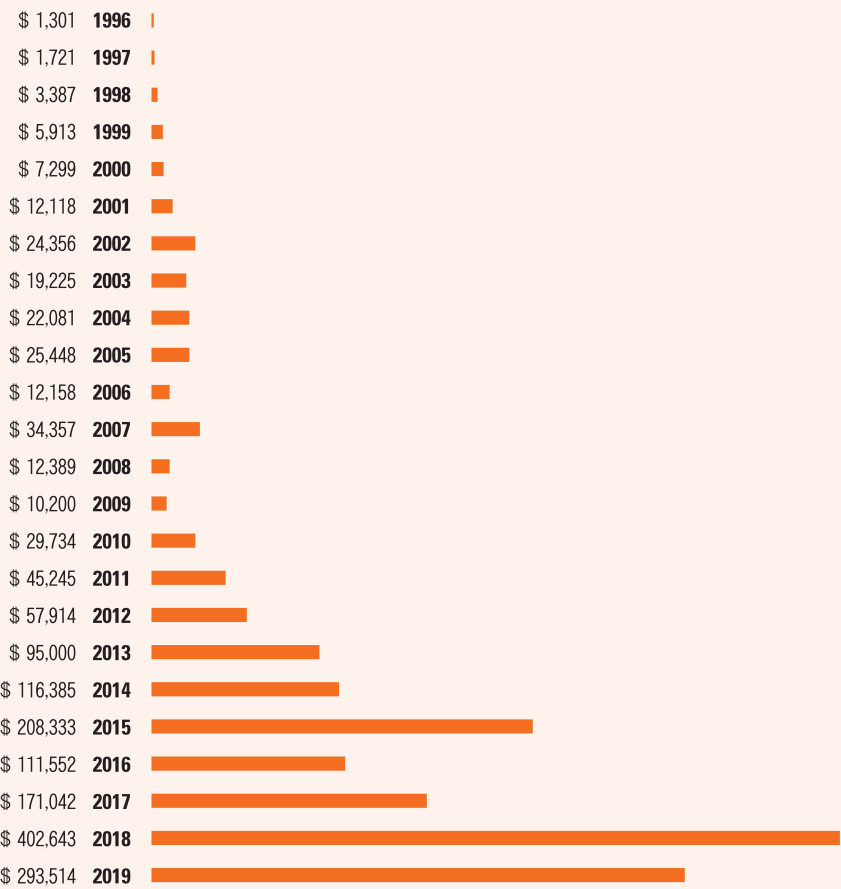
The campaign included a series of infographics describing North Korean abductions after the Korean War, a case of enforced disappearance of Korean native Hwang Cheol's father, and Zainichi Koreans who were displaced to North Korea between 1959 and 1984. Infographics were posted daily throughout the duration of the event, which lasted for 5 days. These infographics helped to inform citizens about the topic of enforced disappearances by the North Korean government, which do not usually did not gain much attention from local or international media outlets.

Relief Activities for North Korean Refugees

In aiding North Korean refugees, NKHR prioritizes those who are especially in need, such as women, children, and those who may face death upon forcible return to North Korea. NKHR provides refugees with shelter and a secure route to South Korea through a third country such as Thailand. To date, NKHR has directly assisted a total of 1,153 North Korean refugees in coming to South Korea. As of December 2019, a total of 33,523 North Koreans have re-settled in South Korea. In addition, NKHR assists the daily lives of North Korean refugees in China through our local partners.

In 2019, NKHR directly assisted 133 refugees (89 women, 14 men, 16 teenagers, 12 children and two infants). NKHR spent over \$ 293,514 in relief activities for North Korean refugees. We also provide humanitarian assistance to North Koreans in third countries. We maintain a special fund, the “Sharing Hope Fund,” where individuals can donate money to help North Koreans who are still waiting in third countries for safe passage to South Korea.

Annual Assistance Funds



Adjustment Programs for North Korean Resettlers in South Korea

With a firm belief that education illuminates the path to a better life, NKHR provides educational assistance to North Korean children and youth to help them more easily transition into South Korean society. A large portion of North Korean re-settlers consist of youth who were forced to discontinue their education in North Korea due to the food crisis and other difficulties in the school system. When North Koreans arrive in the South, they face tremendous challenges in adjusting to the highly competitive and advanced South Korean schooling system. These differences can hinder their successful integration into school life and, in many cases, can lead them to discontinue their education, making it difficult to find employment in South Korea. NKHR's programs aim to reduce the dropout rate and assist North Korean youth in fulfilling their academic potential. Our programs include education on human rights and civic engagement.

Annual Number of North Koreans Arriving in South Korea

~1998	947	1999	148	2000	312
2001	583	2002	1,142	2003	1,285
2004	1,898	2005	1,384	2006	2,028
2007	2,554	2008	2,803	2009	2,914
2010	2,402	2011	2,706	2012	1,502
2013	1,514	2014	1,396	2015	1,276
2016	1,418	2017	1,127	2018	1,137
2019	1,047	Total	33,523		

* Figures represent information updated by the Ministry of Unification as of December 2019

Hangyoreh Winter School for North Korean Youth

Since 2001, NKHR annually runs a three-week Hangyoreh School for North Korean youth during regular school breaks with a focus on basic academic instruction and training on life in a free society. NKHR's Hangyoreh School aims to alleviate academic difficulties, foster creativity, and hone logical thinking skills of participating students. Over 799 North Korean students have participated in the classes.

33 North Korean students joined the 2019 Hangyoreh Winter School held from January 2 to 19. The Participating students lived side-by-side with volunteer teachers and NKHR officers and took intense courses on Korean writing, math, and English. In the evening, one-on-one tutoring sessions were prepared to provide more tailored education to individual students.

Students participating
in English recreation
class



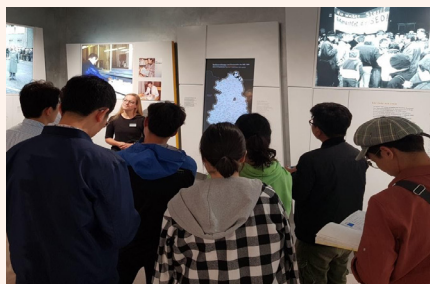
The school curriculum also included extensive programs during which students learned about and actively discussed various issues, such as the impact of humans on the environment, or impact of using positive speech. There were special education sessions such as art and physical classes. Participating students also enjoyed English recreation classes which helped them feel comfortable with English while playing word games and singing American pop songs. Drone classes also led positive responses. After learning the future possibility in the drone industry and practicing how to fly a drone, some students became interested in pursuing their careers in the field. They actively consulted with the drone expert about the requirements of education and certification to pursue the career in the future.

Weekly Saturday Visits to the Hanawon Government Complex

NKHR has been conducting special programs at Hanawon every Saturday since 1999. The program offers North Korean children and teenagers English language and math classes, as well as various recreational activities in the afternoon. This year, our weekly Saturday visits to the Ansong campus were from 10 am – 3 pm, with two hours dedicated to Math and English, and two hours dedicated to sports, art, and other special classes. The programs are attended by an average of 30 teenage students each week and 15 children fortnightly. Classes are organized by two members of the NKHR staff and four volunteers.

U-Bridge Leadership Program in Netherland and Germany

U-Bridge: Learning Transitional Justice was held in Seoul throughout May and



Visit to Stasi Archive
and Berlin Wall
Museum



Visit to
Zeitgeschichtliches
Forum in Leipzig



Visit to International
Criminal Court and
International Court of
Justice/ Peace Palace

June, then as a field training program in July. Five graduate school students from North Korea and two graduate students from South Korea participated in the program. The group visited historical sites in the Netherlands such as Yi Jun Peace Museum and Peace Palace. They met legal experts at the International Criminal Court and learnt about the international legal system, crimes against international law and universal jurisdiction. The field experience in Germany covered visits to various international organizations and meetings with experts from the field of democratic transition, unification of Germany and institutions dealing currently with transitional education. The participants also went to sites of memory such as Marienborn Memorial (Gedenkstätte Marienborn), which was the border of East and West Germany from 1945 to 1989. Individual participants either wrote essays or created artwork after the program.

Monthly Book-reading Club for University Students from South and North Korea

Monthly Book-reading Club meetings are held for university students who are

from either North or South Korea. The club is an opportunity for students to read literature that was not allowed in North Korea and to discuss many current socio-political issues with their South Korean counterparts. It has been an opportunity not only to overcome difficulties they may experience in Korean college life such as doing group tasks and presentations, but also to develop skills to think logically and present one’s opinion to others clearly. Furthermore, university students from both sides can improve their understanding of the culture and philosophy of north and south. This year, 23 students participated in the club and engaged in various activities.

Date	Book Title or Activity	Contents of Discussion/Activities
March 30	Orientation	
April 27	<i>I Am Malala</i>	Womens’ rights and education
May 25	<i>I Want to Be a ‘Bad’ Disabled Person</i>	Rights of persons with disabilities
June 29	<i>Views towards Reunification</i>	Korean reunification and possible conflicts that can be caused by cultural differences between two Koreas
June 30	<i>Right, before I Die</i>	How to live a meaningful life?
July 24 - 26	<i>Chunhyangjeon, Twisting the Caste System</i> Two days history camp	Visiting museum and historic places in Jeonju and Namwon to experience the Korean traditional culture
August 31	<i>I Am Not a Baby Carrier</i>	Womens’ Rights, marriage and childbirth
September 28	<i>Silent Spring</i>	Environment and upcycling
October 11	<i>See, Speak and Read</i>	Self-expression and writing
October 26	<i>Death of a Dog Who Was Never Disliked by Anyone</i> A visit to KARA (Korea Animal Rights Advocates)	Animal Rights
November 16	<i>A Store Selling Time</i> Watching a play	Meaning and value of time

Visit to Han-ok Village
in Jeonju





Visit to Korea
Traditional Culture
Center in Jeonju



Club meeting in May
and October

“Do Dream” University Entrance and Career Mentorship Program

The “Do Dream” career training program for North Korean resettlers was launched in April 2013 with the aim to assist students in overcoming difficulties in adjusting to South Korean society and pursuing meaningful and successful careers. The program offers on-the-job experience, demonstrates a variety of professional options, introduces labor rights, and conducts university campus visits. The program widens participating students’ view of South Korean society through various cultural activities. In addition, the students are counselled on preparing successful applications to universities and on university entrance interviews.

In 2019, over 40 students participated in the “Do Dream” program and also received one-on-one academic and career counselling in regards to their individual plans for the future. This year, the seven students who participated in the program have been accepted to prestigious Korean universities: two students to Seoul National University, two students to Ewha Womans University, one student to Sogang University, and two students to Handong Global University with majors such as engineering, social sciences, nursing, and business. These seven students will matriculate in 2020.

As part of the program, students participated in the following activities:

March 23 Orientation and discussion about cultural relativism in societies and limits that people tend to have about accepting cultural differences after watching *The Green Book*

April 20 Exploring career series: visit to the KBS broadcasting station

May 11 Yonsei University visit and conversation with current students

June 8 Watching the documentary *A Beautiful Mind* and discussing the topic of discrimination

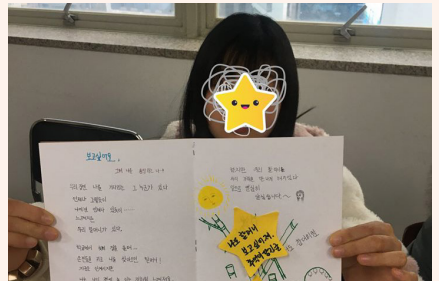
Essay proof-reading
and campus visit



Watching musical
'Christmas Cantata'



Exploring Career
Series: Meeting with
the author and essay
writing



Visit to War and
Women's Human
Rights Museum



and how people's views are affected by people and society

July 20 Exploring career series: meeting with a professional chef

August 24 and 25 Overnight trip to Gyeongju

October 12 Watching Spirited Away, visiting the War and Women's Human Rights Museum and discussing how to resolve such a deep-rooted conflict between South Korea and Japan

November 30 Exploring career series: meeting with an author of A Thousand Miles to Freedom, My Escape from North Korea and practicing essay writings

December 21 Watching the Christmas Cantata and discussing plans for the 2020 Program

Scholarship Program

NKHR has been offering monthly scholarships to North Korean students in order to support and encourage their commitment to education. In 2019, 15 college students and one high school student received a scholarship each month. A special scholarship was awarded to Park Euna who started her graduate program in 2019.

1 on 1 Mentoring Program

The Education Team at NKHR organizes a number of adjustment programs which aim to enhance educational opportunities for, and instill confidence in young North Korean resettlers. Among these initiatives is the 1:1 mentorship program, which aids students in bridging educational gaps, particularly in the areas of English, Math, and Korean composition. This year-long program was instituted in March and has so far facilitated individualized sessions for 19 students who meet at least once a week with their mentors until the end of the year.



Domestic Educational and Academic Programs

“Tong Tong” Talk Concerts

As a way to connect with the younger generation, NKHR has continued its “Tong Tong Concert” series—specifically for South Korean high school and university students, most of whom have very little knowledge about North Korea and little opportunity to meet and talk directly with North Korean resettlers in South Korea. NKHR's Tong Tong Concerts are talk shows featuring music and discussions with North Korean resettlers to raise awareness of North Korean human rights and unification issues.

These shows inform attendees about the reality of life in North Korea and impress upon young high school students the kinds of difficulties North Koreans must overcome even after they arrive in South Korea. It is essential that North and South Koreans communicate with each other to narrow the cultural gap between the two Koreas and prepare for unification. From September to December, NKHR held five concerts at middle and high schools, universities, and a corporation, reaching around 900 participants.

May 13: Korea Christian University - 50 students

May 20: Korea Christian University - 50 students

Tong Tong Concert at
KC University





Tong Tong Concerts
at Wooam Elementary
School



Tong Tong Concerts at
Songun Middle School

September 16: Songun Middle School - 600 students

September 24: Wooam Elementary School - 100 students

October 20: Gyeongang High School - 10 members of Model United Nations Club

December 19: Hana Academy Seoul - 40 students and members of the Human Rights Club

December 24: Kangdong High School - 40 members of the Student Government

Other Activities



Commemoration of Benjamin Hyun Yoon

Benjamin Hyun Yoon, Founder and Honorary Chairman of NKHR, passed away due to illness and age on June 3, 2019 in his 90th year. He worked tirelessly to promote human rights and shine a light of hope on North Korea. Commemorating his devotion, his funeral was co-organized by 21 NGOs on North Korean human rights including NKHR. A memorial ceremony was held at Seoul National University Hospital Funeral Center.



NKHR Staff Joining North Korean Refugee Rescue Mission

From October 25 to 28, two NKHR officers including the Director General Youngja Kim and Kwanghee Han joined a mission to rescue North Korean refugees in a southeast Asian country under the guidance of a local activist. Bo-sik Choi, a journalist at Chosun Ilbo also participated in the rescue mission and glimpsed what North Koreans go through firsthand on escape routes.

Learning about their heartbreaking experiences in the North and their tough journeys to reach a safe country, the participating NKHR officers could truly understand the value of freedom. In light of this, NKHR officers continuously commit themselves to defend North Korean human rights and

assist more North Koreans to safely reach South Korea. Journalist Choi interviewed a defecting North Korean couple in Laos and featured their stories in the newspaper. Many readers, touched by the love story, raised around \$20,000USD.

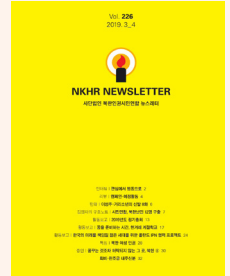
Panel on North Korea at the Memory Studies Association's Conference

Deputy Director of NKHR, Dr. Joanna Hosaniak and Dr. Sarah Son of the Transitional Justice Working Group co-organized and gave presentations at the panel, titled "Recording and remembering North Korea's past for future accountability and memorialization." The panel was included in the annual Conference of the Memory Studies Association held at Complutense University in Madrid, Spain from June 24 to June 29, 2019. The panel included three presentations, titled "Transnational truth-telling and justice seeking strategies to address crimes against humanity in North Korea", "Mapping memories of crimes against humanity in North Korea" and "Memories of North Korean Sites of Memory: Politics, Time and Vibrant Natures". The objective of the panel was to introduce for the first time to the academic community worldwide what has been done thus far to record and remember North Korea's totalitarian past in order to prepare for the future justice-seeking, truth-telling and documentation efforts.

Publications

Bimonthly North Korean human rights newsletter

NKHR's bimonthly newsletter, published in Korean, provides the public with information about NKHR and the North Korean human rights situation. Each issue includes a foreword by NKHR, news on NKHR's activities, media reports, a public forum and opinion page, and testimonies from North Korean resettlers. In 2019, NKHR distributed 9,600 copies of the newsletter.



FNN e-mail newsletter

Once every three months, the major activities of NKHR are compiled in English and sent to roughly 600 different NGOs, UN agencies, media outlets, embassies, research institutes, and individual subscribers. The newsletter includes news on NKHR's activities, testimonies from North Koreans, and announcements of important upcoming events.

Website: www.nkhumanrights.or.kr

NKHR's website, offered in both Korean and English, provides information about NKHR, our activities, and our upcoming events. It also features news on North Korean human rights and refugee issues.

Social media:

NKHR is available on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nkhumanrights

Twitter: www.twitter.com/nkhumanrights

NKHR in the media:

Korean civic group and Polish research institute unveil 'North Korean Archives Project', Arirang TV News, January 31, 2019

New Research on N. Korea's Interaction with European Secret Police During Korean War, the Voice of America, February 5, 2019

Where We Work

Where do we work?

- Relief projects for North Korean refugees and field missions
- NKHR's domestic programs for North Korean refugees re-settled in South Korea
- No access for human rights groups



NKHR's Mission Mandate

On December 10, 1948 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the Universal declaration of Human Rights, which proclaimed freedom of press, freedom of religion, freedom from fear and freedom from poverty as universal rights for all human beings. The General Assembly at the time advised people of all member states to put in all efforts to realize these aims.

Over the past four decades, Koreans on the southern half of the peninsula have endeavored to achieve these universal freedoms. With pride, therefore, we were able to advocate freedom and human rights for all. The international community has acknowledged our achievements in improving the human rights situation in South Korea, though it may not be yet equal with that of more developed countries. Nevertheless, under the scrutiny of a free press, South Korea maintains hope for further improvements in our human rights situation.

It is now time for us to turn our eyes to the North. It is well known that the four universal freedoms are nonexistent there. Let's take a look at the situation in North Korea. Can there be freedom of press when all media organizations are scrutinized under the guidance of the Korean Workers Party? Can there be freedom of religion when prisoners are killed for praying before meals? Can there be freedom from fear when a foreigner is sentenced to prison for questioning the Kim Il Sung worship of North Korea? Can there be freedom from poverty, knowing that without any foreign aid, thousands will die of hunger?

North Korea experts around the world expect that North Korea's control over its people will only strengthen. It is inevitable. When a society destabilizes and the economy weakens, political prisoners and prisoners in labor camps are the first to experience harsher persecution. They are imprisoned merely for expressing opinions different from those of the ruling power, or for having tried to leave North Korea. Amnesty International estimates that this group numbers over 150,000.

By studying North Korea's concept of human rights, we can infer how North Korea treats its political prisoners. An article in the official party's newspaper Rodong Shinmun, stated that 'We do not hide class in our concept of human rights. Those who oppose socialism and impure factionists who violate the interests of the people do not deserve freedom and human rights. The paper also labeled political prisoners as anti-revolutionary factionists, saying that they are the true traitors of the people's interests: violators, betrayers, and degrading human scraps. These statements make it clear that political and labor prisoners will continue to be oppressed.

We plan to cooperate with human rights organizations around the world to publicize the human rights atrocities in North Korea. I believe this will lead our 20 million North Korean brothers and sisters to gain the freedom that we enjoy today and will hasten the day of our peaceful, democratic unification.

Finally, the mandate of our mission is as follows: With regard to the main composition of this movement, it will be a citizens' movement. With regard to its goals, it will create a solid foundation for the reunification of North and South Korea. With regard to its direction, it will be an international movement. With regard to its history, it shall be a peaceful movement.

May 1996,

First Founding Members Meeting



Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

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Transform Your Love for Humans into Action!

The dire human rights conditions in North Korea and the plight of North Korean refugees have been revealed by vigorous activities of many NGOs, and various movements have been initiated to solve these problems. However, we must not forget there are more than 100,000 North Korean people suffering in the inhumane institution of political prison camps, living every day in fear of death.

Also, we must not overlook the fact that there are more North Korean women and children who are crossing the border at the risk of death to escape hunger and mistreatment. Those who make it to South Korea in search of freedom constitute only a small portion of those escaping the country, and they continue to face great difficulties even in resettlement. Today, the problem of North Korean human rights and refugees is not only the problem of our nation but also that of the entire human race. We hope that your love for fellow human beings can lead you to take courageous actions to end human misery by working with human rights NGOs.

You can be our supporter!

We invite you to join in our movement to protect the life and human rights of the North Korean people for peaceful and democratic reunification.

From overseas, send your contribution to:

1. Account name: Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)
2. Bank name: Korea Exchange Bank, Seodaemun Branch
3. SWIFT BIC: KOEXKRSE
4. Account number: 071-22-01342-6

After you have made the bank transaction, please contact us by phone/fax/e-mail and give us your personal information and the amount of the donation.

You can also become a one-time or monthly contributor via PayPal or by setting up automatic monthly payments from your South Korean bank account. Please visit our website or call for more info.

NKHR accounts:

Kookmin: 813-01-0235-310

Nonghyup: 032-01-173694

KEB: 071-22-01342-6

Woori: 142-097009-01-201

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