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**Citizens' Alliance for
North Korean Human Rights
Activity Report**

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 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.

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NKHR has been the recipient of numerous awards including the National Endowment for Democracy, Democracy Award (2003), The John Diefenbaker Defender of Human Rights and Freedom Award (2011) and more.



The John Diefenbaker Defender of Human Rights and Freedom Award was presented on March 10, 2011, to 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



The North Korean regime has long relied on repressive rule and stringent control over the inflow of outside information in order to maintain its dictatorship. Despite persistent calls by the international community—led by the United Nations—for the regime to immediately cease its “widespread, grave, and systematic crimes against humanity,” little has changed.

Why is that the case? It is because guaranteeing human rights and basic freedoms to its people would undermine the very foundation of its regime’s survival. Deprived of access to external information and forced to live in ignorance, North Koreans are made to believe they live in a socialist paradise.

One day, the political order in China may shift, weakening its support for the North Korean regime. Even if peaceful unification were to be achieved at that point, sustained psychological disparity between the youth of the two Koreas would pose serious challenges to integration.

Fortunately, the rapid advancement of human science and technology offers hope. In an attempt to isolate their people from outside information, North Korea and China have constructed double-layered barbed wire fences along their 1,300-kilometer shared border, strictly regulating the movement of people and goods. Though balloon campaigns launched from South Korea may seem rudimentary, the transmission of signals, visual content, and satellite information can increasingly reach the North Korean population. As these technologies advance, they will outpace the regime’s capacity for control, showering truth upon the people long deprived of it and hastening the steps toward unification that they themselves desire. For that day, we must continue to press forward with determination.

In pursuit of that path, Citizens’ Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR) carried out the following activities in 2024. Our newly published report, *Made in China*, exposed the reality of goods produced through forced labor in North Korean prison camps being disguised as Chinese products and distributed across global supply chains. Even under increasingly harsh conditions that make escape from North Korea more difficult, NKHR rescued eight North Korean refugees over the course of 2024. Our educational and scholarship programs for North Korean defectors settled in South Korea, as well as our initiatives to identify and support vulnerable defectors, are also progressing steadily. Lastly, our public awareness campaign “Phurora Mapharam (Breeze, Southerly Wind)” —aimed at raising recognition of the seriousness of North Korea’s human rights situation—was held twelve times at middle schools, high schools, and universities across the country.

On the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Citizens’ Alliance for North Korean Human Rights, the North Korean human rights movement now stands at a critical crossroads. Yet, just as each step we have taken in the past has contributed to meaningful changes, both large and small, within the realm of North Korean human rights, we remain steadfast in our commitment to walk this path—one step at a time—as we always have.

April 2024
Suk-Woo Kim
Chairman
Citizens’ Alliance for North Korean Human

Advocacy & Campaigns

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR) has been at the forefront of international advocacy for North Korean human rights since 1996. By 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 the 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 Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (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 the 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 Southeast 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 (AFAD), the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, and a global coalition organized by Human Rights First.

Crimes Against Humanity in the DPRK's International Supply Chain

NKHR continues to engage in various campaign and advocacy activities to support international advocacy efforts for accountability measures on crimes against humanity connected to the supply chain and international trade of North Korea and their connections to military and security forces.



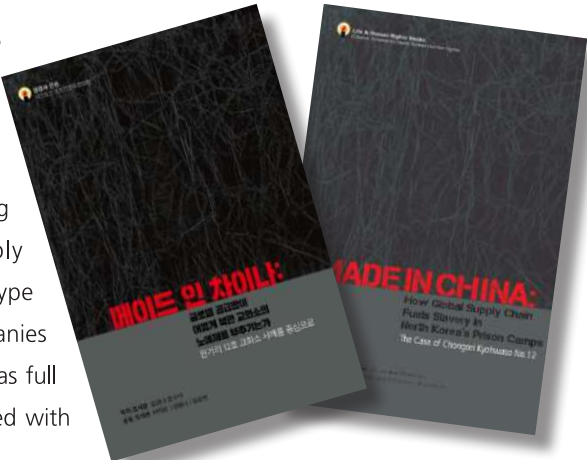
Press Conference for the publication of 'Made in China'

Report Release and Press Briefing: Made in China, How Global Supply Chain Fuels Slavery in DPRK's Prison Camps

NKHR held a press briefing on November 29, 2024, at the Korea Press Center in Seoul to release its investigative report, "Made in China: How Global Supply Chain Fuels Slavery in North Korea's Prison Camps." The report highlights the systematic and widespread crimes against humanity in North Korean detention facilities, focusing on Chongori Kyohwaso No.12, where products - such as wigs, eyelashes and garments - manufactured through enslavement of detainees, are falsely labeled as "Made in China" and distributed globally. North Korean detention centers get an unlimited supply of free labor force through refoulement of North Korean nationals in the Chinese territory. Chinese authorities target, hunt and forcefully repatriate North Koreans regardless of their possible qualification as trafficking victims or refugees. Given that both the Chinese government and enterprises profit from drastically reduced production costs, while the North Korean regime uses these gains to sustain its operations and fund military expansion, the systemic nature of supplying labor for exploitation purposes constitutes a state-sponsored human trafficking and/or slave trade.

Key recommendations made by NKHR, which were also presented to the UN Special Rapporteur, UN Office in Seoul, and the states are related to appointment of the UN Independent Panel of Experts investigating North Korea's military and security forces profiting from crimes against humanity attached to supply chain, business and military networks, Magnitsky-type of human rights sanctions on individuals and companies involved in crimes documented in the report, as well as full EU investigation on "Made in China" goods produced with modern forms of slavery.

Key outcomes included increased media coverage; the report was covered by 12 major media outlets. An investigative documentary series "Report on North Korean



'Made in China' Report

Human Rights: Expendable Human Beings” by the YTN (Yonhap) TV News Team, which aired on December 1, 8, and 15, 2024, achieved high viewership ratings on television and surpassed a total of 550,000 views on YouTube. The documentary by YTN gave victims the platform to share deeply personal and specific stories, creating a focused and impactful narrative. Its broadcast during prime time on national television offered a sense of validation and comfort to many survivors who endured the horrors of Chongori prison.

Meeting with the Congressional-Executive Commission on China

On January 22, 2024, Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak and Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee had a meeting with representatives from the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and discussed points of future collaboration. NKHR addressed the issue of forcible repatriation of North Korean escapees from China and subsequent enslavement and torture in North Korean detention facilities to produce export goods. Pointing out that security, economy and human rights violations in the DPRK are interlinked, NKHR also requested that the Commission examine these issues together.



Capitol Hill Meeting Series in Washington D.C.

Between January 29 and February 2, Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak and Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee visited Washington, D.C. and attended a series of Capitol Hill meetings together with the Transitional Justice Working Group, Database Center for North Korean Human Rights and National Endowment for Democracy.

U.S. Capitol Visit

Throughout the consultations with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Offices of Senator Chris Coons and Senator Chris Van Hollen, NKHR heard about the U.S. senators’ particular areas of interest in North Korean human rights and identified areas of collaboration. Furthermore, NKHR addressed the link between crimes against humanity and the supply chain of the DPRK, and sought cooperation to establish accountability and start an international investigation regarding the issue.

Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on slavery to the 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council

On April 11, NKHR submitted a report to the UN Special Rapporteur of Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Mr. Tomoya Obokata, as he called for inputs about human rights abuses committed against incarcerated people for his report to the

NKHR cited in the UN OHCHR Seoul's new report, "Forced Labour by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea"

44. In addition to the appropriate and humane treatment of detainees, States are also required by international human rights law to ensure that prison work never takes place in inhuman conditions. This includes ensuring protections are in place in relation to health, safety, industrial injury and occupational disease.⁶⁴ Escapees from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have described not only the often physically challenging work they were required to undertake (including in construction, agriculture, logging and the mining of coal and other minerals)⁶⁵ but also the absence of any health and safety protection:

"The most memorable of all the work I did was loading and unloading cement, because the work was so tough. Wads of cement were mixed in our pitegas when we split it out.

⁶⁴ Kroygiac, ICTY I. Ch. II, 15 March 2002, para. 1935.
⁶⁵ KOR/21/0027. Throughout the report, these codes are references to confidential interviews conducted by OHCHR.
⁶⁶ This year refers to the year that the alleged incident described in the preceding quotation took place. When the year is not included, such information was not provided by the interviewee or it has been removed due to protection concerns.
⁶⁷ KOR/20/0026.
⁶⁸ The Nelson Mandela Rules, rule 101(1).
⁶⁹ KOR/16/0020, KOR/16/0034, KOR/17/0023, KOR/17/0047, KOR/17/0078, KOR/17/0078, KOR/17/0078, KOR/20/0005, KOR/20/0006, KOR/20/0007, KOR/20/0013, KOR/20/0016, KOR/20/0035, KOR/21/0001. See also "Citizens' Alliance for North Korea Human Rights, 'Blood coal seep from North Korea's pyramidal scheme of earnings monitoring practice of power', April 2021."

OHCHR Seoul cited the NKHR's report on exploitation of the North Korean population for mining and exporting coal and other minerals to explain that people from North Korea commonly stated that they experienced "physically challenging work", such as

construction, agriculture, logging and mining of coal and other minerals.

Building Legal Pathways to Accountability in North Korea with International Criminal Law Experts

NKHR continues its collaboration with legal experts from Partners in Justice International (PJI) to investigate the interconnected roles of North Korean institutions in crimes against humanity and their linkages to global supply chains, and to produce documentation that meets the standards of international criminal law. PJI is a distinguished team composed of former prosecutors at international tribunals, victims' attorneys, and legal professionals who provide capacity-building support to prosecutors and civil society organizations.

In 2024, the PJI team delivered seven online legal training sessions and conducted an in-country mission to the Republic of Korea (ROK) from May 28 to June 3. Through the long-standing collaboration, PJI and NKHR jointly developed a draft model annotated indictment based on the strong collection of witness evidence. The indictment focused on the long-term and widespread system of slavery at Chongori Kyowaso No.12, systematically executed through the cooperation between North Korean state agencies and their overseas partners. This work formed the basis for NKHR's report published on November 29, "Made in China: How Global Supply Chain Fuels Slavery in North Korea's Prison Camps," which highlights how goods produced through forced labor in North Korea are laundered into international markets.

NKHR-PJI Seoul Workshop





Ji-Yoon Lee presenting at the 2024 International Symposium on North Korean Human Rights

2024 International Symposium on North Korean Human Rights

On July 3, 2024, the National Human Rights Committee of Korea hosted the International Symposium on North Korea Human Rights to review the implementation of the 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations for North Korea and to make proposals for the 4th session, scheduled for November 2024. In her presentation, Ji-Yoon Lee, Senior Program Manager, highlighted the linkage between forced labor in North Korea and foreign currency earnings by North Korean authorities, from the crimes against humanity perspective. Based on her analysis, she suggested recommendations for the 4th UPR to North Korea, including joining the International Labour Organization (ILO), as well as granting access to the international organizations to monitor the prison system of North Korea.

Virtual Hearing on Religious Freedom Conditions in North Korea, North Korean Refugees, and Policy Options for the U.S. Government Held by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

On July 15, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) held a virtual hearing on the dire conditions of religious freedom in North Korea, the plight of North Korean refugees, and policy options for the U.S. government. Joanna Hosaniak, Deputy Director General at NKHR, testified about the severe persecution of religious beliefs in North Korea and its connection to crimes against humanity and the international supply chain, focusing on the role of law enforcement agencies, especially the Ministry of State Security (MSS), prosecuting so-called “anti-state crimes” in North Korea, with religious activities—particularly those connected to Christianity—being among the most heavily targeted near the border area. The presentation shed light on the intersection of religious persecution, state-led human trafficking, and forced labor within North Korea’s

Virtual Hearing of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)



system, providing a comprehensive overview of how the regime views religious freedom as a threat to its survival and responds with systematic oppression.

Presentation on “After DPRK’s UPR: Action Plan” at the 2024 International Dialogue on North Korean Human Rights in Geneva

Joanna Hosaniak, Deputy Director General at NKHR, participated as a speaker at the “2024 International Dialogue on North Korean Human Rights,” held in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 28 to 29, 2024. This international seminar, hosted by Human Asia and the Ministry of Unification, served as a platform for government representatives, civil society, and experts to discuss pressing human rights issues in North Korea ahead of the DPRK’s 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council on November 7, 2024.

On October 29, during a session titled “Beyond the UPR: Perspectives and Action Plans,” Deputy Director General Hosaniak delivered a presentation on “After DPRK’s UPR: Action Plan.” She emphasized the importance of sustained international engagement and collaboration in addressing North Korea’s grave human rights violations amounting to crimes against humanity which are sustained through the transnational supply chain. Her presentation outlined actionable strategies for accountability, such as the establishment of independent mechanisms that will look into the linkages between North Korea’s economic profit and military expansion through utilization of the crimes against humanity, including enslavement, torture, sexual violation, and persecution based on gender, religious and political beliefs and social class.

Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak presenting at 2024 International Dialogue on North Korean Human Rights in Geneva



NKHR’s Stakeholder Report for the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of North Korea



Submission for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of North Korea

On April 9, NKHR submitted a report for the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of North Korea, highlighting the North Korean government’s failure to implement the recommendations from the last three cycles of the UPR, particularly following the UN COI report. In the submission, NKHR detailed the financial links between the DPRK’s extract industry and intergenerational slavery and how the

DPRK's military and security forces have financially benefited from crimes against humanity.

Engagement with the U.S. Congress House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee

On July 15, Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak attended a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, where she provided a briefing to the U.S. Congress House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. During the meeting, she explained the connection between crimes against humanity in North Korea and the regime's corrupt supply chain, highlighting how the regime profits from human rights violations. She also formally requested a hearing at the U.S. Congress to further address these issues and seek accountability for the North Korean government's actions.

DPRK Implementers Meeting Organized by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Between January 30 and February 1, Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak and Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee attended the DPRK Implementers Meeting organized by the U.S. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) in Washington D.C. The meeting was a great opportunity to interact with grantees of DRL funding and share NKHR's accountability project, as well as best practices and lessons learned for effective advocacy and awareness campaigns on human rights in the DPRK.



Participants of the DPRK Implementers Meeting by the U.S. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL)

Meeting with Ambassador Julie Turner

On February 2, NKHR met with the U.S. Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues, Ambassador Julie Turner, in Washington, D.C. and discussed the key issues for North Korean human rights, including crimes against humanity connected to the supply chain and international trade of North Korea. Exchanging concerns about the continuing pattern of impunity, NKHR requested close cooperation with the Ambassador to investigate the issue and enhance corporate due diligence.

Advocacy Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur Elizabeth Salmón

On December 23, Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak had an online meeting with Elizabeth Salmón, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and briefed her about NKHR’s newly released report. Through the meeting, Hosaniak pointed out that various goods such as fake eyelashes and wigs, produced by enslavement of detainees in North Korean detention facilities, are disguised as “Made in China” for global distribution. She also explained the Chinese government’s role in forcibly repatriating North Korean nationals, fueling a state-sponsored system of human trafficking and slavery that benefits both Chinese enterprises and the North Korean regime. Salmón shared her plan to cover the economic aspect in her report to the Human Rights Council, reflecting NKHR’s findings. She requested further information so that she could work with other UN mandate holders to write letters to relevant governments.

Meetings with UN OHCHR Seoul Office

On April 29, NKHR participated in the “Roundtable Series on Victims’ Rights and Accountability in the DPRK” organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Seoul and engaged in discussion with the OHCHR Seoul and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on the potential areas of collaboration. NKHR shared its judicial/non-judicial accountability efforts with the group.

On May 23, NKHR also attended the CSOs meeting hosted by the UN OHCHR Seoul office to discuss the 10-year report on human rights in the DPRK. NKHR requested the Seoul office to organize open public hearings and make an official call for input to ensure transparent and inclusive procedures for victims and civil society organizations.

On September 11, James Heenan, the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Seoul (OHCHR Seoul), visited the NKHR office to discuss potential future collaboration. During the meeting, they exchanged views on various issues, including the upcoming report from the UN on post-Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea developments and the recent report published by the OHCHR Seoul on forced labor. The discussions focused on how both organizations can strengthen cooperation in addressing North Korean human rights violations and ensuring accountability for the regime’s crimes.

Engagement with the South Korean Government to Advocate for Memorialization and Accountability Pathways for DPRK Human Rights

Selected as a member of the Advisory Council launched in February 2023 by

the Minister of Unification (MOU), Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak has worked with the independent Council members to lay out a new long-term vision on unification policy and promotion of North Korean human rights which culminated as the August 15 Unification Doctrine. She participated in regular quarterly meetings focusing on policy direction by MOU on memorialization and accountability.

Joint Letter Advocacy and Public Press Conference on Establishing Accountability Mechanism

On May 16, NKHR participated in a joint press conference and co-signed a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requesting the establishment of an accountability mechanism for the crimes against humanity committed by the North Korean government.



Press Conference in front of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), May 16

Protection of the North Korean Population in China

NKHR has continued its documentation and advocacy work related to the supply chain of the DPRK in connection with China's refoulement policy resulting in forced repatriation, enslavement, and forced labor of North Korean women and girls in China.

Advocacy for the 45th Session of the Universal Periodic Review on China

On January 3, 2024, Senior Program Manager Ji-yoon Lee attended the expert meeting on China's UPR organized by the Ministry of Unification and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to urge the South Korean government to submit written questions and call on China to abide by the principle of non-refoulement by ensuring North Korean refugees, many of whom are women and children, are not forcibly repatriated back.

NKHR submitted a report to the UN ahead of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on the People's Republic of China (PRC), during its 45th session in January-February 2024. In the submission, NKHR detailed the complicity of the Chinese government and businesses in crimes against humanity of enslavement in North Korea's supply chain, especially in its connection to the North Korean refugees and asylum-seekers, including women, forcibly repatriated from China. NKHR's recommendation was cited three times in the summary report of stakeholders' submissions for the universal periodic review on November 20.

<p>Individual submission of NKHR to the UN in preparation for the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), during the 45th Session (January - February 2024)</p>	<p>Summary report of stakeholders’ submissions on China prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21; Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (November 20, 2023) A/HRC/WG.6/45/CHN/3</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End the forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees and asylum-seekers, including women and girls; - Immediately cease forcible repatriation of undocumented migrants and victims of trafficking to the DPRK, and allow UNHCR personnel unimpeded access to nationals of the DPRK who have crossed the border, in order to determine if they qualify for refugee status in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture; - Implement article 46 of the Exit and Entry Administrative Law by instituting the individualized refugee status determination process and issuing “temporary identity certificates” for asylum-seekers, including those from the DPRK 	<p>...and NKHR recommended that China: refrain from forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and grant them refugee status and access to asylum procedures in line with the principle of non-refoulement, and recognize the legality of marriages between North Korean women and Chinese men to ensure that North Korean women could acquire Chinese citizenship and access legal protections.</p>

Joint Letter Advocacy on the Forcible Repatriation of North Korean Refugees in China

Through joint letter advocacy and press conferences, NKHR has collaborated with domestic and international civil society organizations to effectively address the systematic torture, sexual violence, forced labor, and other human rights violations experienced by North Korean women and girls in China. Below is a list of joint letter advocacy efforts that NKHR has participated in:

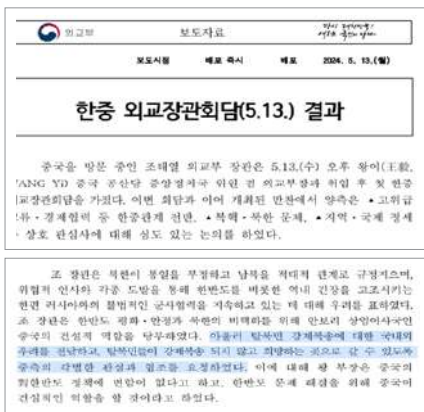
Date	Recipient	Key Message	Related Event/Session
Jan 18, 2024	South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs	Called on the government to address the issue of forcible repatriation of North Korean escapees, including South Korean POWs and their families.	45th Session of the UPR on China
Jan 23, 2024	President Yoon Suk-yeol	Requested the government to raise the issue of forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees, including South Korean POWs and their families, through written questions and recommendations.	China’s 4th Universal Periodic Review

Feb 26 & Mar 13, 2024	President Yoon Suk-yeol & Ambassador Hwang Joon-kook (ROK Permanent Mission to the UN)	Urged the government to raise the issues of POWs, abductees, detainees, and China's forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees in the high-level segment, interactive dialogues, and general debates.	55th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Mar 8, 2024	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk	Requested the High Commissioner to express concern about China's resumption of forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees in his oral update and next Security Council briefing.	UN Human Rights Council oral update (scheduled for Mar 20)
June 20, 2024	South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs	Urged the government to make a statement addressing the issue of forced repatriation of North Korean escapees by calling on every UN member state to recommend, during UPR sessions, that all states ratify the UN Refugee Convention, end the practice of forced repatriation, and permit third-country resettlement of escapees from the DPRK.	World Refugee Day

On May 9, NKHR took the initiative to organize a press conference and submitted a joint letter to South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Tae-yul ahead of his visit to China to meet with his counterpart, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Through the joint press conference and letter, 11 participating organizations and two survivors of the atrocities urged Minister Cho to address the issue of forced repatriation of North Korean defectors in China and to seek measures ensuring their freedom of movement by allowing them to choose their country of resettlement. This request was accepted, and as an outcome of the Korea–China Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on May 13, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ press release stated that Minister Cho had conveyed “domestic and international concerns about the

Core message of the joint letter cited in the MOFA press release

Press conference in front of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), May 9



forcible repatriation of North Korean defectors, and requested China’s special attention and cooperation to ensure that North Korean defectors are not repatriated against their will and instead transferred to their desired destinations.”



Participants of visit to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Korea

Engagement with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Korea

On May 16, Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak met the head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Korea with Mulmangcho and the Transitional Justice Working Group to discuss ways to promote

human rights in North Korea and assist North Korean refugees in third countries.

Enforced Disappearances Committed by North Korea

NKHR has continuously carried out advocacy to raise awareness about the issue of enforced disappearances committed by North Korea and to hold perpetrators accountable for the crimes committed. In addition, solidarity and advocacy activities have been conducted in collaboration with the families of the victims to demand the North Korean government to reveal the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared.

Truth and Reconciliation Committee’s Confirmation on the Accountability of the North Korean Government for Committing the Human Rights Abuses Related to the “Paradise on Earth” Displacement Operation

On August 7, the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of the Republic of Korea issued a press release announcing its decision to reveal the truth about the “Paradise on Earth” operation, which forcibly displaced over 90,000 ethnic Koreans in Japan (Zainichi Koreans) to North Korea between 1959 and 1984. For the first time in South Korean history, the Committee officially and explicitly held the North Korean regime and Chongryon (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) primarily responsible for carrying out organized and systematic “false propaganda,” preventing individuals from confirming their intent to return, forcibly boarding them against their will, and abducting those who refused the displacement. The Committee further confirmed that the displaced Zainichi Koreans were “assigned to work as farmers in collective farms, or as miners and laborers in factories, and, after undergoing a detailed ‘background investigation,’ were classified as part of a hostile class and subjected to thorough surveillance and discrimination.” It urged the North Korean regime to issue an official apology and guarantee the verification of the

repatriates' life or death status and their freedom of movement. This decision is monumental as it marks the first official investigation and ruling by a South Korean authority identifying North Korea's responsibility for the "Paradise on Earth" operation. It is also the first official accountability request from South Korea, following the 2014 United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (COI) report that addressed the issue of the displacement in relation to the enforced disappearance. It is expected that the findings can be used to support the recognition of rights of the victims and their family members for truth-seeking and compensation for the physical and emotional damages they suffered.

NKHR submitted the request for the Committee to initiate this investigation in December 2022 with the support of the Transitional Justice Working Group, Korea Of All, North Korea Strategy Center, and Free2Move. Welcoming the Committee's findings, NKHR hopes this will lead to accountability and support for the victims, as well as efforts to identify the fates and whereabouts of the disappeared.

Conference on International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

On October 16, 2024, the Ministry of Justice of Republic of Korea (ROK, South Korea) hosted the Conference on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) to gather input for South Korea's first national report following its accession to the convention in 2023. During the panel discussions, Ji-Yoon Lee, Senior Program Manager at NKHR, provided feedback on the draft report. She emphasized the lack of information regarding delays in enacting domestic legislation to implement the ICPPED and highlighted the absence of statistical data on enforced disappearances committed by the North Korean government. Lee urged improvements to ensure a comprehensive and accurate report.

보도자료		담당 부서	조사 1과
보도일시 2024. 8. 6(화) 17:00		연락처	02-3393-9780 02-3393-9798
보도일시 2024. 8. 7(수) 12:00			

(02)3393-9780 (내선) | 서울특별시 중구 남산로1가길 17-1 남산3캐피탈빌딩 200층 (02)3393-9700
 (02)3393-9798 (내선) | 중앙 청문회 (대한정보통신연구원) 11층 2 (02)3393-9600
 (02)3393-9799 (내선) | 서울특별시 중구 남산로1가길 17-1 남산3캐피탈빌딩 200층 (02)3393-9700

재일교포 복송사건 인권유린 진실규명 결정

- 차별없는 진실규명 등으로 축어 - 총 93,340명 복면 이후 확인
- 복송차 거주이전, 직업 선택의 자유 박탈, 출신성분에 따른 차별 확인

- 진실 화해위원회(가사정리위원회(이원화) 관장 등, 진실화해위원회)는 6일 서울 중구 진실화해위원회에서 열린 제84차 위원회에서 '재일교포 복송에 의한 인권유린 사건'에 대해 진실규명으로 결정하였다.
- 이 사건은 북한 정권이 조종된으로부터 '북관이 자멸 없는 이상사원'이라는 거짓선언에 속아 복송된 재일교포 본인이거나 그 후손 22명이 북한 정권으로부터 재산·노동력 등을 착취당하고 거주·교육·직업선택 등에 있어서 차별과 사생한 감시, 강제 실종 등의 인권유린을 당했다며 진실규명을 신청한 사건이다.
- 진실화해위원회는 이 사건 진위를 조명할 토대를 마련하고 진실규명 조사자료 활용을 위하여 '재일교포 복송 사건 연구 용역'을 수행하였고, 당시 작성된 공문서와 의료 전문 등을 국가기록원과 외교부를 통해 입수·분석하고, 일본 공안시 입수한 관련 시적, 논문 등을 검토하여 정부 차원에서 처음으로 조사를 하였다고 밝혔다.
- 조사 결과, 진실화해위원회는 북한정권과 재일본조선인총연합회(조총련)가 복송사업용 사건에 기획하고, '북관이 자멸없는 이상사원' 등의 거짓선언으로 속여 1999년부터 1984년까지 진실규명대상자인 12명의 재일교포를 북한으로 이주시켰음을 확인하고, 총 복송 재일교포는 93,340명으로 추정하였다.

Press release on the decision of investigating "Paradise on Earth" operation by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee



Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee presenting at the Conference on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance



The Second Korea-Japan Forum on North Korean Human Rights in Tokyo

The International Republican Institute (IRI) hosted the Second Korea-Japan Forum on North Korean Human Rights in Tokyo, Japan, from October 29 to 30, 2024. Ji-Yoon Lee, Senior Program Manager at NKHR, participated as a speaker, highlighting NKHR's ongoing efforts to promote and advocate for North Korean human rights. She specifically introduced NKHR's work supporting South Korea's ratification of the ICPPED. Building on this, she initiated discussions with Japanese human rights organizations to classify the Paradise on Earth operation as enforced disappearance. This dialogue laid the groundwork for potential collaboration on accountability measures for these human rights violations.

Joint Letter Advocacy to the South Korean Government Concerning the South Korean Prisoners of War, Abductees, and Detainees in the DPRK

On January 17, 2024, NKHR and 12 other organizations and individuals sent a joint open letter to the Chairperson of the Legislative and Judicial Committee of the National Assembly Do-Eup Kim, calling on the Committee to revise the Bill for the Act on Punishment of Crime of Enforced Disappearance, Prevention of Enforced Disappearance and Remedies for Victims, etc. The letter specifically demanded the following revisions for the effective improvement of North Korean human rights: 1) the definition of enforced disappearance; 2) the wording of Article 16 of the Bill in line with the principle of non-refoulement; and 3) the standard of interpretation in Article 4 of the proposed bill.

Meeting with the South Korean Ministry of Unification's Abductees Response Team

In light of the 55th session of the Human Rights Council (February 26-April 5), Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee was invited to attend a meeting with experts hosted by the Abductees Response Team (ART) at the Ministry of Unification on February 27. The meeting was conjoined to discuss key issues regarding the South Korean POWs, abductees and detainees in the DPRK for multilateral cooperation. Throughout the meeting, NKHR requested ART take more proactive roles to identify

fates and whereabouts of those who are taken and disappeared by the DPRK by conducting investigation and inter-ministry collaboration.

Advocacy to Seek Justice and Accountability for the Victims of Enforced Disappearances and Their Families

On January 19, 2024, Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee participated in the youth town hall meeting on “Enforced Disappearances” hosted by the By Youth, For Youth (BYFY) and International Republican Institute (IRI) and explained NKHR’s research and advocacy work on enforced disappearances committed by North Korea. Introducing the NKHR’s Young Expert Initiative, NK Avengers, the Senior Program Manager emphasized the important role of youth in pursuing accountability and leading the conversations forward on enforced disappearances by North Korea.

Ji-Yoon Lee presenting at the youth town hall meeting on “Enforced Disappearances by DPRK”



Commemoration of the International Week of the Disappeared

On May 26, NKHR organized a talk show, “I Never Forgot You When the Flowers Faded” and distributed bookmarks to commemorate the 2024 International Week of the Disappeared through cooperation with NK Avengers. Seong-ui Lee, Chairperson of the Korean War Abductees’ Family Union, and Myeong-hwa Son, President of the Korean War POW Family Association shared their experiences on the enforced disappearance of their family members by the North Korean government. Followed by their presentations, the audience shared their viewpoint on the relevant issues. Many expressed that they could understand the gravity of

Poster of the International Week of the Disappeared event, “I Never Forgot You When Flowers Faded”



the issue and become empathetic towards the victims by hearing the stories of a survivor and a family member of enforced disappearance by North Korea.

Building Domestic and International Coalitions

Collaboration with Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

As a member organization of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), NKHR participated in monthly meetings, board meetings, and joint campaigns to work towards promoting justice for those who have been forcibly separated from their families by enforced disappearances. Throughout 2024, NKHR participated in 11 administrative meetings to report on the activities over the past year and discuss future strategic and advocacy plans, as well as budget processes.

From November 14 to 17, NKHR participated in the 8th Board Meeting of AFAD in Dhaka, Bangladesh. During the visit, NKHR met with victims and families affected by enforced disappearances that occurred under the previous regime led by Sheikh Hasina. NKHR also visited the Bangladesh Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances to learn about the interim government's current efforts and plans for ensuring accountability. Following this, NKHR attended a meeting with the Chief Adviser, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, and introduced its work on enforced disappearances perpetrated by North Korea.

The 8th Board Meeting of AFAD in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Project Manager Bitna Kim visited Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bangladesh



NKHR Activities with the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED)

NKHR continues to collaborate with the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) to resolve the issue of enforced disappearance. ICAED works to maximize the impact of the activities carried out by its members in favor of ratification and effective implementation of ICPPED.

Interaction Engagement with the Human Rights First's Targeted Sanctions Coalition and its Member Organizations

As a coalition member, NKHR continues to engage with Human Rights First (HRF)

and its member organizations to explore accountability mechanisms, particularly Magnitsky-style sanctions, in the U.S., Canada, UK, and other countries across the globe. Throughout 2024, NKHR participated in bi-monthly targeted meetings hosted by HRF to receive updates on sanctions programs in the U.S., UK, EU, and Canada, particularly related to how CSOs can be maximally effective in using these sanctions programs. NKHR also participated in two online discussions on Targeted Sanctions & Geopolitical Considerations – A Case Study of India and Evaluating Targeted Sanctions: A Flexible Framework for Impact Analysis.

Luncheon with the NKHR-KWAFU

Cooperation with Korean War Abductees’ Family Union

On April 5 and 8, NKHR met with Lee Seong-ui, Chairperson of the Korean War Abductees’ Family Union (KWAFU) and exchanged advocacy strategies in preparation for North Korea’s UPR, scheduled for November 2024. NKHR also assisted KWAFU’s submission of stakeholder reports. On the 16th, NKHR’s campaign team had a lunch meeting with Chairperson Lee and Ms. Si-ryeong Joy, General Manager of KWAFU, and discussed potential collaborative projects to increase awareness and engagement among the young generation on Korean War abductee issues and others.



The International Anti-Corruption Conference

NKHR attended the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) held between June 18 and 21, 2024, in Lithuania. NKHR highlighted the connection between North Korea’s crimes against humanity and its corrupt supply chain, which enables the regime to profit from human rights violations. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to learn strategies for addressing national corruption alongside human rights abuses, and to establish partnerships with international organizations working on similar issues.



Deputy Director General Joanna Hosaniak and Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee at the International Anti-Corruption Conference

Engagement with UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on North Korea, Timothy Cho

Timothy Cho, Secretary-General of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on North Korea (North Korea APPG), visited NKHR’s office on December 23, 2024, to discuss the political situation in



Visit of Timothy Cho, Secretary-General of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on North Korea, to NKHR

South Korea following the declaration of martial law and the opposition-dominated parliament's vote to impeach President Yoon and its impact on the North Korean human rights movement.

Engagement with Civil Society Organizations and Other Relevant Actors

During the reporting period, NKHR engaged with various civil society organizations in working towards addressing North Korean human rights issues.

On February 6, Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee visited the National Democratic Institute and discussed possible areas of future collaboration regarding the “Paradise on Earth” operation, which displaced over 90,000 ethnic Koreans in Japan to North Korea with the false promise of freedom and opportunity between 1959 and 1984.

On February 14, Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee met with Min-Kyung Choi (Chair of NK Imprisonment Victims’ Family Association) to discuss possible areas to support and collaborate using the UN mechanisms such as the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

On February 19, Senior Program Manager Ji-Yoon Lee had a meeting with the co-founders of Free to Move (F2M) at the NKHR office to discuss areas of possible collaboration. F2M is an organization dedicated to promoting free movement of North Koreans and connecting separated families caused by the “Paradise on Earth” displacement operation.

On November 4, NKHR’s Project Manager Bitna Kim participated in the “Salon de MoMo: Bangladesh Monsoon Revolution” roundtable discussion, organized by Peace MoMo. The event featured three activists who played key roles in Bangladesh’s anti-regime movement in August 2024. The activists provided an

overview of the developments in the anti-regime protests as of July 2024, shared insights on the enforced disappearances that occurred under former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s administration, and presented the process of documenting cases of enforced disappearances. On November 13, Project Manager Bitna Kim visited Dhaka and had a follow-up meeting with Maayer Daak (Tears of Mothers), a victims’ organization for enforced disappearances in Bangladesh.



**Bitna Kim, Project Manager,
with Sanjida Islam Tulli,
coordinator of Maayer Daak
in Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Joining Initiatives to Establish International Anti-Corruption Court

NKHR became an active partner in the movement to establish an International Anti-Corruption Court which aims to prosecute not only corrupt public officials but also those involved in laundering illicit assets—bankers, lawyers, real estate agents, and

other financial service providers—many of whom operate out of financial centers in the Global North. Additionally, the IACC seeks to seize and return or repurpose stolen public funds for the benefit of victim populations in both criminal and civil cases. The establishment of this court is expected to provide significant support to victims of North Korean human rights violations.

Engagement with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Seoul (OHCHR Seoul)

On December 2, NKHR participated in the “Review of the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,” organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Seoul. The meeting evaluated the outcomes of the 4th UPR session on North Korea, which took place on November 7 in Geneva. During the discussion, domestic and international civil society organizations that conducted campaigns related to the UPR shared their activities and outcomes. The meeting also provided a platform to discuss strategies for future advocacy and engagement around the UPR process.

On December 10, NKHR also participated in the International Human Rights Day event organized by the UN OHCHR in Seoul and hosted a booth to introduce its work. The booth attracted a diverse range of visitors, including staff from international organizations, diplomats from embassies in Korea, representatives from civil society organizations, and students. NKHR used this opportunity to raise awareness about the concept and current status of enforced disappearances by North Korea. It also promoted the recently published report, *Made in China* (released on November 29), and the related documentary produced by YTN. Additionally, NKHR’s interactive North Korean Human Rights O/X Quiz received positive feedback for making the topic engaging and accessible to visitors.

NKHR’s booth at the UN International Human Rights Day event



Fostering Youth Leadership on North Korean Human Rights

To expand and strengthen the youth engagement on North Korean human rights in South Korea and beyond, NKHR has worked to foster a network of youth activists interested in North Korean human rights.



Bitna Kim, Project Manager, presenting at the Round Table on Envisioning North Korea's Human Rights and Democratization with Next Generation Leaders

Round Table on Envisioning North Korea's Human Rights and Democratization with Next Generation Leaders

On January 31, 2024, Project Manager Bitna Kim participated in the roundtable on the "Envisioning North Korea's Human Rights and Democratization with Next Generation Leaders" and engaged in discussion with other panelists

and youth participants on North Korea's human rights issues in detail, along with the security-human rights nexus.



NK Avengers 1st meeting on April 11

NK Avengers: Providing Space for Youth North Korean Human Rights Activism

In November 2023, NKHR launched NK Avengers, composed of international youth activists passionate about exploring and advancing human rights in North Korea. Through various engagement and awareness-building projects led by youth activists, NK Avengers aims to provide an inclusive and safe

platform for youth from all cultural and linguistic backgrounds to openly discuss North Korean human rights issues and other related topics. Since its launch, NK Avengers, organized various awareness campaigns, such as movie screenings, discussions, and field trips to the DMZ.

On May 4, NK Avengers organized a spring picnic at Han River Nodeul Island Park. A total of 8 people, including university students and graduate students from various majors, participated in the event. During this gathering, attendees shared the reasons why each of them became interested in North Korean human rights and



Spring picnic with NK Avengers in May

discussed various social reactions encountered when addressing North Korean human rights issues. Additionally, they introduced the upcoming International Week of the Disappeared event on May 26, and gathered ideas for the process of creating photo cards.



Youth volunteers distributing flowers for the war-time abductees

Empowering Youth to Understand the Impact of Wartime Abductions by the DPRK: NKHR’s Volunteer Initiative for the 11th Day of Remembrance for Abductees

NKHR recruited 13 student volunteers to assist with the 11th Annual Day of Remembrance for Abductees, held on Friday, June 28, 2024, at Imjingak in Paju, in collaboration with the Korean War Abductees’ Family Union. This event was dedicated to commemorating approximately 100,000 South Korean civilians abducted to the DPRK during the Korean War.

NKHR initiated this volunteer program to provide young participants with the opportunity to interact with the families of wartime abductees, fostering a deeper understanding of the gravity of the issue. Through this engagement, the student volunteers were able to empathize with the long-lasting pain these families have endured—many of whom have spent over 70 years without knowing the fate of their loved ones. This direct experience was aimed at helping the youth recognize the significance of the issue and inspire them to take part in future advocacy efforts.

Commemoration of World Children’s Day

On November 19, NKHR, in collaboration with the Yonsei University GSIS Human Rights Hub (HRH), hosted a forum on enforced disappearance by North Korea to commemorate World Children’s Day. Participants watched the animated film True North, which highlights the impact of enforced disappearances on children. The film



Group photo of participants of the Enforced Disappearance Awareness Raising Forum

tells the story of Yohan, a 9-year-old boy living an ordinary life in Pyongyang who is taken to a political prison camp with his family, and the challenges they face there. Following the screening, attendees engaged in a discussion with Min-kyung Choi, a representative of the NK Imprisonment Victims' Family Association and a victim of enforced disappearance herself. This dialogue provided deeper insights into the realities of enforced disappearances and human rights violations in North Korea.

Commemoration of International Human Rights Day

On December 7, NKHR, in collaboration with the Yonsei University GSIS Human Rights Hub (HRH), organized a visit to the DMZ area in Paju to commemorate International Human Rights Day. Participants first visited the National Memorial for Korean War Abductees in Imjingak, Paju, where they received a briefing on the causes, developments, and current status of wartime abductions and explored the exhibits.

The group then met with Seong-ui Lee, Chairperson of the Korean War Abductees' Family Association and a family member of a wartime abductee, to hear personal accounts and gain a deeper understanding of the pain endured by abductees and their families.

Following the memorial visit, participants explored key landmarks around Imjingak, including the footbridge, bunker, and Mangbaedan Memorial Altar, before moving to the Odusan Unification Observatory. There, they viewed North Korean territory and shared reflections on their experiences during the visit.

Attendees remarked that the tour provided a vivid understanding of the seriousness of issues such as wartime abductions and enforced disappearances by North Korea, emphasizing the urgency of addressing these human rights violations.



Visit to the DMZ area in Paju commemorating International Human Rights Day

Support Activities for North Korean Refugees

Since its establishment in 1996, Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR) has been actively engaged in humanitarian efforts to assist North Korean refugees. The organization provides shelter for displaced North Korean refugees, facilitates their safe passage to South Korea via third countries such as those in Southeast Asia, and offers essential supplies—food, medicine, and clothing—to those hiding in China. The highest priority is given to rescuing individuals at risk of forced repatriation to North Korea, particularly women and children, ensuring their safety through discreet and secure operations.

With the end of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2023, NKHR resumed its rescue efforts, anticipating an increase in successful missions. However, high operational costs and heightened surveillance by Chinese authorities made movements increasingly difficult, placing both defectors and local helpers at significant risk. As a result, fewer refugees than expected were rescued, which was a source of great disappointment.

In 2024, NKHR successfully rescued eight North Korean refugees (six women and two children) through Southeast Asia, bringing the total number of rescued individuals to 1,183.

In mid-November, an activist assisting defectors sent a recorded plea, urging the rescue of a particular mother and child. The recording featured the emotional voice of a young North Korean woman in her late twenties, who had been trafficked into



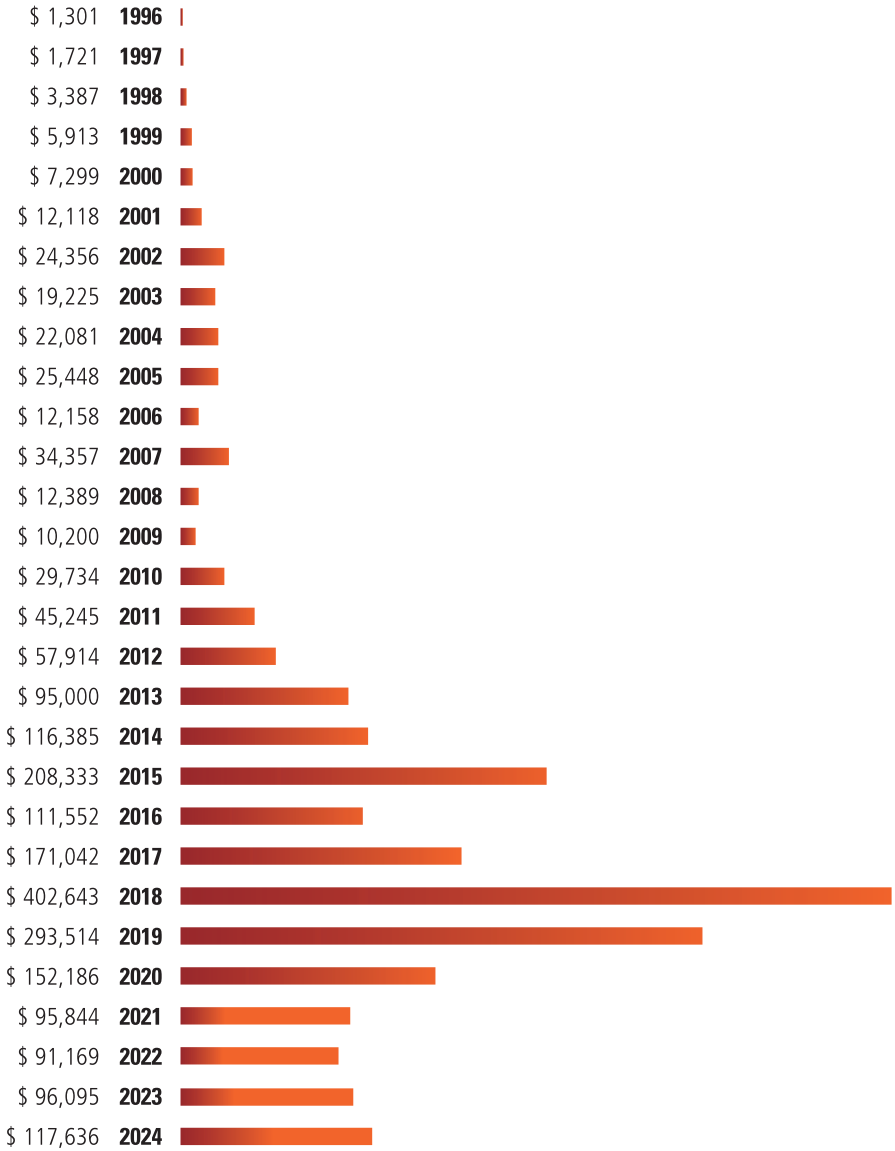
A mother and child on their way to a Southeast Asian police station after their escape

an abusive marriage in China. Enduring daily mistreatment and violence from her in-laws, she desperately pleaded for help.

After hearing her story, NKHR immediately contacted field agents to relocate the mother and her young son to a safe location. A fundraising campaign was launched to cover the costs of their rescue. Transporting children demanded further time and expenses, and the journey required navigating multiple Southeast Asian countries, overcoming dangerous checkpoints and physical hardships. Despite the risks, they arrived safely in early December.

The total cost of the operation amounted to 27 million KRW (approximately 20,000 USD). Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this mother and child now have a chance to rebuild their lives in freedom. We sincerely appreciate the support that made this possible.

Annual Assistance Funds



Educational and Support Programs for North Korean Defectors

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	1,397
2015	1,275
2016	1,418
2017	1,127
2018	1,137
2019	1,047
2020	229
2021	63
2022	67
2023	196
2024	236
Total:	34,314

Figures represent information updated by the Ministry of Unification as of December 2024

“Learning to Love, Loving to Learn”

NKHR is committed to nurturing future leaders who will contribute to the unified Korea by fostering coexistence and mutual understanding. To this end, we provide comprehensive educational programs that focus on: enhancing fundamental academic skills, cultivating core values in humanities, strengthening the will for peaceful reunification, fostering democratic citizenship, and developing a global perspective.

Additionally, NKHR prioritizes awareness education, working with the military, churches, schools, and various other institutions in collaboration with local governments. These initiatives include lectures, documentaries, and testimonies to shed light on the dire human rights conditions in North Korea.

Weekly Saturday Visits to the Settlement Support Center ‘Hanawon’

The Settlement Support Center for North Korean Refugees (Hanawon) is a resettlement and education institution operated by the Ministry of Unification to assist North Korean defectors in adjusting to life in South Korea. All North Korean defectors entering South Korea undergo a 12-week social integration program, where they receive education on the economy, society, and democracy of South Korea. Adolescents attend Hanadul School to resume their studies.

Since September 1999, NKHR has been running a weekend program at Hanawon. Since 2001, every Saturday, the program has provided educational activities for North Korean youth and children. The morning sessions focus on mathematics and English, while the afternoon sessions include science experiments, art, cooking, and other diverse programs. In 2024, a total of 21 students participated in this educational program from January to December.

College Entrance Support Program for Students Born in North Korea or Third Countries

This program supports young North Korean defectors who are in their final year of high school, or are preparing for university entrance. Unlike South Korean



Students participating in a mock interview for the admission program.

students, North Korean and third-country-born students have limited access to college admission information, and those attending regular schools often struggle to receive adequate support in preparing for university. To address this, students were encouraged to share their experiences and insights on the college application process.

In 2024, two students participated in the program. They worked on structuring their statement of purpose for interviews, and received four rounds of feedback. Additionally, they gathered information on their desired majors and universities, organizing it in a personalized way to use as interview preparation material. Students were also guided on how to independently compile and review this information for their interviews.

As part of the program, two rounds of mock interviews were conducted. As a result, the students successfully got admission to Soongsil University's Department of Sports Science and Sogang University's Department of Chinese Culture.

Date	Program
April 1	Special Lecture: Understanding the University Entrance Exam
April - June	Writing and Editing Personal Statements
July - August	Understanding University Admission Interview and Practicing Mock Interviews (total of 2 sessions)

Firefly Academic Mentoring Program

The 1:1 Firefly Academic Mentoring program, centered around the core value of 교학상장 (互學相長; growing together through teaching and learning), has been bringing together students from both North and South Korea since 2017. Through this program, the boundaries between North and South are broken, and individuals meet as people, growing together. In 2024, 22 North Korean and third-country-born youths and 21 college student volunteers participated in the academic mentoring.

The 1:1 mentoring sessions are conducted once a week for two hours, focusing on subjects the mentees wish to improve, including math, English, Korean, and Korean



Mentoring orientation

Attending a lecture on the learning style test

history.

Before starting the program, an orientation and mentor training session were held on March 30. Participants learned about NKHR and familiarized themselves with the program details, sharing questions and insights. On April 27, a special lecture on learning styles was conducted. Before the lecture, both mentors and mentees took a learning style assessment, which allowed them to understand each other's learning preferences. The lecture helped mentors and mentees understand and adapt to each other's learning styles. Additionally, changes in academic self-efficacy, negative learning emotions, and self-directed learning ability were assessed using the MLST-II (Learning Strategy) test before and after the program to measure the growth of mentees.

From April to May, mentors and mentees participated in joint cultural activities, and discussed shared interests. They visited a movie theater, exhibitions, and a photo exhibition, played board games, and explored hanok villages, which helped build trust and intimacy between them. The education team continuously communicated with mentors and mentees, sharing the mentoring program progress and encouraging the free exchange of new ideas. When mentors or mentees faced difficulties, the program team worked together with them to find solutions.

Mentor Reflections

"Starting the Firefly Mentoring, I was worried about teaching subjects I had never taught before. However, as the mentoring progressed, I found myself focusing more on the mentoring process rather than my worries. I realized that the role of a mentor is to help, whether it's in academics, language skills, or other aspects of life. Of course, there were challenges in communication, but it also provided an opportunity to think about and consider different approaches. It was a meaningful experience, creating new lessons and growth through Firefly Mentoring."

"Thanks to the continued support from the program staff, this became an even more meaningful experience. Activities like the learning type tests also gave me a chance to reflect on how I interact with other students in tutoring. This mentoring program was



Mentee and mentor engaging in cultural activities

a precious experience that allowed me to learn and grow far beyond just teaching.”

“Through mentoring, I realized how important genuine relationships are in a person’s growth, beyond just academic support. Seeing my mentee grow and change allowed me to develop greater empathy and understanding. Although the Firefly Mentoring program is over, I want to remain a reliable mentor who can offer support whenever needed.”

Mentee Reflections

“Mentoring program became a great support for me, especially when I had doubts about my studies and college aspirations. Through the heartfelt encouragement and teaching of my mentor, I gained confidence not only in my academic performance but also in my school life. It was a precious time that helped me find out what I want to study in the future and what my dreams are.”

“Although I struggled with communication due to my lack of Korean, my mentor put in a lot of effort for me. After a year of mentoring, my Korean language skills have significantly improved, and I gained confidence about my life in Korea.”

Humanities Community Special Lecture for Adult North Korean Defectors

This special lecture series is to support the stable settlement of adult North Korean defectors in South Korean society, enhance their understanding of democracy, strengthen their capabilities as democratic citizens, and reflect on the upcoming changes on the Korean Peninsula, as well as their roles in that process. Through 6 sessions, 17 North Korean defectors attended, reflecting on their future roles and sharing their opinions.

Date	Program
May 18	Vision: A World Seen with the Eyes and Imagined in the Heart (Speaker: Prof. Hong-ryeol Yoon, Emeritus Professor, Namseoul University)

June 15	Tips for Image Creators (Speaker: Artist Ui-hwan Cho)
July 20	Changes in Visual Expression and Consciousness Communication (Speaker: Prof. Hong-ryeol Yoon, Emeritus Professor, Namseoul University)
August 17	What if There Were No Markets, nor Prices? (Speaker: Prof. Dong-geun Cho, Emeritus Professor, Myongji University)
October 19	The Constitution of the Republic of Korea and the Rule of Law (Speaker: Prof. In-hwan Park, Emeritus Professor, Konkuk University)
November 16	What is the Republic? (Speaker: Former President of Korea National University of Education, Prof. Joo-seong Kim)

**Future Exploration
Lecture: 'Photography and
Communication'**

**Future Exploration Lecture:
'Market Economy'**



Community for Reading Humanities: "Na-Neo-UI"

The humanities community for South and North Korean university students, "Na-Neo-UI," started in 2005 as a discussion and leadership education group for North Korean university students. Initially, it was a small group focusing on understanding the flow of South Korean society and sharing methods of expressing logical opinions. As the need to share more diverse opinions arose, the program was renovated into the humanities discussion program.

The "Na-Neo-UI" community aims to enhance communication skills and logical thinking abilities of both South and North Korean university students and to foster future innovators through humanities-integrated education. Its goal is to build a positive unification atmosphere by successfully forming a community of South and North Korean university students. Unlike previously, the program was restructured into a year-long process in 2024. A total of 25 South and North Korean university students in the 3rd cohort of Na-Neo-UI read books related to given themes, prepared for discussions through pre-meetings of the presentation teams, and actively shared their opinions in group presentations and small-group discussions.



Naneoul 3rd Program
discussion-students discussion
sensation

Naneoul 3rd Program
discussion-students discussing
politics and economics

Participant Reflections

“Over the course of one year in Na-Neo-UI, I already knew some of the participants, but I enjoyed talking with new people and having various discussions. I definitely want to participate again next year.”

Na-Neo-UI Participant, Kim

“I’ve always been interested in North Korean human rights and unification, so I was looking for related groups when I found Na-Neo-UI. At first, I was nervous and it wasn’t easy to talk to new people, but as we had more discussions, everyone was so passionate that I was able to participate enthusiastically. The vice director always shared a lot of new knowledge, which was a great opportunity for me as someone who loves learning. It was a great time, and I hope we have a chance to meet again. Thank you.”

Na-Neo-UI Participant, Kim

| Naneoul 3rd Program |

Date	Program
March 23	Orientation
May 18	Sensation – Reading Discussion
	- Selected Book: “All of Human Senses” - Discussion Topic: Do you believe in the objectivity of perception? What is the self? How do you live, and do you think it is possible to live as your true self?
June 15	Subject and Object – Reading Discussion
	- Selected Book: “What is the Subject?” - Discussion Topic: Can external subjugated subjectivity be seen as one’s own subjectivity? Do you think that social structures shape subjectivity, or does subjectivity shape social structures? Based on the concepts discussed, which am I closer to: the ‘resisting me’ or the ‘struggling me’?
July 13	Signs and Letters – Reading Discussion
	- Selected Book: “What Does a City Live On?”

Naneoul 3rd Program summer trip-visit to Smart City Exhibition in Seoul



Naneoul 3rd Program summer trip-group photo after visiting Jeonju Gyeonggijeon



Naneoul 3rd Program summer trip-students discussion during the trip

Naneoul 3rd Program closing ceremony-group meal after the ceremony

	- Discussion Topic: What kind of street would you like to walk on? Do you agree with transforming the school playground into a European-style plaza? How do you interpret the saying: 'Space gives power depending on the position of the person standing there, and it can also take it away'?
August 14-16	Summer Trip
	- Theme: Smart Cities and Urban Regeneration
	- Locations: Jeonju, Gunsan (2 nights, 3 days)
September 21	Language and Communication – Reading Discussion
	- Selected Book: "The Anthropology of Language"
	- Discussion Topic: Can language be considered the unique quality that makes humans human? Do you agree with Sperber's argument that with advancements in voice technology, people will no longer write, or do you agree with the author's opinion that disagrees with this view? In contemporary South Korea, with the spread of English and the advent of the digital age, is it necessary to protect the status of the Korean language, or should this be embraced as part of the new era?
November 16	Nation and Community – Reading Discussion
	- Selected Book: "The Minimum of Good Will"
	- Discussion Topic: What constitutional value will be most emphasized in our time? Should the death penalty be maintained or abolished? Should public interest or private interest be protected more?
December 21	Politics and Economics – Reading Discussion
	- Selected Book: "The Innovator's Economics"
	- Discussion Topic: Can different perspectives and cultural and generational differences at the organizational, societal, or national level become a core driving force for innovation? Or do they create conflicts and hinder innovation? How should cooperation and publicness in public entities be designed? When innovative technologies destroy traditional values and structures, should we unconditionally accept them?



Case Management: Meetings with Students Outside of the Program

The education team has regularly met with North Korean defector students through one-on-one or small group sessions. These consultations help the education team better understand how the students are doing at school and assess how to support them throughout their academic and adaptation processes.

The case management program primarily targets scholarship recipients or the NKHR program participants. However, the education team also provides counseling and advice to any North Korean defector students who are in need of assistance. Through this program, students receive academic and career counseling and share their broader thoughts on life planning and other personal issues.

Scholarships

To support North Korea and third-country-born university students so that they can focus more on their studies, NKHR provides scholarship mentoring programs to maximize learning outcomes. In 2024, with the support of Kim Yeon-su, Kim Hyun-ho, Mo Gwa-gyun, Park Mu-geun, Park Hyeong-sik, and Samjong KPMG, 56.4 million KRW were awarded to 15 university students and 5 high school students, totaling 20 recipients.

The NKHR Education Team also recommended 5 North Korean defector high school students to the KPX Foundation, and 4 North Korean defector youth and 10 university students (total of 14) to the Sun Foundation, securing 43 million KRW in scholarship funds.

Scholarship Recipient List:

Connected via Scholarship Officers: Kang Oona, Kim Ohyuk, Kim Oju, Kim Ohwa, Kim Osong, Park Oju, Park Oseong, Eom Osun, Yoo Obeom, Lee Orim, Lee Oyeong, Lee Oil, Lee Oseong, Lee Ohyang, Lim Oseon, Jo Onam, Choi Oju, Choi Ojing, Choi Omin, Hwang Oyun

Connected via External Organizations:

KPX Foundation: Kim Oseong, Bang Ook, Choi Oyeong, Han Ori, Heo O



Group photo of the North Korean Human Rights Citizens' Union Scholarship Award Ceremony

Group photo of the KPX Foundation Scholarship Award Ceremony



Sun Foundation: Kang Ojin, Kim Oheung, Bang Ook, Lee O, Lee Oyeong, Lee O, Lee Ogeum, Lee Oseong, Jang Ojo, Ju Oha, Jeon Ogyeong, Chae Oseo, Choi Oyeon, Hwang Ocheol, Jeong Oyeon, Choi Owon, Choi Osim, Han Owoo

Career Camp: In Search of Nami

The NKHR Education Team is continuously running programs for third-country-born young defectors because of the lack of policy to support third-country-born youth, despite the steady increase of their numbers entering South Korea recently.

From April 17 to 19, a 2-night, 3-day career camp was held in collaboration with the Haesol Vocational School in Chuncheon, with which we have an MOU. Many students at Haesol Vocational School, particularly those interested in fields such as electrical engineering and automobiles, as well as those who are not familiar with Korean history, participated in career experiences. As part of the program, a historical exploration trip was included in Gyeongju, along with visits to the headquarters of Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power and ancient sites in Gyeongju, as well as a tour of the Hyundai Motor Company factory in Ulsan. Through this career camp, we confirmed the difficulties and constraints faced by alternative schools, which are responsible for the education of young defectors on the front lines but are unable to implement such programs due to practical limitations. As a result, this organization recognized the need to develop and

Group photo at the Bulguksa historical site in Gyeongju





Students visiting the headquarters of Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power

Students listening to a general explanation at Hyundai Motor Company

offer such programs to play a central role in the education of North Korean young defectors.

Seminar on Stable Integration for Children of North Korean Defectors Born in Third Countries: Military Service in Republic of Korea

Following two previous sessions in 2023, the final segment of the seminar series was held on October 7 at the National Assembly Library. This seminar was focused on the military service of third-country-born children of North Korean defectors.

In the first session, Professor Dongwan Kang of Dong-A University presented “Challenges in Daily Life and Military Service Adaptation for Children of North Korean Defectors Born in Third Countries.” This was followed by another presentation, “Recommendations for the Safe and Healthy Completion of Military Service by Children of North Korean Defectors Born in Third Countries” by Dong-gil Cha, a retired Marine Brigadier General.

In the second session, which was conducted as a talk concert, the principal of Hankkum School – a specialized alternative school – and representatives from Haesol Vocational Training School, were joined by students born in third countries who have faced issues related to military service, and they shared their experiences. They discussed current challenges, shared firsthand accounts, and explored future directions and solutions for these issues in an engaging and empathetic dialogue.

NKHR remains committed to supporting children of North Korean defectors born in third countries. The organization will continue to conduct seminars and various

Seminar Presenter - Professor Kang Dong-wan

Seminar Presenter - General Cha Dong-gil

Testimony at the seminar



educational and awareness programs to help them achieve stable integration into South Korean society.

Experiential Exhibition on North Korean Human Rights: “ZOOM IN”

The NKHR Education Team participated in the “North Korean Human Rights Activists Working Group” to plan and execute the 2024 experiential exhibition event, “ZOOM IN.” This exhibition aimed to raise awareness about North Korean human rights among the general public, who may be indifferent to this issue, with a particular focus on engaging the youth.

The event took place over three days from September 27 to 29 in Seongsu, Seoul. NKHR provided administrative support for the event and incorporated its internal program, the “2024 North Korean Human Rights Promotion Project: Bureora Mapharam (Breeze Southerly Wind) Live Painting,” to enhance the exhibition. Efforts were made to ensure that the event exceeded the anticipated visitor target and was successful.



View of the reproduced detention facility within the event venue



“ZOOM-IN” performance by Phurora Mapharam (Breeze Southerly Wind) in front of the event venue

Vulnerable Defector Identification and Support Activities

Identifying Vulnerable Defectors

NKHR identified vulnerable North Korean defectors in the local area with support of a volunteer group composed of defectors. The defectors themselves took part in volunteer activities for elderly people living alone, environmental cleaning in vulnerable areas, and support activities for the fast adaptation of new defectors. As a result, approximately 10 vulnerable defectors were newly identified, and continuous attention and support projects were carried out for them.

A vulnerable defector, Lee OO (66 years old, female), had her name used by her daughter-in-law for a real estate transaction, resulting in her property being listed in her name, which caused her to lose eligibility for basic welfare and prevented her from obtaining medical expenses. This led her to have suicidal thoughts. She was identified through defectors' volunteer activities and, with cooperation from several organizations such as the district office, religious groups, and protective police, she regained eligibility for basic welfare. Now she is receiving support for medical expenses and living costs and is leading a stable life.

Another vulnerable defector, Son OO (56 years old, female), was exposed to domestic violence, resulting in an eye socket fracture, and had lost the meaning of life after her divorce. After the identification, NKHR supported her eye surgery, which helped her recover her vision and regain the will to live.



Vulnerable defectors identified in 2024

Formation of a Defector Volunteer Group & Regional Volunteer Activities

NKHR formed a North Korean defector volunteer group, "Warm Heart Volunteer Team" and supported them. This group carried out various volunteer activities, mainly for vulnerable defectors who are suffering emotional difficulties, including

Defector volunteer team participating in volunteer activities



beautifying the Han River Citizen Park environment and serving elderly people living alone. A total of 5 activities were carried out, with about 80 participants annually, helping them to overcome loneliness and isolation and enabling them to settle down as stable members of Korean society.



Defectors participating in art therapy activities

Emotional Support Activities for Vulnerable Defectors – Art Therapy

From February 2024, NKHR held weekly art therapy classes to provide emotional stability for a total of 301 people annually. With the talent donation of Professor Yun Hong-Yeol (Emeritus Professor, Namseoul

University), participants learned about art tools, composition techniques, and how to use coloring tools like paints. Through creating art, defectors explored ways to express their inner selves and communicate with others.



Defectors participating in a pottery-making experience in Yeosu, Gyeonggi-do

Emotional Support Activities for Vulnerable Defectors – Workshops

Three workshops, each for 2 days and 1 night, were held in order to help vulnerable and isolated defectors to form mutual understanding and a sense of solidarity. In the first trip to Sokcho, Gangwon-do, participants visited former President Syngman Rhee’s villa and

Kim Il-sung’s villa. In Yeoncheon, Gyeonggi-do, they participated in a history tour to understand the historical context of North and South Korea, and in Yeosu, Gyeonggi-do, they visited a pottery expo and directly engaged in painting pottery, while also learning about the pottery-making process.

Computer Course: Learning How to Use Smart Devices

To bridge the digital device gap of defectors, a total of 318 people participated

in weekly courses for 39 sessions. They learned the basic functions of smartphones and PCs, as well as how to use computer programs such as Hangul, Excel, and PowerPoint. They were also taught how to issue mobile IDs, financial transactions, and civil service documents, including issuing resident registration certificates by smartphones or PCs.



Defectors participating in smart device education

Defector Eye Care Support

Thanks to the partnership with Central Jeil Ophthalmic Clinic (Dr. Im Dong-Kwon), ophthalmological examination and surgery including cataracts, and LASIK/LASEK surgery were provided to the younger generation for free. In 2024, 35 defectors benefited from this medical support program.



Defectors receiving eye exams and other treatment

Food Donation for Vulnerable Middle-Aged and Elderly Defectors – Wooyang Foundation

NKHR Education Team Senior Manager Dong-Ik Lee collaborated with the Wooyang Foundation's food support projects for vulnerable groups. These projects included donation of kimchi and environmentally-friendly rice. As a result, 45 middle-aged defectors living in vulnerable conditions received 15 boxes of kimchi (10kg each) and 30 bags of eco-friendly rice. This assistance helped them to have a warm winter despite the recent sharp increase in food prices.



Donated kimchi

Donated eco-friendly rice

North Korean Human Rights Awareness Activities

Awareness Improvement Program 'Phurora Mapharam (Breeze, Southerly Wind)' - Live Music and Painting Performances

North Korean human rights have been recognized by young people and adolescents as a topic with low interest and little appeal, so this program was designed to raise awareness through new methods. The program was held at various places with high foot traffic, such as middle and high schools, universities, and other public venues in the metropolitan area and regions, with a total of 12 sessions. It included live rap performances by young rappers, a North Korean human rights talk show with defectors, and live painting by young artists depicting North Korean human rights. This diverse approach increased interest and engagement.

Phurora Mapharam – Seoul
City Hall PlazaE

Phurora Mapharam –
Dongdaemun Design Plaza
(DDP)



Phurora Mapharam – Korea
University Plaza

Phurora Mapharam – Daejeon
Imun High School



Tong Tong Talk Concert for Improving North Korean Human Rights Awareness

The Tong Tong Talk Concert is a nationwide tour talk concert aimed at increasing awareness about North Korean human rights, reunification, and North Korean



Tong Tong Concert – Ansan Danwon Middle School

Tong Tong Concert – Anyang Sinan Middle School

Tong Tong Concert – Dongtan Seoyeon High School

defectors. It seeks to promote small-scale reunification and raise interest in these topics among high school students, university students, and the general public. Defectors from North Korea who have settled in South Korea personally visit and communicate with the audience to foster understanding about reunification and North Korean defectors. This concert series was held again in 2024, following its success in the previous year.

Date	Target Audience	Lecturer (North Korean Defector)
6/10	Daejeon Imun High School	Joo Seohyun
11/10	Osan Air Base	Park Seunghak
11/21	Ansan Danwon Middle School	Joo Seohyun
11/22	Daejeon Imun High School	Joo Seohyun
11/24	Anyang Sinan Middle School	Joo Seohyun
11/28	Uijeongbu Gumo Middle School	Yang Eunjeong
11/29	Goyang Mokam Middle School	Yang Eunjeong
11/30	Uijeongbu Gumo Middle School	Yang Eunjeong
12/15	Hwaseong Seoyeon High School	Yang Eunjeong

Escape Room Game and Exhibition Program ‘Denbaram Mapharam

In July 2024, for one month, an escape room program called ‘Denbaram Maparam’ was held at the Incheon Cultural and Arts Center’s outdoor performance space

Participants receiving a briefing before the experience

Escape room game program site



to increase young people's interest in North Korean human rights. A total of 387 young participants directly experienced the program. The escape room experience simulated the controlled environment of North Korea, the life-threatening journey of escaping, and the various challenges faced until reaching South Korea. Through this experience, the participants gained a deeper understanding of North Korean defectors.

North Korean Defectors' Testimony and Discussion for U.S. Military Personnel at Osan Air Base

At Osan Air Base, over 200 U.S. military personnel attended a session where four North Korean defectors shared their testimonies and participated in discussions about the realities of life in North Korea, their escape journey, and the process of arriving in South Korea. The U.S. military personnel showed deep interest in these topics, and through the event, they gained a meaningful understanding of why U.S. forces are stationed in South Korea. This event will continue in 2025.

North Korean defectors' testimony and discussion with the U.S. soldiers at the Osan U.S. Air Base



Other Activities

2024 North Korean Human Rights Healing Concert – ‘Healing Concert with Three Forget-Me-Not Blossoms’

On November 26, 2024, NKHR hosted the ‘2024 Healing Concert with Three Forget-Me-Not Blossoms’ at Theater YONG, National Museum of Korea, in collaboration with the Embassy of Canada to Korea, the Ministry of Unification, and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

The concert was held to remember and honor the “Three Forget-Me-Not Blossoms”—symbolizing abductees, detainees, and POWs committed by North Korea—and to renew efforts for their swift return to their families.

Over 500 attendees, including North Korean defectors and NKHR supporters, gathered to share in this meaningful occasion and unite in solidarity.



Representatives from Three-Forget-Me Blossoms concert organizations, the Minister of Unification, the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and the Canadian Ambassador to Korea.

Closing remarks by Kim Suk-woo, Chairperson of NKHR

Publications

Bi-Monthly North Korean Human Rights Newsletter

NKHR's bi-monthly 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 2024, NKHR published six bi-weekly publications.

FNN Email Newsletter

Once every quarter, 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 for important upcoming events. In 2024, 4 FNN newsletters were distributed each season.

Publication of 2023 Activity Report

Approximately 600 copies of the activity reports for the year 2023 were produced in Korean and English to inform readers about the activities of NKHR at home and abroad.

Website: www.nkhr.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

Instagram: @nkhr_campaign, @nkhr_edu

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/citizens-alliance-for-north-korean-human-rights/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nkhumanrights

Twitter: www.twitter.com/nkhumanrights

NKHR in the Media:

NKHR was featured about 69 times in Korean and foreign media throughout 2024.

01.04	News 1	UN urges China for the first time ahead of China's UPR to "stop the forcible repatriation of North Korean escapees"
01.04	New Daily	Ahead of the UN Universal Periodic Review...UN agencies "China, abstain from the forcible repatriation of North Korean escapees"
01.18	New Daily	North Korean human rights organizations urge the government to "call on China to abide by international norms prohibiting forced repatriation"
01.18	Munhwa Ilbo	North Korean human rights organizations urge the government to "call on China to abstain from forcible repatriation of North Korean escapees"
01.18	The Asia Business Daily	North Korean human rights organizations urge the government to "call on China to abide by its obligation not to forcibly repatriate North Korean escapees"
01.18	The Fact	"Urge China to abide by international norms prohibiting forced repatriation"... human rights organizations sent an open letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
01.24	The Korea Times	Seoul presses Beijing on NK refugees for first time at UN human rights review
02.06	Voice of America (VOA)	[VOA News] North Korean Human Rights Movement 'New Generation'...Attention to the 'Creative Approach'
02.07	Voice of America (VOA)	Generational Change in North Korean Human Rights Activists ... Strategists with high-end technology and fluent English
02.14	Unicorn Communication	Please Remember Us - Stories on Enforced Disappearances by North Korea
02.15	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	"North Korean authorities must be held accountable for human rights abuses" Written Opinion by North Korean human rights organizations
02.22	VOA	North Korean Human Rights Group Send a Submission to the Special Rapporteur Elizabeth Salmón...Request for 'COI follow-up Report' and 'Organization of the Expert Panel'
03.01	NKPro	North Korea renovated major concentration camp during pandemic, imagery shows
03.13	Munhwa Ilbo	North Korean Human Rights Organizations Urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to "Actively Raise North Korean Human Rights Issues at the UN"
03.13	RFA	"South Korean Government Should Actively Raise North Korean Human Rights Issues"
03.14	Jayu Press	"Raise the Issues of Abduction-POW-North Korean Escapee during the UNHRC Session"
03.22	Munhwa Ilbo	North Korean Human Rights Groups urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to "Actively Raise the Issue of North Korean Human Rights Violations at the UN"
04.19	Kookmin Ilbo	"North Korea, Exports Produced by Forced Labor... Kim Jong-un Exploits"
04.19	RFA	Report saying "Top Export Items of North Korea - fake eyelashes and wig - produced as a result of forced labor" Submitted to the UN

04.21	Financial News	Top export items of North Korea, fake eyelash and wig, produced as a result of forced labor
04.22	News1	"Top export items of North Korea, fake eyelash and wig, produced as a result of forced labor"
04.24	Jayu Press	"'Modern Slavery System' in North Korea is too Severe"...10-12 hours, 7 days a week of Labour"
05.01	VOA	North Korean Human Rights organizations in South Korea called for officially discussing 'forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees in China' in ROK-PRC minister of foreign affairs meeting
05.03	VOA	American and Korean Human Rights NGOs Calls "Grave Concern on 'contemporary slavery' in North Korea"
05.04	PenNMike	NKHR "strongly denounced Chinese Government for its forcible repatriation of North Korean Refugees in China" and "Call for Korean Government to put more effort"
05.09	Yonhap News Agency	North Korean human rights organizations held a press conference in front of the MOFA
05.09	Yonhap News Agency	International Human Rights Organization "Chinese government forcibly repatriated 60 NK escapees"
05.11	Christian Today	Forced repatriation of NK escapee issue should be discussed in the South Korea-China foreign ministers' summit
05.11	VOA	[VOA] Condemns "China's forced repatriation of NK escapees"... address at the "South Korea-China Ministers' meeting"
05.13	Joongang Ilbo	Minister Cho Tae-yeol, before his first confrontation with Wang Yi, "I'll bring up forced repatriation for sure"
05.13	Yonhap News Agency	Cho Tae-yeol's first visit to China "an important first step in building new momentum in Korea-China relations"
05.15	VOA	NK female escapees' organization testified at UN... "Should guarantee ID and security for NK female escapees"
05.17	RFA	Human rights organizations "establish new mechanisms for NK accountability"
06.02	RFA	North Korean Human Rights Organizations "South Korea Must Address North Korean Escapees in All UPR"
07.02	MOU Unicorn Reporters	Dark truth behind wigs and eyelashes produced in North Korea
07.03	News 1	2024 International Symposium on North Korean Human Rights
07.03	News 1	2024 International Symposium on North Korean Human rights
07.16	NK News	Forced labor pervasive in North Korea and may even constitute slavery: UN report
07.27	Choson Ilbo	Witnessing shooting to death and heading to Thailand after Crossing Tumen River... Becoming a girl from Pyongyang by Playing North Korea Defection Escape Room Game
08.07	RFA	Truth and Reconciliation Commission, "North Korea's false propaganda targeted to ethnic Koreans in Japan"
08.08	SPN Seoul Pyongyang News	NKHR welcomes "decision of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on 'human rights abuses' targeted to ethnic Koreans in Japan"
09.27	VOA	"Expanding the Accessibility to the information inside North Korea is the core of the North Korean policy" says, US North Korean Human Rights Special Envoy Turner
10.23	VOA	North Korea's accrued export value of wigs till Q3 to China marked its highest record amount, about 140 million US dollars.
10.23	Yonhap News Agency	Deputy Director Joanna Hosaniak was awarded Polish national medal.
10.23	Seoul Economics Daily	Deputy Director Joanna Hosaniak was awarded Polish national medal.
10.23	Segye Ilbo	Joanna Hosaniak, North Korean human rights activist from Poland awarded the highest Polish order

10.23	Tongil News	20 years of contribution to promotion of North Korean human rights
10.24	PenNMike	Joanna Hosaniak, North Korean human rights activist from Poland awarded the highest Polish order
10.24	Segye Ilbo	Polish President Duda Encourages Polish North Korean activist's Performance as "Transitional Justice Activities"
11.03	Seoul Economics Daily	70% of North Korean Wigs Exported to China Are Products of Forced Labor by Women
11.25	Yonhap News Agency	[Bulletin] MOU, MCST Hosted 'Three-Forget-Me-Not' Concert for Abductees and Detainees by North Korea
11.25	Newsis	'Three-Forget-Me-Not' Concert on November 26...Consoling sadness for 'Missing family'
11.25	Daily 365	'Three-Forget-Me-Not' healing concert - Connecting the tragedy of family division by music
11.25	Live Daily news	MOU hosted 'Three-Forget-Me-Not' Healing Concert with wish for reunion of families
11.27	KTV	'Three-Forget-Me-Not' Healing Concert...We won't forget tragedy of abduction by North Korea
11.29	YTN	[Subtitle News] "You want to bear a Chinese child?"... The Tragic Fate of Repatriated North Korean Defectors
11.29	YTN	[Exclusive] "North Korea and China Profit from Forced Repatriation and Slave Labor Network"
11.29	Choson Monthly	Is the Link Between North Korea's Crimes Against Humanity and the Global Supply Chain Being Exposed? Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights Publishes Report
11.29	VOA	"North Korea and China Share Economic Gains from Forced Repatriation and Labor Exploitation," New Report Highlights
11.29	Yonhap News Agency	"70% of North Korean Wigs Exported to China Are Produced Through Forced Labor in Kyohwaso"
11.29	Newsis	Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights: 'North Korean Kyohwaso Detainees Exploited to Produce Chinese-Labeled Goods for Foreign Currency Revenue'
11.29	Newsis	Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights: 'North Korean Kyohwaso Detainees Suffered by North Korea-China Slave Trade'
11.29	Segye Ilbo	"70% of Wigs Exported from North Korea to China Are Manufactured Using Forced Labor in Kyohwaso"
11.29	RFA	"70% of Wigs Exported to China by North Korea Are Produced Through Forced Labor in Kyohwaso"
11.29	NK News	Chinese firms use North Korean prison labor to make wigs for global sale: Report
12.01	YTN	[Expendable Human Beings] Part 1:The History of Cruelty in Kyohwaso -The Stench of Burning Corpses
12.01	Korea Times	Forced labor drives North Korea's wig exports: report
12.08	YTN	[Expendable Human Beings] Part 2: Blood Wigs Traded for Foreign Currency/ YTN
12.15	YTN	[Expendable Human Beings] Part 3: Forced repatriation and its aftermath

Where We Work



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

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

Hana: 111-810021-75205

Woori: 142-097009-01-201

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Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

#1801, Golden Tower Building, 53, Chungjeong-ro, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 03736

Tel : +82-2-723-1672, 2671 / Fax : +82-2-723-1671

<http://www.nkhumanrights.or.kr>

nkhr@naver.com

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