2015 HUFS
International Summer Session

NORTH KOREA: LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Wednesday, July 29, 2015
17:00–19:00 PM

107Imun-Ro, Dongdaemun-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES
PROGRAM

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Venue: Main Conference Hall, Cyber Building, HUFS

1. Opening of Ceremony ------------------------ Greg Scarlatoiu
   Moderator
   Executive Director, HRNK

2. Keynote Speech ----------------------------- Jung-Hoon Lee
   ROK government’s Ambassador for Human Rights

3. Speakers ------------------------------------ Kwang-II Jeong
   Director of “No Fence for North Korea,” Political Prison Camp Survivor

   In-Ae Hyun
   Ewha Womans University
   Former Professor of Juche Thought, Najin Maritime University, North Korea

   Tim A. Peters
   Founder-Managing Director of Helping Hands Korea

   Kwang-Jin Kim
   Senior Researcher, ROK Institute for National Security Strategy

4. Q & A Session ------------------------------- Moderator

5. Closing of Ceremony ------------------------- Moderator

6. Commemorative Photographing
The North Korean Human Rights Situation

For more than 65 years, North Korea’s human rights record has been abysmal. A quarter century after the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, North Korea’s Kim regime has maintained its absolute grip on power, while accomplishing two hereditary transmissions of power: from Kim Il-sung to Kim Jong-il in July 1994, and from Kim Jong-il to Kim Jong-un in December 2011. The primary strategic objective of the Kim regime continues to be its own self-preservation, regardless of the toll imposed on the North Korean people’s fundamental human rights.

Although North Korea is bound, as a UN member state, by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and although it is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Genocide Convention, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, each and every conceivable human right continues to be violated in that country. In the year 2015, 120,000 men, women, and children, continue to be brutally persecuted behind the barbed wire fences of North Korea’s political prison camps, subjected to unrelenting induced malnutrition, forced labor, torture, sexual violence as well as public and secret executions. Those suspected of being disloyal to the regime, of being, from the regime’s viewpoint, wrong-thinkers, wrong-doers, of possessing wrong knowledge, of having engaged in wrong associations, or of coming from the wrong family background, are subjected to extrajudicial arrest and detention, often together with members of three generations of their families. They are held in North Korea’s hidden gulag indefinitely, in most cases without charge or hope for recourse.

In the year 2015, pursuant to Songbun—a system of social discrimination established in the 1950s—the people of North Korea continue to be divided into three social categories and 51 subcategories, based on their degree of loyalty to the regime, and on the perceived allegiance of their parents and grandparents. Their access to food, jobs, and any type of opportunity continues to depend on their social classification. In the mid to late 1990s, as up to 3 million North Koreans starved to death, the Kim regime continued to invest in the development of its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs, and purchased dozens of jet fighters.

Human Rights Trends under the Kim Jong-un Regime

The human rights situation has deteriorated under the Kim Jong-un regime. Three trends stand out in particular: an aggressive crackdown on attempted defections—the number of North Korean escapees arriving in South Korea declined by almost 50% from 2011 to 2012/2014; an aggressive purge—culminating in the execution of Jang Sung-taek, the leader’s uncle, and his associates in December 2013, with around 70 senior officials reportedly executed since 2012; and the “restructuring” of North
Korea’s political prison camp system—facilities near the border with China have been closed, while other camps have been expanded.

The UN Commission of Inquiry (COI)

On March 21, 2013, the United Nations Human Rights Council—composed of 47 UN member states—adopted by consensus a resolution to establish a “Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (COI).” While NGOs such as HRNK, tasked to monitor, research and report on the North Korean human rights situation, had been aware of the extent of the North Korean human rights violations for many years, this was the first time that an investigative body was established by the United Nations to determine the extent and gravity of North Korea’s human rights abuses.

After investigating “the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights” in North Korea, the COI released its report on February 17, 2014, one month ahead of the formal submission to the UN Human Rights Council on March 17. The report finds that “in many instances, the violations found entailed crimes against humanity based on State policies.”

In 2014, both the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly passed resolutions including strong language on crimes against humanity committed pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the state in North Korea, and the recommendation that the UN Security Council submit the North Korean case to the International Criminal Court. In December 2014, the UN Security Council voted to include North Korean human rights in its agenda, next to North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs. Following up on the recommendations of the UN COI, in June 2015 a UN field office was established in Seoul, to continue the commission’s investigative work.

The COI’s Findings

The COI has determined that systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations have been, and are being, committed by North Korea. These include:

- arbitrary detention, torture, executions and enforced disappearance to political prison camps;
- violations of the freedoms of thought, expression and religion;
- discrimination on the basis of State-assigned social class, gender, and disability
- violations of the freedom of movement and residence, including the right to leave one’s own country;
- violations of the right to food and related aspects of the right to life; and
- enforced disappearance of persons from other countries, including through international abductions.

In light of the gravity, scale and level of organization of these violations, the COI has concluded that crimes against humanity have been committed by officials of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the State. These crimes against humanity involve extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence, persecution on political, religious, racial and gender grounds, the forcible transfer of populations, the enforced disappearance of persons and the inhumane act of knowingly causing prolonged starvation. The COI has also established that crimes against humanity continue to be committed in North Korea because the policies, institutions and patterns of impunity that lie at their heart remain in place.

One of the most important determinations made by the COI is that North Korea can be characterized as a totalitarian state that does not content itself with ensuring the authoritarian rule of a small group of people, but seeks to dominate every aspect of its citizens’ lives and terrorizes them from within. In other words, the COI has found that crimes against humanity and other abysmal human rights violations are at the very core of the North Korean regime’s modus operandi. The COI has characterized North Korea as “a state that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world,” due to the “gravity, scale, and nature of the violations committed” by the North Korean regime.

### The Victims of North Korea’s Crimes against Humanity

The COI determined that crimes against humanity target anyone viewed as a threat to the political system and leadership of North Korea, in particular:
- the estimated 80,000-120,000 inmates of the DPRK’s political prison camps;
- inmates of other detention facilities, including political prisoners;
- persons who try to escape North Korea, in particular those forcibly repatriated by China to conditions of danger;
- religious believers, Christians in particular;
- people considered to introduce “subversive” influences into North Korea, such as those who smuggle South Korean video material into North Korea, or those who are suspected of having had contacts with South Koreans;
- the COI determined that crimes against humanity have been committed by deliberately starving selected segments of the North Korean population, in particular during the great famine of the 1990s. The purpose of de facto condemning targeted groups to death by starvation was the preservation of North Korea’s leadership and political system;
- the COI found that crimes against humanity have been, and are being committed against the citizens of the Republic of Korea, Japan, and other countries abducted by agents of the North Korean regime.

### The Way Forward
Although North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missile programs continue to take center stage, it is essential to continue to investigate and interview witnesses, and to continue to bring attention to the systematic, widespread crimes against humanity and egregious human rights violations perpetrated by the North Korean regime, to protect the victims, to bring justice to their tormentors, and, without further delay, to seek ways to improve the human rights situation in that country.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**DR. JUNG-HOON LEE**

*ROK Ambassador for Human Rights*

*Director*

*Center for Modern Korean Studies and Center for American Studies*

*Yonsei University*

**Jung-Hoon Lee** is ROK government’s Ambassador for Human Rights. He is also a faculty member at Yonsei University where he is currently Director of the Center for Modern Korean Studies as well as the Center for American Studies. He received his BA from Tufts University, MALD from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, and D.Phil. from the University of Oxford (St. Antony’s College). His former positions include a full-time lectureship at U.C. Berkeley, a research fellowship at the University of Tokyo, a non-resident visiting fellowship at the CSIS in Washington, D.C., and a visiting professorship at Keio University. Outside the campus, Prof. Lee holds a number of board and committee memberships including CSCAP-Korea’s Executive Committee where he served as secretary-general. Other academic commitments include former or current directorship at a number of academic associations, including the Korea Political Science Association and the Korea Association of International Studies. In an advisory capacity he currently serves as a senior member of South Korea’s National Unification Advisory Council and the Ministry of Unification where he chairs the Advisory Committee for Humanitarian Affairs. Other main commitments include his role as Co-Chair of Save NK, an NGO dealing mainly with North Korean human rights, Chair of the ‘Committee for the Establishment of Refugee Camp for the North Korean Defectors,’ Vice-Chair of the Supporter’s Group for the ‘House of Sharing’ where several remaining “comfort women” are housed, and as CEO of the Board of Tongwon Foundation in Seoul that houses Tongwon University, Hanyoung Foreign Language High School (one of the top prep schools in Korea),
Hanyoung High School, Hanyoung Junior High School, Hanyoung Kindergarten, and Kukje Haksulwon, a research think-tank. Ambassador Lee also hosted for five years a weekly TV program on current affairs and his writings and commentaries frequently appear on local and foreign media, including CNN, BBC, NHK, CNBC, ABC, Channel News Asia, NYT, Washington Post, etc. He also has great interest in professional sports, having served for four years as Chairman of the Korea Professional Tennis Federation. In the last presidential election Prof. Lee advised President Park Geun Hye on foreign and security affairs. Until recently, he was also a designated columnist for Moonhwa Daily Newspaper. He has written widely on East Asian affairs, with special reference to foreign policy and security issues.

MODERATOR

GREG SCARLATOIU

Executive Director
Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK)
Faculty Member
HUFS ISS

Greg Scarlatoiu is Executive Director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) in Washington, D.C. At HRNK, he plans, coordinates, manages and conducts research and outreach programs aiming to focus world attention on human rights abuses in North Korea, and to seek creative solutions for improving the human rights situation in that country. A regular guest on CNN and Al Jazeera TV as well as the John Batchelor radio show, he has authored a weekly radio column broadcast by Radio Free Asia to North Korea for twelve years. A returning visiting professor at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) in Seoul, he has testified before the U.S. Congress on several occasions, and given lectures addressing the Korean peninsula to academic institutions including: the State Department’s Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Georgetown University, American University, Marine Corps University, Angelo State University, Brigham Young University, Princeton University and Stanford University. Now a naturalized U.S. citizen, Scarlatoiu was born and raised in communist Romania under the regime of Nicolae Ceausescu. He has lived in Seoul for 10 years and is fluent in Korean, French and Romanian. He holds MAs in international relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, and Seoul National University, and a BA in international relations from Seoul National University. In 1999, Scarlatoiu was conferred the title of Citizen of Honor, City of Seoul. Scarlatoiu is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Council on Korean Studies (ICKS).

Prior to joining HRNK, Scarlatoiu was the Director of Public Affairs and Business Issues of the Korea
Economic Institute (KEI) in Washington, D.C. In that capacity, he planned, designed and implemented outreach programs to educate Americans on developments on the Korean peninsula and U.S.-Korea relations both inside and outside of Washington, DC. Before his work with KEI, he was Management Associate for the International Science and Technology Institute, Inc. (ISTI) in Arlington, Virginia. He was tasked with business development, project management, technical assistance implementation, and liaising with multilateral and bilateral development agencies, partners, and clients under USAID, World Bank and Asian Development Bank projects worldwide.

**HYUN IN-AE**

*University Professor and Former Juche Scholar*

Professor Hyun In-ae studied philosophy at Kim Il Sung University in the 1970s, and taught Juche philosophy at Najin Maritime University in North Hamgyong Province from 1979 to 1988 and at Chongjin Medical College from 1988 to 2001. She left North Korea and arrived in South Korea in 2004. A founding member of North Korean Intellectuals Solidarity (NKIS), she served as the organization's deputy representative. She has written numerous articles and given lectures at a variety of institutions in South Korea. She is a member of the Republic of Korea National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC). She has completed a master's degree and doctoral degree at Ehwa Women's University. Professor Hyun is a former resident fellow at the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) in Washington, D.C.

**JEONG KWANG-IL**

*Political Prison Camp Survivor and Director, No Chain for North Korea*

Mr. Jeong Kwang-il was a prisoner at No.15 Yodeok Political Penal-labor Colony for three years, from 1999 to 2002. He is currently one of the best known former North Koreans involved in outreach activities aiming to expose North Korea’s human rights violations and to inform the international public opinion on the human rights situation in that country. Mr. Jeong’s UN testimony was critical in passing a resolution on North Korean human rights by the UN General Assembly in the fall of 2014. He has provided testimony to UN representatives in New York City and Geneva and human rights organizations around the world. He has also been compiling lists of prisoner names in North Korea, a
rare asset in the hands of the North Korean human rights investigator. Such information will prove critical to the accountability and transitional justice process in North Korea.

**TIM A. PETERS**

*Founder-Managing Director*

*Helping Hands Korea (HHK)/Catacombs*

Tim Peters is a Christian activist whose service has spanned four decades, six countries, as well as the Caribbean and Polynesian Islands. He currently resides with his wife, Sun-mi, in Seoul, South Korea where he has lived and labored on three separate occasions for a total of nearly 23 years since 1975. Tim and Sun-mi have five grown children and four grandchildren.

Under his leadership, Helping Hands Korea in 1996 experienced a major shift of focus from projects in South Korea to the needs of North Koreans in crisis. In response to news of famine in North Korea, Helping Hands Korea launched a small program to provide food aid to the most vulnerable sectors of North Korean society. Through these efforts, unorthodox avenues of aid delivery were developed to maximize transparency in monitoring, a chronic challenge to humanitarian groups in North Korea. From 1998, Helping Hands Korea undertook the additional task of assisting North Koreans in China who had fled famine and oppression in their own country only to find their lives also at risk in China. Aid to North Korean refugees in China includes secret shelters, food, clothing, emergency medical treatment, as well as spiritual guidance and comfort. Logistical support is given to refugees for escape to third countries via the so-called ‘underground railroad’ in certain crisis conditions. Since 2005, aid by HHK in China to orphaned children of forcibly repatriated North Korean refugee women has grown significantly.

Mr. Peters has also worked in a variety of secular jobs to support his family and Christian activities in the tradition of a ‘tentmaker missionary.’ In addition to a number of teaching positions, he has also worked as an editor and speechwriter for the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, the Korean National Red Cross and the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) in Seoul. In early 2004, he was approached by the World Economic Forum to prepare a paper that would outline the current predicament of North Korean refugees in China, to project worst-case and best-case scenarios of this crisis as well as to recommend practical measures to help the 300,000 North Korean refugees in China. Mr. Peters’ has given U.S. Congressional testimony on three occasions between 2002 and 2005. His written submission for the April 28, 2004 hearing of the House of Representatives’ International Relations Committee, Subcommittee of Asia and the Pacific, entitled “Korean Pathetique: A Symphony of Refugee Tears Unheeded” contains the essence of his analysis and policy recommendations as submitted to the World Economic Forum. This analysis of the multi-faceted North
Korean refugee problem with proposed solutions has been referenced in the *Encyclopedia of Human Rights, 2009, (v.3)* by Oxford University Press.


**Kim Kwang-jin**

Senior Researcher  
*ROK Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS)/HRNK*

Mr. Kim, a former senior North Korean government official, found his way to freedom, together with his family, more than a decade ago. He has published extensively on the North Korean regime’s licit and illicit economic activities, enabling experts and the public to understand the inner workings of North Korea’s “royal palace economy.” Mr. Kim has authored two HRNK reports, having accurately predicted the post-Kim Jong-il scenario and Kim Jong-un’s ascent to power. He is currently working on two new HRNK reports.

For your further information, please find enclosed below an excerpt from the introduction to the 2011 HRNK report “After Kim Jong-il: Can We Hope for Change?” by Mr. Kim Kwang-jin (introduction authored by Richard V. Allen, former HRNK Co-chair, and Chuck Downs, former HRNK Executive Director).

On a dark night in September, 2003, Mr. Kim Kwang Jin, accompanied by his family, rushed to an airport in Southeast Asia to fly to freedom in Seoul, South Korea. His wife later recalled that every step she took felt like she was walking to the gallows. Only a few months earlier, the Kims had been privileged members of the North Korean regime’s overseas banking operations, bestowed with benefits that many members of North Korea’s official diplomatic missions do not receive. The Kims had entertained visiting North Korean officials, including some of the high level people mentioned in this report, and enjoyed purchasing power and lifestyles that other North Koreans can hardly imagine. With privilege comes an understanding of reality—most obviously, the false precepts
of a regime that exists solely for the benefit of Kim Jong-Il at the expense of a nation that is impoverished, starving, and suffering. The family of Kim Kwang Jin, like many other recent defectors, can now speak openly in the West about the misery they know exists in North Korea and their patriotic hopes for a North Korea that will be different after Kim Jong-Il.