



The 12th International Conference on North Korean Human Rights & Refugees

17-18 June 2013 (Monday, Tuesday)

Berlin, Germany

Venue: 1) 17 June: Kino Babylon, Rosa Luxemburg Str. 30, 10187 Berlin

2) 18 June: Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung, Kronenstr. 5, 10117 Berlin

Organizers:

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR), ROK

Union der Opferverbände kommunistischer Gewaltherrschaft (UOKG), Germany

Sponsors:



, Ministry of Unification (영문 로고)

Co-hosts:



INVITATION

NKHR's annual international conference focuses on the human rights conditions in North Korea and the problems of North Korean refugees, and involves the cooperation of individual advocates, NGOs, media and diplomats worldwide. Since 1999, the conference has been held on a large scale, and has focused on drawing wide attention from both the international and domestic community. From the 1st International Conference on North Korean Human Rights & Refugees held in 1999 in Seoul to the 11th conference in Geneva in 2011, NKHR has held international conferences in Japan, the Czech Republic, Poland, Norway, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Switzerland.

The Conference's original approach was to build awareness and promote advocacy. The previous Conferences created networks of NGOs that jointly started lobbying in favour of the UN resolution on human rights in the DPRK since 2003. The conferences in Australia and Canada resulted in greater engagement of parliament members who advocated for special measures of protection for North Korean refugees with their respective governments. In addition, peaceful street campaigns, movie screenings on North Korean human rights issues, and various cultural performances that took place before the conference drew great attention from ordinary citizens in the host country.

As a result of these activities, a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) into the human rights situation in North Korea was established on March 21, 2013 by the 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council.

As the European Union has considerable influence on North Korea, it is urgent for them to play a role in helping North Korea realize the need to improve their human rights situation. An international conference in Germany, especially, will be useful in preparing for unification on the Korean peninsula, as we may be able to learn from Germany's past experiences.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Yoon
Founder & Chairman
Citizens' Alliance for
North Korean Human Rights

Rainer Wagner
Chairman
Union der Opferverbände
Kommunistischer Gewaltherrschaft

Program

Language of proceedings: German/English/Korean

Monday, 17 June 2013

19:00– 22:00 **"Crossing" (2008)**, Directed by Tae-Gyun KIM (ROK)
Kino Babylon, Rosa Luxemburg Str. 30, 10187 Berlin

Story:

A North Korean father and husband decides to illegally cross into China to buy medicine for his pregnant wife suffering from tuberculosis. However, once he crosses into China, he realizes that it's not as easy as he thinks to find the medicine and return home. He finds himself working as an illegal immigrant under the constant threat of being captured by the Chinese authorities and turned over to North Korean soldiers. After futile attempts to return home, he eventually ends up in South Korea. Meanwhile, his wife has already died, leaving their son homeless and wandering around trying to find a way back to his father.

Tuesday, 18 June 2013

09:00 **Registration**

09:30 – 10:30 **Opening Session**
Conference Moderator:
Jae-chun WON, Faculty of Law, Handong Global University, ROK

Welcome Address
Rainer Wagner, Chairman, UOKG, Germany

Congratulatory Speech
Joachim Gauck, President of Germany

Congratulatory Speech
Dr. Anna Kaminsky, Chief Executive, Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung

Keynote Speech
Jörn Rohde, Head of the East Asia Division, Foreign Ministry Berlin

10:30 – 12:15 **Session 1: The Control of Minds – The System of Surveillance**

Chair: *Martin Lessenthin, Chairman, International Society for Human Rights*

Documentary (20 minutes)

North Korean Situation:

North Korean Caste Structure and the System of Surveillance and Punishment: In a Perspective of Human Rights and Socio-political Change

Man-ho HEO, Professor, Kyungpook National University, ROK

Women in Political Prison Camps in North Korea

Hye-sook KIM, Survivor of a N. Korean Political Prison Camp, ROK

German Angle:

STASI and the System of Surveillance

Dr. Hubertus Knabe, Director, Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial

Political Prisoners in East Germany

Siegmar Faust, Author and Survivor of an East Germany Political Prison Camp, Germany

Q & A

12:15 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 15:00 **Session 2: Question of Refoulement**

Chair: *Suk-woo KIM, Former Vice-minister of Unification, ROK*

North Korean Situation:

Testimony of Refoulement Victim

Myung-sook LEE, Victim of refoulement, ROK

Failure of Protection: Case of North Korean Refugees

Jae-chun WON, Faculty of Law, Handong Global University, ROK

German Angle:

Vera Lengsfeld, Former MP, Germany

Discussion and Q&A

15:00 – 15:15 **Coffee Break**

15:15– 17:15 **Session 3: German Implications for the Korean Peninsula:
Lessons in differences**

Chair: *Rainer Wagner, Chairman, UOKG*

South Korean Situation:

***Resettlement and Support for North Korean Re-settlers
in South Korea***

Yoon-Sook PARK, Professor, World Cyber University, ROK

***The International Community's Approach to Human Rights
Violations in North Korea: Present and Future***

Julie De Rivera, Director, Human Rights Watch Geneva Office

German Angle:

Prisoners' Redemption in Germany as a Model for Korea?

Dr. Elke-Ursel Hammer, Federal Archives, Germany

***Before and after 'Die Wende': West Germany's approach
to East Germany's Human Rights Violations***

*Prof. Dr. Manfred Wilke, Sociologist and research associate of the
Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for the research of the consequences
of the war, Germany*

***The System of Support for the Victims of East German
Regime***

*Stephan Hilsberg, Former MP and Founding Member of Social
Democratic Party, Germany*

Discussion

17:15– 17:30 **Closing Remarks**

Benjamin H. YOON, Founder & Chairperson, NKHR, ROK

RSVP Information:

If you wish to participate, please RSVP to nkhrinberlin@gmail.com and include your full name, organization, position, whether you will attend the movie screening on the 17th, the conference on the 18th, or both, and your email address.

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