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American Anti-Slavery Group
 ARC (Awareness Respect Compassion)
 Christian Solidarity International
 Christian Solidarity Worldwide-USA
 Citizen's Coalition for Human Rights
 of Abductees & North Korean Refugees
 Coalitions for America
 Coalition for North Korea Women's Rights*
 Commission to Help North Korean Refugees
 Council for Human Rights in North Korea
 Defense Forum Foundation
 ENoK (Emancipate North Koreans)
 Exile Committee for North Korean Democracy*
 Fighters for a Free North Korea*
 Free North Korea Radio*
 Freedom for North Korean Refugees of Minnesota
 Freedom Society of America
 Genocide Watch
 Helping Hands Korea
 Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
 Human Rights Coalition-USA
 Human Rights Without Frontiers
 Institute on Religion and Democracy
 Institute on Religion and Public Policy
 Intl Korean War Memorial Foundation
 Jubilee Campaign
 Korean-American Freedom Fighters Movement
 Korean Congress for N. Korean Human Rights
 Korean Freedom Council (KFC)
 Korean Freedom Alliance
 Korean War Abductees Family Union
 Korean War POW Affairs
 Lawyers for Human Rights & Unification of Korea
 Leadership Council for Human Rights
 Life Funds for North Korean Refugees
 National Association for the Rescue of
 Japanese Kidnapped by North Korea
 National Council for Freedom and Democracy
 New Korea Women's Alliance*
 North Korea People's Liberation Front (NKPLF)*
 NK Watch: Free the NK Gulag*
 NKIA Collaboration (North Koreans in America)*
 NY Commission to Help N. Korean Refugees
 N. American Religious Liberty Association
 North Korea Strategy Center*
 OneFreeKorea
 One Step
 Open Doors USA
 PSALT NK
 PSCORE*
 Religious Freedom Coalition
 Salvation Army, U.S.A.
 Save North Korea
 Schindler's Ark
 Simon Wiesenthal Center
 Southern Baptist Convention, ERLC
 The Israeli Jewish Comm. Against the
 Gas Chambers in North Korea
 ThINk (There is Hope in North Korea)
 The Wilberforce Forum
 United for North Korean Freedom
 318 Partners

*Organizations of North Korean defectors

Contact us at: www.nkfreedom.org
 Address: North Korea Freedom Coalition
 9689-C Main Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031

URGENT

July 15, 2020

His Excellency Moon Jae-in
 President of the Republic of Korea
 c/o Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the United States
 2450 Massachusetts Ave. NW
 Washington DC 20008

Re: Fighters for a Free North Korea and Keunsaem

Your Excellency:

Recently our Coalition learned that your government has announced its plans to revoke operation permits for North Korean human rights organizations: Fighters for a Free North Korea and Keunsaem. It is our belief that South Korea should protect, rather than target, human rights activities such as distributing anti-regime leaflets through balloons to the people of North Korea, as an act of free expression. We strongly urge you to reconsider this course of action and instead focus on advancing human rights and freedom in both South Korea and North Korea.

Both South Korea and North Korea are state parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which includes the right to impart information by any means, including across frontiers. This is a right that must be upheld. Human rights activists, including defectors, are protected by the right to freedom of expression, which includes the sending of leaflets to North Korea. Further, this right protects the ability of North Koreans to receive information, such as the information provided to them by the leaflets sent by human rights activists and organizations in South Korea.

Revocation of these permits would continue an alarming trend of your government's intimidation of defector human rights activists and organizations. Fighters for a Free North Korea, Keunsaem, their members, and their leaders – Park Sang Hak and Park Jung Oh – have been repeatedly harassed by the South Korean government. Such harassment includes police surveillance, the filing of unwarranted criminal complaints, as well as government searches of activist's cars, office, and personal effects. Such searches have occurred under false pretexts of possible breaches of donation laws and the High-Pressure Gas Safety Control Act. In addition to the planned revocation of operation permits, each of these actions are an alarming threat to the free expression rights of these South Korean citizens and their associated organizations. We urge your government to cease these actions of intimidation which seek to silence their freedom of expression.

If the South Korean government decides to continue its course of violating the rights of human rights activists and organizations, it will send a troubling signal to the global community and erode your country's decades of progress for freedom and human rights.

South Korea has committed itself to human rights and the freedom of expression through the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We urge you to honor this commitment by reconsidering any decision to revoke the operation permits for human rights organizations and ceasing the targeting of these groups through government action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Scholte
 Chairman

Pastor Heemoon Lee
 Vice Chairman

Rabbi Abraham Cooper
 Vice Chairman

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 Vice Chairman

Ann Buwalda

Sue Yoon Logan

Teresa Ost