

# **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

## **REGARDING**

### **THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF NORTH KOREA AND THE THREATS POSED BY ITS REGIME TO WORLD SECURITY**

#### **FOREWORD**

This Statement of Principles by concerned American religious, human rights, security, social, and civil leaders reflects our deep concern for the widespread denial of basic human rights to suffering people of North Korea – and for the North Korean refugees whose right to lawful treatment is now being systematically denied.

#### **FACTS**

The current North Korean regime is directly responsible for gross and widespread human rights violations that have taken the form of deliberate starvation, abduction, family separation, religious persecution, the trafficking of women and children, the world's worst system of inhumane prisons and gulags. Such conditions have understandably facilitated an exodus of North Korean refugees to bordering countries, where they also suffer unlawful and inhumane treatment in the form of forced repatriation to North Korea followed by arrest, torture and frequent, deliberate murder. China's acts of roundups and forced repatriation of the refugees make it complicit in these human rights violations and both gives its stamp of approval to North Korea's oppression. Further, China's political and financial support of the regime is the critical element that permits the regime to continue its human rights practices and, in the end, the nuclear and other WMD development programs by which it seeks to extract blackmail from the international community and to maintain itself in power.

More can and needs to be done by all members of the international community to ameliorate the human rights crisis in

North Korea and the threats to the world order that its regime poses. In particular, the government of South Korea has failed to speak out against the regime's treatment of its Korean brothers and sisters, is openly prepared to subsidize and legitimize the regime in exchange for promises of WMD reform, and has increasingly added to the difficulties and diminished the hopes, treatment and prospects of the North Korean refugees. The government of Russia has also alarmingly increased its political and material support for the North Korean regime and its policies.

Two further conditions exist that compel attention. First, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has failed to take critical and available action to protect the North Korean refugees, to such an extent that its conduct has been defined by the North Korean Human Rights Act as an "abdication" of its "core responsibility." Second, the United States has not done all that it can and should to support North Korean human rights progress and to protect the North Korean refugees.

## **PRINCIPLES**

1) We believe that any country now committing acts of terror against its own people is, by its very nature, a vital threat to its neighbors and the world. Consequently, we strongly believe that, as established by the North Korea Human Rights Act, the United States must adopt a Helsinki model in its negotiations with the North Korean regime and must ensure that the United States negotiation agenda will always include, at the highest level of priority, such human rights issues as family unification, rule of law development, religious freedom, prison monitoring, and needs-based food distribution.

2) We strongly believe that military action is neither called for nor needed in order to improve the conditions of the North Korean people or deal with the threats to the world order posed by the North Korean regime.

3) We continue to strongly believe what many of us said in our letter to the President of February 15, 2004:

[W]ere the ... regime to open up its WMD programs for inspection and ... agree, in seriously enforceable fashion, to renounce the use of those weapons against others ... we believe it would be fully appropriate for the United States, and others, to make binding, military non-aggression commitments to the regime.

However, we do not believe that financial aid should be given to the regime if it does no more than agree to curb its WMD activities. An exchange of promises whereby Pyongyang offers not to export its terrorism in exchange for license and subsidy from the United States to continue acts of brute terrorism against the people of North Korea would neither be moral, workable or realistic.

4) We strongly believe that significant human rights and WMD reforms should be reciprocated by significant United States assistance, and will make every effort to ensure that such support is provided once the reforms are in place.

5) We believe that the United States must do more to advance the cause of North Korean human rights and democratization.

6) We believe that the United Nations should immediately adopt the recommendations of the report of its Special Rapporteur for North Korea, the U.N. Human Rights Commission Resolution of April 5, 2005 and the Brownback-Wolf letter of April 6, 2005 to Secretary General Kofi Annan. Should China continue to deny the UNHCR full access to the North Korean refugees, we believe it urgent for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to take more robust action to protect North Korean refugees and, at a minimum, to initiate binding, international arbitration proceedings against the government of China as authorized by the UNHCR-China treaty of December 1, 1995.

7) Critically, we believe that the government of China has not been adequately obliged to choose between good relations with the United States and the international community or its continued

facilitation of the North Korean regime's human rights and other WMD development policies, and, most particularly, for its unlawful treatment of North Korean refugees in China. We further believe that the United States should make clear to China its willingness to share the costs and burdens of properly treating the North Korean refugees, including a willingness by the United States to accept some of the refugees for admission into the United States.

## **CALL TO ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES**

We believe that:

1) The President should rapidly appoint the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights, as provided by the North Korea Human Rights Act;

2) Congress should appropriate or the President should reprogram existing appropriations to ensure full funding for all programs authorized by the North Korean Human Rights Act, including an immediate increase of Voice of America and Radio Free Asia broadcasts into North Korea from three to twelve hours per day;

3) The President should direct that greater efforts be made by United States intelligence community to document and provide photographic evidence of the North Korean regime's gulags and its other human rights abuses;

4) Congress should rapidly enact the Brownback-Bayh or McCain-Kennedy expansions of S-2 visas for persons and their families who offer important information regarding the development of unlawful WMD programs:

5) The President should immediately initiate diplomatic negotiations with the government of Russia for the purpose of making clear that its current policies towards the North Korean regime will increasingly burden prospects for improved U.S.-Russian relations;

6) The President should immediately initiate diplomatic discussions with the governments of Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and other former communist countries of Eastern Europe to seek their more public and robust leadership on behalf of a human

rights based, Helsinki-model of diplomacy towards the North Korean regime;

7) The President should immediately initiate urgent diplomatic negotiations with the Secretary General of the United Nations to ensure immediate action by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees towards the government of China for its clear violations of the treaty rights of North Korean refugees;

8) Legislation modeled on the Jackson-Vanik and anti-apartheid laws should be immediately drafted, and actively considered, in response to China's grossly unlawful and inhumane treatment of North Korean refugees.

## **CONCLUSION**

The undersigned represent Americans of all faiths and political persuasions. We are determined, on an urgent, priority basis, to focus the efforts of our country on the human rights and WMD abuses of the North Korean regime and on the actions of all governments and international institutions that make those abuses possible.

We strongly believe that doing so will advance the cause of peace, and that ignoring the regime's inhumane abuses against its own people, or entering into agreements that finance or legitimize the continuation of those abuses, will ultimately increase the risks of war.

We respect the sovereignty of North Korea, and oppose any military action against it by the United States or any other country.

We believe that, with encouragement from the Chinese government in particular, the policies of the North Korean regime can be transformed so that it abandons its WMD programs and dramatically improves its human rights record.

We believe that such reforms are, by far, the surest means of achieving the phased, long term and carefully negotiated unification of the two Koreas that serves the interests of all Koreans and the world community at large.

In Bok Byun  
Director  
Korean-American Church Coalition  
Senior Pastor  
Seattle New Light Korean Church

Steven Chang  
President  
Korean Churches for North Korea

Young T. Hahn  
Director  
Korean-American Church Coalition  
New York Chongshin Presbyterian Church

Adrian Hong  
Korean American Students Conference

Bruce Lee  
PAETU Institute on Religion and Public Policy

Chang Ho Lim  
Director  
Korean-American Church Coalition  
Senior Pastor  
Houston Korean Presbyterian Church

Sei Park  
Executive Director  
AEGIS Foundation

Pastor Douglas E. Shin  
Founder  
Exodus 21

Peter I Sohn  
President  
Korean-American Church Coalition  
Senior Pastor  
Bethel Korean Church

Philip Song  
Korean Church Coalition  
North Korea Freedom

Ki Sung Song  
Director  
Korean-American Church Coalition  
Senior Pastor

Los Angeles Korean Methodist Church

Reverend Young Goo Son  
President  
New York Commission to Help North Korea

Peter Ackerman  
Chairman  
Freedom House

Kenneth Adelman  
Defense Policy Board

Alan Adler  
Friends of Falun Gong

C. Naseer Ahmad  
Chairman  
Human Rights Committee  
Ahmddiyya Muslim Community in the United States

Dr. Daniel Akin  
President  
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Don Argue, Ed.D.  
President  
Northwest University  
Former President  
National Association of Evangelicals

Winnie Bartel  
President  
Women In Touch Ministries

Commissioner W. Todd Bassett  
National Commander  
The Salvation Army

Gary Bauer  
President  
American Values

Peggy Birchfield  
Executive Director  
Religious Freedom Coalition

David C. Brown  
Evangelical Child and Family Agency

George K. Brushaber  
President  
Bethel University

Kristy Childs  
Executive Director & Founder  
VERONICA'S Voice

Pastor Chris Byrd  
National Coordinator  
Association of Life-Giving Churches

John E. Chowning  
Vice President for Church and External Relations  
Campbellsville University

Richard Cizik  
Vice-President of Government Relations  
National Association of Evangelicals

David Cooksey  
Director of Pastoral Ministries  
The Brethren Church

Charles J. Eusey  
Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director  
Atlantic Union Conference  
Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Reverend Jeff Farmer  
President  
Open Bible Churches

Dr. Frederick J. Finks  
President  
Ashland Theological Seminary

Bob Fu  
President  
China Aid Association

Joseph K. Grieboski  
President  
Institute on Religion and Public Policy



Charles Haynes  
Senior Scholar  
Freedom Forum

Warren L. Hoffman  
Moderator  
Brethren In Christ Church

John C. Holmes, Ed.D  
Director, Governmental Affairs  
Association of Christian Schools International

Michael Horowitz  
Director  
International Religious Liberty Project  
Hudson Institute

Norma Hotaling  
Executive Director  
Sage Project, San Francisco

Dr. Clyde M. Hughes  
General Overseer  
International Pentecostal Church of Christ

Donna M. Hughes  
Josephine Butler Forum  
Carlson Chair in Women's Studies  
University of Rhode Island

Reverend Kenneth Hunn  
Executive Director  
The Brethren Church

Edward A. Hynes  
Vice-President  
Morality in America

Andrea Ireland  
Director of Advocacy  
Open Doors USA

Don Irvine  
Chairman  
Accuracy In Media

Bruce P. Jackson  
President  
Project on Transitional Democracies

Charles Jacobs  
Founder  
American Anti-Slavery Group

Dr. Sushil Jain  
President  
Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington

B. Edgar Johnson  
General Secretary (Ret.)  
Church of the Nazarene

Dr. Jerry A. Johnson  
President  
Criswell College

B. Julie Johnson, PhD  
Founding member  
Survivor Services, Education and Empowerment Network

Reverend A. Barry Jones  
President  
World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship

Dr. Bruce W. Jones  
Board of Directors  
National Association of Evangelicals

Max Kampelman  
Former Vice-Chairman and Member of the Board of Directors  
United States Institute of Peace  
Ambassador  
United States Department of State

M. Ali Khan  
Executive Director  
American Muslim League

Jeff King  
President  
International Christian Concern

Acharya Swami Krishnapriya  
Executive Director  
Kashi Foundation

Dr. Richard Land  
President  
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Dr. Steve Lemke  
Provost and Professor of Philosophy and Ethics  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Faith J. H. McDonnell  
Director  
Liberty Initiative for North Korea

Reverend Robert C. McIntyre  
Executive Director  
Oakwood Services International, Inc.

Michael Meunier  
President  
American Coptic Association

Hedish Mirahmadi  
Naqshbandi Sufi Order of America

Jimmy Mulla  
Southern Sudanese Voice for Freedom

William J. Murray  
Chairman  
Religious Freedom Coalition

Kamal Nawash  
President  
Free Muslims Coalition

Khai Q. Nguyen  
Vietnam Human Rights Network

Ambassador Mark Palmer  
Vice Chairman  
Freedom House

David Neff  
Editor and Vice-President  
Christianity Today Magazine

Brian F. O'Connell  
President  
REACT Services

Michael O'Hanlon  
Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies  
Brookings Institute

Archbishop Timothy Paul, Ph.D., D.Th  
President  
World Bishops Council

Tim Peters  
Founder & Director  
Helping Hands Korea

Kathryn Cameron Porter  
President  
Leadership Council for Human Rights

Dianne Post  
Women Take Back the Night

Reverend Keith Roderick  
Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights

Reverend David Runnion-Bareford  
Executive Director of Biblical Witness Fellowship  
United Church of Christ

David Saperstein  
Religious Actions Center of Reform Judaism

Nina Shea  
Director  
Center for Religious Freedom  
Freedom House

Dr. Jerry Sheveland  
President  
Baptist General Conference

Faye Short  
President  
RENEW Network

Reverend Michael W. Sigman  
Evangelical Congregational Church

Radek Sikorski  
Executive Director  
New Atlantic Initiative

Dr. Robert L. Simonds  
President  
National Association of Christian Educators/Citizens for Excellence in Education

Jerry Smits  
President  
Midland Ministerial Alliance

Reverend Richard D. Snyder  
Bishop  
Free Methodist Church of North America

Melanie Spillane  
Kurdish Human Rights Watch, Inc.

Sarah N. Stern  
American Jewish Congress

Jewelle E. Stewart  
Interim President, NAE Women's Commission

Sayyid M. Syeed, Ph.D.  
Secretary General,  
Islamic Society of North America

Dr. Joseph Tkach  
President  
Worldwide Church of God

Christina Trent  
Institute for Women's Studies  
Emory University

Dr. Bill Vermillion  
General Superintendent  
Evangelical Church of North America

Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb  
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations

John H. Wharton, Jr.  
President  
Business Professional Network

Luder Whitlock  
Former President  
Reformed Theological Seminary

Jennifer Windsor  
Executive Director  
Freedom House

Darrell S. Winger  
General Secretary  
Brethren In Christ Church

Alan F. H. Wisdom  
Vice President  
Institute on Religion & Democracy

Harry Wu  
Executive Director  
Laogai Research Foundation

Robert W. Yarbrough  
New Testament Department Chair  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Larry E. Yonker  
President  
The Elevation Group

Michael Youash  
Project Director  
Iraq Sustainable Democracy Project

*Institution names for identification purposes*