

HRNK NEWSLETTER: April–June 2017

"We will ultimately see an end to the oppression of human rights in North Korea. When that happens, HRNK will have an honored place among those who have worked for human rights for the people of North Korea."

-Justice Michael Kirby

Chief Commissioner, UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK
Retired Justice, Supreme Court of Australia

Help HRNK spread the word!

HRNK, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, relies on donations to support our programs and to provide website content and services free of charge without commercial advertising. Your support enables HRNK to continue our important work promoting human rights in North Korea.

Thank you!

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English Media

From April 2017 to June 2017, HRNK was featured in a total of 52 news articles in English language media. News agencies featuring HRNK included CNN, The New York Times, Korea Times, The Christian Times, Business Insider, ABC, and The Christian Post. Here are a few highlights from the second quarter of 2017:

- On May 3, 2017, The New York Times published a Letter to the Editor from HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu entitled “[Market Totalitarianism in North Korea](#),” submitted in response to a New York Times article from May 1, 2017 entitled, “[As Economy Grows, North Korea’s Grip on Society Is Tested](#).”
- On May 14, 2017, The Korea Times quoted HRNK Co-Vice Chair Suzanne Scholte in “[Political prisoners in North Korea](#)” on the need for a continuous process stressing the release of political prisoners.
- On June 20, 2017, following the death of Otto Warmbier, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed by [CNN](#). The story was subsequently picked up and relayed by [The Shillong Times](#), [Channel News Asia](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Newburgh Gazette](#), [Canada Free Press](#), [Click Lancashire Independent News](#), [Gulf News](#), and [Emirates 24/7 News](#).
- On June 23, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed by [ABC Nightline](#) on Otto Warmbier’s death. The interview was seen live by an estimated 1.3 million viewers.
- On June 26, 2017, HRNK Board Member Rabbi Abraham Cooper wrote “[Lest We Forget: Haunting Image of Otto Warmbier Demands Action Against North Korean Regime](#)” for [HRNK Insider](#). The article was subsequently picked up and relayed by [The Hill](#).

Korean Media

From April 2017 to June 2017, HRNK was featured in a total of 78 news articles in Korean language media. News agencies featuring HRNK included Radio Free Asia, Voice of America, Yonhap News, SBS News, Kookmin News, News 1, DongA Ilbo, Chosun Ilbo, and Korea Times. Here are a few highlights from the second quarter of 2017:

- On April 27, 2017, HRNK published [“An Open Letter to President Donald Trump”](#) on [HRNK Insider](#), authored by Robert Collins and George Hutchinson, arguing that President Trump’s unconventional communication and problem-solving talents are needed on North Korean human rights issues. This story was subsequently picked up and relayed by [Chosun News](#), [Yonhap News](#), [News 1](#), and [SBS News](#).
- On May 2, 2017, [RFA](#) published an opinion piece by HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on North Korean labor and international labor rights.
- On May 11, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed by [Kookmin Ilbo](#) on the relationship between the new ROK and US administrations and the upcoming summit.
- On June 15, 2017, HRNK’s Dacia Pajé wrote [A Worldwide Controversy: North Korean Sports as a Tool for the Regime](#) on HRNK Insider. The article was subsequently picked up and relayed by [RFA](#) and [Chosun Ilbo](#). This story was picked up by several other news agencies in English and Chinese.
- On June 23, 2017, [Yonhap News](#) quoted HRNK on overseas North Korean workers, who are being sent to foreign shipping companies in cooperation with Uruguayan companies.
- On June 24, 2017, [DongA Ilbo](#) quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu saying the Polish government has not issued employment visas to North Koreans since last year. This story was subsequently picked up and relayed by [Yonhap News](#) and [Segye Ilbo](#).

Chinese Media

From April 2017 to June 2017, HRNK was featured in a total of 26 news articles in Chinese language media. News agencies featuring HRNK included Reuters, AsiaNews.it, The China Times, and Chosun Ilbo. Here are a few highlights from the second quarter of 2017:

- On May 13, 2017, a [Reuters](#) report on the execution of a North Korean minister quoted similar HRNK satellite imagery of the execution site.
- On June 1, 2017, [Zuowen](#) reported on suspected North Korean ivory smuggling and quoted a 2014 HRNK report (“Illicit” by Sheena Chestnut Greitens) on how smuggling transactions of endangered species by North Korean diplomats supports their nuclear and missile programs.
- On June 6, 2017, [Tuxi](#) reported on missing prisoners in North Korea, and quoted HRNK’s David Hawk’s report on missing prisoners from Camp 22.
- On June 15, 2017, HRNK’s Dacia Pajé wrote [A Worldwide Controversy: North Korean Sports as a Tool for the Regime](#) on HRNK Insider. The article was subsequently picked up and relayed by [The Chosun Ilbo](#). This story was picked up by several other news agencies in Korean and English.
- On June 21, 2017, [The China Times](#) quoted an HRNK report in an article on living conditions in North Korean prison camps.
- On June 28, 2017, [Tuxi](#) reported on David Hawk’s HRNK publication, “Hidden Gulag.”

HRNK Insider

[An Open Letter to President Donald Trump](#) by George Hutchinson and Robert Collins (April 26, 2017)

[A Challenge for Humanitarian Action in North Korea](#) by Roberta Cohen (May 17, 2017)

[North Korea's Tactics of Human Rights Deception](#) by Robert Collins (June 6, 2017)

[A Worldwide Controversy: North Korean Sports as a Tool for the Regime](#) by Dacia Pajé, edited by Rosa Park (June 15, 2017)

[Former UN COI Chair Kirby on the Death of Otto Warmbier](#) by The Honorable Michael Kirby, former chief of the UN Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the DPRK (June 21, 2017)

[Lest We Forget: Haunting Image of Otto Warmbier Demands Action Against North Korean Regime](#) by Rabbi Abraham Cooper (June 26, 2017)

Events

Korea Club with Kwang-joo Sohn, Korea Hana Foundation in Vienna, VA (April 5, 2017)

On April 5, 2017, HRNK co-hosted the Korea Club with Kwang-joo Sohn, President of the Korea Hana Foundation (North Korean Refugees Foundation), an organization established under the ROK Ministry of Unification. Mr. Sohn spoke on North Korean refugee settlement in the ROK Photographs from this event can be found [here](#).



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (second from the right), HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park (second from the left), and interns with Kwang-joo Sohn (center).

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Gives Lecture to Professor Calabrese's American University students (April 6, 2017)

On April 6, 2017, Professor Calabrese's American University students visited HRNK. HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu spoke with the students about various human rights issues in North Korea and held a lively Q&A session.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu gives a guest lecture for Professor Calabrese's American University students.

CBC Radio Canada Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (April 12, 2017)

On April 12, 2017, CBC Radio Canada interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding human rights violations in North Korea, the political prison camp system, and North Korean women who are forcibly repatriated from China. A transcript of the interview is available [here](#).

WTOP's Target USA National Security Podcast Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (April 18, 2017)

On April 18, 2017, The National Security Podcast's JJ Green interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding the prospect of war with North Korea and Kim Jong-un's main objectives. Please find the interview [here](#).

CNN's The Situation Room Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (April 19, 2017)

On April 19, 2017, CNN interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding North Korea's surveillance of its own citizens in response to reports of US sabotage of North Korea's missile program. He further discussed how North Korean informant culture plays an important role in regime surveillance. Please find the interview [here](#).



*CNN interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu
(Photograph Credit: CNN).*

HRNK, NKFC, and GW THiNK Co-host “North Korea’s Gulag: Addressing an Ongoing Humanitarian Emergency” Featuring HRNK Board of Directors Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen, Co-Vice-Chair Suzanne Scholte, Board Member Nicholas Eberstadt, Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, and Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park, in Washington, DC (April 24, 2017)

On April 24, 2017, HRNK, GW THiNK, and North Korea Freedom Coalition (NKFC) co-hosted a conference at the GWU Betts Theater. The event featured HRNK Board of Directors Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen, Co-Vice-Chair Suzanne Scholte, Board Member Nicholas Eberstadt, Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, and Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park. Photographs from this event can be found [here](#).



HRNK Board of Directors Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen (center), Co-Vice-Chair Suzanne Scholte (third from the left), Board Member Nicholas Eberstadt (fourth from the left), Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (far right), and Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park (left).

John Batchelor Radio Show Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (April 26, 2017)

On April 26, 2017, John Batchelor interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding the detention of Tony Kim, a US citizen and professor at Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST). Please find the interview [here](#).

North Korea Freedom Coalition and Georgetown University THiNK Co-host “The Orphans of North Korea” Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in Washington, DC (April 26, 2017)

On April 26, HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu was featured on a panel entitled, “The Orphans of North Korea” at Georgetown University.



HRNK Co-Vice-Chair Suzanne Scholte and HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu speaking at the NKFC panel, “The Orphans of North Korea” on April 26, 2017 at Georgetown University.

North Korea Freedom Coalition Hosts “World Congress of North Korean Defectors” Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in Washington, DC (April 27, 2017)

On April 27th, Executive Director Scarlatoiu was featured in the “World Congress of North Korean Defectors” panel at the National Press Club. Please see more information [here](#).



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (center) speaking at the NKFC panel, “World Congress of North Korean Defectors” on April 27, 2017 at the National Press Club.

American Enterprise Institute Seminar “What’s The Matter With South Korea? Understanding The Contentious Politics of North Korean Human Rights In The ROK” Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in Washington, DC (April 28, 2017)

On April 28, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu spoke at an off-the-record luncheon seminar hosted and moderated by HRNK Board member and AEI Henry Wendt Chair Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt at the American Enterprise Institute, entitled: “What’s The Matter With South Korea? Understanding The Contentious Politics of North Korean Human Rights In The ROK.” The seminar examined an analogous paradox: the strikingly hesitant and ambivalent attitudes of much of the South Korean public toward the North Korean human rights question.

The National Bureau of Asian Research Publishes Report by HRNK Board Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen, “The Future of the US-ROK Alliance: Change and Continuity in North Korea Policy” (April 2017)

In April 2017, NBR published a Special Report featuring HRNK Board Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen’s paper entitled “US Policy toward North Korea: Security and Human Rights Go Hand in Hand.” Her paper can be found [here](#).

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Gives Briefing to the Office of Korean Affairs at the US Department of State (May 4 2017)

On May 4, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu gave a briefing to officials from the Office of Korean Affairs at the US Department of State.

The University of St. Thomas Newsroom Features HRNK Project Officer Amanda Mortwedt Oh in “A Champion for the Common Good” by Molly Butler (May 5, 2017)

On May 5, 2017, HRNK Project Officer Amanda Mortwedt Oh was featured in an article by Molly Butler in the University of St. Thomas Newsroom entitled “A Champion for the Common Good.” The article detailed her experience at HRNK and her current work to give a voice to the voiceless in North Korea. Please read the article [here](#).



*HRNK Project Officer Amanda Mortwedt Oh
(Photograph Credit: Mike Ekern).*

Korea Club with South Korean Ambassador to the United States Ahn Ho-young in Vienna, VA (May 10, 2017)

On May 10, 2017, HRNK and KEI held Korea Club with South Korean Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Ahn Ho-young, who gave a presentation entitled “South Korea-US Relations: Past, Present, Future.” Photographs from this event can be found [here](#).



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (fourth from the left) with Ambassador Ahn Ho-young (fourth from the right), HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park (third from the left), Korea Club Co-Director Sang Kim (second from the left), and interns.

Thin Air Radio Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (May 16, 2017)

On May 16, 2017, Thin Air Radio interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding David Sneddon’s disappearance and suspected abduction from China by the North Koreans in 2004. Please find the interview [here](#).

Yeonmi Park Visits HRNK (May 18, 2017)

On May 18, 2017, HRNK staff and interns held a meeting with Yeonmi Park. She discussed life in North Korea and her current studies at Columbia University.



HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park (third from left) and interns with Yeonmi Park (fourth from the left).

International Christian Concern Conference, “The Bridge: North Korea” Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in Washington, DC (May 24, 2017)

On May 24, 2017, International Christian Concern (ICC) hosted a policy day conference entitled “The Bridge: North Korea.” HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was a featured speaker and he focused on major human rights challenges faced by North Koreans and possible solutions.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (right) speaking at the ICC conference in Washington D.C on May 24, 2017.

Korea Club with the US Department of State in Vienna, VA (June 7, 2017)

On June 7, 2017, HRNK co-hosted the Korea Club with James Applegate, Chief of the DPRK Unit and William Cobb, Chief of the ROK Unit, in the Office of Korean Affairs at the US Department of State. Mr. Applegate and Mr. Cobb gave a presentation entitled, "US-Korea Policy: Issues, Priorities, Prospects." Photographs from this event can be found [here](#).



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (left) with James Applegate (center) and Will Cobb (right) from the Department of State Office of Korean Affairs.

Capitol Hill Workshop, “Legislative Challenges in a Transformational Age” Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in Fairborn, Ohio (June 14-15, 2017)

On June 14, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu gave a joint presentation with author Gordon Chang entitled “China and North Korea: A Conversation” at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, Ohio.

CNN’s The Situation Room Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (June 16, 2017)

On June 16, 2017, CNN interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding Otto Warmbier’s return and human rights abuses in North Korea. Please find the interview [here](#).



*CNN interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu
(Photograph Credit: CNN).*

Seventh Meeting of the HRNK-MoU Working Group for Human Rights Professionals Featuring HRNK Board Member Ambassador Robert King in Washington, DC (June 19, 2017)

On June 19, 2017, HRNK Board Member Ambassador Robert King presented at the Seventh Meeting of the HRNK-MoU Working Group for Human Rights Professionals.

The Drew Mariani Radio Show Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (June 20, 2017)

On June 20, 2017, Drew Mariani interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding Otto Warmbier and political prison camps in North Korea. Please find the interview, starting at 0:29:20, [here](#).

International Council of Korean Studies, “The Changing Situation on the Korean Peninsula: Challenges for New Presidents in 2017” Featuring HRNK Board Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen, Board Members Nicholas Eberstadt and David Maxwell, Senior Advisor Robert Collins, and Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in Washington, DC (June 22, 2017)

On June 22, 2017, in conjunction with ICKS and KEI, HRNK co-hosted the ICKS conference in Washington, DC. HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen, and Senior Advisor Robert Collins presented their papers, “Exported as a Commodity: North Korean Workers Officially Dispatched Overseas”, “The North Korean Gulag and International Humanitarian Action: A Human Rights Perspective”, and “The North Korean Gulag Humanitarian Crisis: A Military Perspective,” respectively. HRNK Board Member Nicholas Eberstadt presented his paper, “Population Prospects for the ROK to 2040: Impending Changes and Their Implications,” and Board Member David Maxwell was featured as a discussant on the “Korea and Major Powers: The Quest for Peace and Security” panel. Photographs from this event can be found [here](#).



HRNK Senior Advisor Robert Collins (second from the left), HRNK Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen (third from the left), and HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (center) on the “Human Rights in North Korea” panel.



HRNK Board Member Nicholas Eberstadt (second from the left) on the “Prospects for Korea’s Economy” panel.



HRNK Board Member David Maxwell (second from the right) on the “Korea and Major Powers: The Quest for Peace and Security” panel.

ABC Nightline Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (June 22, 2017)

On June 22, 2017, ABC interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding Otto Warmbier's death and treatment in North Korea. The interview was watched live by 1.3 million viewers. Please find the interview [here](#).



*ABC interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu
(Photograph Credit: ABC).*

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Lectures Students from the Alexander Hamilton Institute in Washington, DC (June 26, 2017)

On June 26, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu briefed students from The Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu with students from the Alexander Hamilton Institute.

The Council on Korea-US Security's 32nd International Security Conference, "Changing Security Environment in NE Asia under New ROK-US Governments" Featuring Board member David Maxwell and HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in Seoul (June 29-30, 2017)

On June 30, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu presented his paper, "The Current State of North Korean Human Rights: Is There a Way Forward?" for a panel entitled, "Human Rights Issue in North Korea and Prospect on North Korea's Changing Attitude." HRNK Board member David Maxwell was also a panel presenter.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (third from the left) at the Council on Korea-US Security's 32nd International Security Conference in Seoul.

SBS Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in Seoul, South Korea (June 30, 2017)

On June 30, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was extensively interviewed by Seoul Broadcasting System (SBS) in Seoul, South Korea. The interview, addressing the tragic case of UVA student Otto Warmbier, aired in the evening of Saturday, July 15.

HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park Holds a Meeting with Participants from the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program in Washington, DC (June 30, 2017)

On June 30, 2017, members of the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program visited HRNK for a discussion on various North Korean human rights issues with HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park.



HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park (right) with participants of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Thank You to HRNK Interns

HRNK would like to sincerely thank each and every intern who participated in the internship program for April-June of 2017. Our work would not be possible without their efforts, talent, enthusiasm, and dedication.



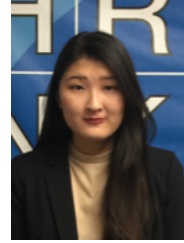
Dacia Pajé



Elizabeth Yang



Grace Warwick



Hyerang Lee



Kayla Yoon



Lisa Lee



Mathew Ha



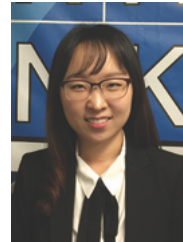
Marina Booth



Seth Warnick



Siyeal Lee



Suvin Kim



Yeon Jee Lee



Yezi Liu