

NEWSLETTER: October–December 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!

Please follow this link to donate:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/HRNK>

English Media

From October 2017 to December 2017, 78 news articles in English language media featured HRNK, including Reuters, The Washington Post, Yonhap News, Korea Times, CNN, and the Wire. Here are a few highlights from the fourth quarter of 2017:

- On October 2, 2017, Reuters quoted HRNK Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen's comment on the impact of U.S. travel restrictions on North Koreans in "[U.S. travel restrictions jeopardize rare exchanges with North Koreans.](#)"
- On October 3, 2017, The Wire quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and Board Member Ambassador Robert King on disability issues in North Korea in "[Successfully Engaging North Korea on Human Rights.](#)"
- On October 26, 2017, Washington Post published "[New images show North Korea's extensive network of 'reeducation' camps](#)" regarding HRNK's new report that portrays the extensive network of North Korean prison camps based on satellite images and defector testimony.
- On November 7, 2017, HRNK was featured in a Yonhap News article entitled "[U.S. group urges Trump to call out N.K. human rights abuses in DMZ](#)" regarding Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu's letter addressed to President Trump about North Korea's human rights abuses.
- On November 19, 2017, Korea Times quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, who underlined the need to empower the North Korean people through information campaigns to realize reunification in "[Trump administration offers better chance for Korean reunification.](#)"
- On November 30, 2017, CNN featured HRNK's satellite image report on North Korean political prison camps in "[North Korea 'continues to invest' in Nazi-style prison camps.](#)"

Korean Media

From October 2017 to December 2017, 100 news articles in Korean language media featured HRNK, including Voice of America, Joongang Ilbo, KBS News, Radio Free Asia, Korea Times, and SBS News. Here are a few highlights from the fourth quarter of 2017:

- On October 12, 2017, [Voice of America](#) quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu's comment on a Japan and EU-led annual resolution criticizing North Korea's human rights violations.
- On October 27, 2017, [Joongang Ilbo](#) featured HRNK's new report based on satellite images and defector testimonies that highlights North Korea's crimes against humanity and human rights violations.
- On November 7, 2017, [KBS News](#) covered HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu's comment in his letter urging President Trump to visit Korea's demilitarized zone (DMZ) and address the suffering North Korean citizens.
- On November 13, 2017, [Radio Free Asia](#) featured Robert Collins, the author of *From Cradle to Grave: The Path of North Korean Innocents* to discuss the newly published HRNK report on the institutional structure of the Kim regime's reign of terror, with an emphasis on political prison camps.
- On November 16, 2017, [Korea Times](#) featured HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu's comments at the International Forum on One Korea hosted by the Global Peace Foundation.
- On December 8, 2017, [SBS News](#) quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on health issues and a poor medical system in North Korea.

HRNK Insider

An Urgent Letter to Mr. President: Remember the People of North Korea (November 6, 2017)

HRNK Executive Greg Scarlatoiu and Board Member Rabbi Abraham Cooper collaborated on a letter entitled “Mr. President, Remember the People of North Korea” to address the North Korean human rights violations to President Trump. The letter was published on HRNK Insider. The following is an excerpt:

We would respectfully argue that a presidential DMZ visit and address would be critical to efforts to bring peace, security and freedom to the Korean people and other nations in Northeast Asia as well as the security of the United States.

Please follow the link to the article here:

<http://www.hrnkinsider.org/2017/11/an-urgent-letter-to-mr-president.html>.

Otto Warmbier versus the Republic of Torture (November 22, 2017)

Robert Collins, the author of *From Cradle to Grave: The Path of North Korean Innocents*, published an article in HRNK Insider regarding the death of Otto Warmbier, an American student who visited North Korea as a tourist, was arrested, imprisoned, and eventually killed. This following is an excerpt:

The young Ohio native’s death was a tragedy, and just the latest occurrence of the unbelievable cruelty that human beings suffer at the hands of the Kim family regime. The parents of Otto were interviewed on national television about the arrival of their son from North Korea and the terrible condition he was in. Mr. Warmbier expressed how it was obvious to him that his son had been tortured due to the condition of his teeth and a severe cut on his foot.

Please follow the link to the article here:

<http://www.hrnkinsider.org/2017/11/otto-warmbier-versus-republic-of-torture.html>.

Report Featuring HRNK

Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) Annual Report (October 5, 2017)

The 2017 Annual Report by the CECC, released in December, highlights the serious human rights abuses that North Korean refugees face, an issue that HRNK will continue to address. The following are key points from the report:

- The Chinese government's policy of detaining North Korean refugees and repatriating them to North Korea remains in place in violation of its obligations under international human rights and refugee law.
- Heightened security measures along the China-North Korea and China-Southeast Asia borders increased the risks North Korean refugees face, and may be limiting the outflow of refugees from North Korea.
- Chinese authorities appear to have intensified crackdowns on organizations and individuals—including foreign aid workers, Christian missionaries and churches, and non-governmental organizations—that have played a crucial role in assisting and facilitating the movement of North Korean refugees outside of North Korea.
- North Korean women who enter China illegally remain particularly vulnerable to human trafficking.
- Many children born to Chinese fathers and North Korean mothers remain deprived of basic rights to education and other public services owing to a lack of legal residential status in China.

The CECC report, in part, drew on two articles authored by HRNK Senior Adviser Christine Chung and Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu. Please follow the links below to access the articles:

Christine Chung, "North Korean Mothers Fight To Be Reunited With Stateless Children Left Behind in China," HRNK Insider, Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, November 4, 2016, <http://www.hrnkinsider.org/2016/11/north-korean-mothers-fight-to-be.html>.

Greg Scarlatoiu, "The North Korean Human Rights Conundrum: Moving Forward," The Peninsula, Korea Economic

Institute, February 28, 2017, <http://blog.keia.org/2017/02/the-north-korean-human-rights-conundrum-moving-forward/>.

Press Release of the Chinese Wikipedia Page of the UN COI Report (October 10, 2017)

Following the enactment of UN Security Council Resolutions 2371 and 2375, in response to North Korea's continued nuclear threat and human rights abuses, HRNK announced the launch of a new Wikipedia page available in Chinese. While a large number of North Koreans escape to China before they reach their final destination (mainly South Korea), forcible repatriation of North Korean defectors by the Chinese government has increasingly become an issue over the years. Ruthless human rights violations have occurred during the process of repatriation, including human trafficking. Releasing the Chinese Wikipedia page of the UN COI report was part of HRNK's effort to raise awareness of North Korean human rights violations in China.

Please follow the link below for more details:

<https://www.hrnk.org/events/announcements-view.php?id=44>.

Events

North Korea Strategy Center (NKSC) Features HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu at a Conference Entitled “North Korea: Inside Out” (Washington, DC, October 19, 2017)

On October 19, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu moderated the conference entitled “North Korea: Inside Out” hosted by NKSC. Various organizations with diverse expertise on North Korea participated in the half-day conference to explore recent issues related to North Korea and discuss the experiences of non-governmental organizations that have worked on North Korean issues for the past decade. Topics discussed at the conference included drug production, trafficking and usage in North Korea, and insiders’ perspectives on humanitarian assistance and economic programs in North Korea.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu speaks at “North Korea: Inside Out,” a conference hosted by NKSC.

U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Features HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (Washington, DC, October 19 and 20, 2017)

On October 19 and 20, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu gave a lecture on North Korea issues at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute (FSI).

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park Featured at an NYU Conference Entitled "North Korea: Nukes, Missiles, and Human Insecurity" (New York, NY, October 23, 2017)

On October 23, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park participated as speakers at "North Korea: Nukes, Missiles, and Human Insecurity" hosted by NYU. Amid escalating tensions between the U.S. and North Korea, international affairs experts discussed policy solutions on North Korea's human rights violations, the potential effects of American military intervention, and the possibility of a unified Korean peninsula.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (second from the left) and HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park (left) featured at "North Korea: Nukes, Missiles, and Human Insecurity."

HRNK Report Launch of *The Parallel Gulag: North Korea's "An-Jeon-Bu" Prison Camps* by David Hawk with Amanda Mortwedt Oh (Washington, DC, October 26, 2017)

On October 26, 2017, HRNK hosted *The Parallel Gulag: North Korea's "An-Jeon Bu" Prison Camps* report launch at The National Press Club. After opening remarks by HRNK Board member David Maxwell, report authors David Hawk and Amanda Mortwedt Oh provided a presentation on the report featuring never-before-seen imagery of labor re-education camps. The event was moderated by Greg Scarlatoiu, HRNK Executive Director. The report reveals a parallel network of prisons controlled by North Korea's Ministry of People's Security (*An-jeon-bu*). Following the presentation on the report, the two discussants, Roberta Cohen, HRNK Co-Chair Emeritus, and Stephen Noerper, Senior Director of The Korea Society, commented on the topics discussed in the report. The satellite images of prison camps and testimony of former prisoners in *The Parallel Gulag* report gained a considerable amount of attention from various media outlets in the U.S. and South Korea: 30 English language news sources and 24 Korean language news sources, including an opinion post by *The Washington Post* Editorial Board, covered the report's release. The report also includes an English translation of the 2012 Democratic People's Republic of Korea Criminal Code.

Please follow the link for the publication here:

https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Hawk_The_Parallel_Gulag_Web.pdf.

Please follow the link for the press release here:

<https://www.hrnk.org/events/announcements-view.php?id=45>.



From left to right: Stephen Noerper (Senior Director, The Korea Society), Amanda Mortwedt Oh (Author of “The Parallel Gulag”), Greg Scarlatoiu (Executive Director, HRNK), David Hawk (Author of “The Parallel Gulag”), and Roberta Cohen (Co-Chair Emeritus, HRNK).

HRNK, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and National Endowment for Democracy (NED) Host “Beyond Nuclear Diplomacy: A Regime Insider’s Look at North Korea” Featuring Thae Yong-ho, Former Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of North Korea in the United Kingdom (UK) (Washington, DC, October 31, 2017)

On October 31, 2017, HRNK co-hosted the “Beyond Nuclear Diplomacy: A Regime Insider’s Look at North Korea” event with CSIS and NED. This special event featured a keynote address and discussion with Thae Yong-ho, former North Korean Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of North Korea in the UK. Mr. Thae discussed the current situation in North Korea and the issues of importance regarding the security environment in the region. HRNK Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen gave opening remarks at the event.

Please follow the link below to view Mr. Thae’s full address:
<https://www.csis.org/events/beyond-nuclear-diplomacy-regime-insiders-look-north-korea>



Roberta Cohen (Co-Chair Emerita, HRNK) gives opening remarks at "Beyond Nuclear Diplomacy: A Regime Insider's Look at North Korea".

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Featured in an Interview by Global Journalist (November 13, 2017)

On November 13, 2017, the Global Journalist interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu to discuss women's human rights issues in North Korea.

HRNK Report Launch of *From Cradle to Grave: The Path of North Korean Innocents* by Robert Collins and Amanda Mortwedt Oh (Washington, DC, November 13, 2017)

On November 13, 2017, HRNK hosted the launch of *From Cradle to Grave: The Path of North Korean Innocents* at the National Press Club. The two authors, Robert Collins and Amanda Mortwedt Oh, presented the report and explained the way North Korea's Party-state controls every individual's life from the cradle to the grave through relentless indoctrination, surveillance, and punishment. HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu moderated the event. James Durand, Board Member of the International Council of Korean Studies (ICKS) and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Korean Studies (IJKS), George Hutchinson, Board Member of ICKS and Editor of IJKS,

and Mark Tokola, Vice President of the Korea Economic Institute (KEI), participated as discussants.

Please follow this link to view the photographs:

<https://www.hrnk.org/events/image-gallery-photos.php?album=93>.



From left to right: George Hutchinson (Board Member, ICKS, Editor, IJKS), Robert Collins (Author of “From Cradle to Grave”), Greg Scarlatoiu (Executive Director, HRNK), Amanda Mortwedt Oh (HRNK Project Office and Author of “From Cradle to Grave”), Mark Tokola (Vice President, KEI), and James Durand (Board Member, ICKS, Editor-in-Chief, IJKS).

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu as Featured Speaker at the International Forum on One Korea 2017: Solutions to the Korean Peninsula Crisis (Washington, DC, November 14, 2017)

On November 14, 2017, Global Peace Foundation (GPF) and co-conveners EastWest Institute, Action for Korea United, and One Korea Foundation hosted a forum featuring a series of panels by leaders in government, policy, and civil society. HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu was featured as one of the speakers and gave a message about strengthening U.S., ROK and International Cooperation for Northeast Asia Peace and Security with the theme "International Policy & Civil Society". This event examined the significant and essential elements of a Korean-led

process for the reunification of the Korean peninsula, including multi-sector participation and citizen engagement.”

HRNK Featured at the George Washington University Truth and Human Rights in North Korea (THiNK) NGO Fair (Washington, DC, November 16, 2017)

On November 16, 2017, HRNK participated in an NGO fair hosted by THiNK as one of the representatives of NGOs working on North Korean human rights issues in the DC area.

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu as Featured Speaker at the Fox Conner Society (Washington, DC, November 27, 2017)

On November 27, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu gave a lecture on the Korean peninsula’s political, social, economic, security, and human rights issues to the Fox Conner Society, an association of active, reserve, and retired members of the U.S. military, at the Army Navy Club in Washington, DC.

Lecture by HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu at The Close Up Foundation (Washington, DC, November 27, 2017)

On November 27, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu gave a lecture on Korean peninsula issues and the human rights situation in North Korea to over 200 high school students at The Close Up Foundation.

Angelo State University (ASU) Features HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu at a Center for Security Studies (CSS) Symposium Entitled “North Korea: Threats and Challenges” (San Angelo, TX, November 29, 2017)

On November 29, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu spoke at the CSS Symposium entitled “North Korea: Threats and Challenges” hosted by ASU. ASU hosted four of the nation’s leading experts on North Korea to discuss various issues, including the growing nuclear threat, peace and security in the Korean peninsula, and human rights violations.

Please follow the link to view the photographs here:

[https://www.hrnk.org/events/image-gallery-photos.php?album=94.](https://www.hrnk.org/events/image-gallery-photos.php?album=94)



From left to right: General John Tilelli (U.S. Army, retired), Dr. Bruce Bechtol (Professor, ASU), Greg Scarlatoiu (Executive Director, HRNK), and Mark Tokola (Vice President, KEI) at the CSS Symposium hosted by ASU.

Korean War Abductees’ Family Union (KWAUFU) Features HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu at “Fundamental Solutions to Civilian Abduction Crime by North Korea” (Seoul, South Korea, December 5, 2017)

On December 5, 2017, KWAUFU featured HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu at a conference about fundamental solutions to civilian abduction crimes by North Korea.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (second from the right) speaks at the KWAUFU Conference entitled “Fundamental Solutions to Civilian Abduction Crime by North Korea.”



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (first row, third from the right) with other participants in the KWAUF Conference entitled “Fundamental Solutions to Civilian Abduction Crime by North Korea.”

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Gives a Closed-door Luncheon Briefing to South Korean Ministry of Unification (MoU) Officials (Seoul, South Korea, December 6, 2017)

On December 6, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu briefed a group of over 30 South Korean MoU officials on HRNK’s current activities and U.S. views on the human rights situation in North Korea. The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session.

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Presents at a Conference Organized by GPF (Seoul, South Korea, December 8, 2017)

On December 8, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu spoke at “The International Forum on One Korea 2017: Solutions to the Korean Peninsula Crisis” in Seoul, South Korea on December 8. This event was held in conjunction with the earlier Nov. 14-15 series in Washington, DC. The forums were co-convened by the GPF, East-West Institute, Action for Korea United, and the One Korea Foundation, and “examined the

significant and essential elements of a Korean-led process for the reunification of the Korean peninsula, including multi-sector participation and citizen engagement.”



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (second from the left) speaks at the International Forum on One Korea 2017.

The Drew Mariani Show Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (December 11, 2017)

On December 11, 2017, the Drew Mariani Show hosted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu for an update on recent Korean peninsula issues as South Korea prepares to host the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in February 2018.

Please follow the link below to listen to the show:

<https://relevantradio.com/2017/12/drew-mariani-show-dec-11-hr-3/>.

HRNK Author David Hawk Delivers Remarks at a UN Panel Discussion on Human Rights Abuses in North Korea Entitled “North Korea Human Rights: The Terrifying Experiences of Forcibly Repatriated North Korean Women” (New York, NY, December 11, 2017)

On December 11, 2017, HRNK report author David Hawk spoke on a panel discussion at the U.S. Mission to the UN about *The Parallel Gulag: North Korea’s “An-Jeon-Bu” Prison Camps*. Ambassador Nikki Haley gave opening remarks, Ambassador Kelley Currie moderated the discussion and Australian

Permanent Representative Ambassador Gillian Bird delivered closing remarks.

Please follow the links below for more details:

<https://usun.state.gov/remarks/8211> and

<http://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/171211am-dprk-hr.pdf>.

U.S. Department of State Features HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu at a Storytelling for Human Rights Event (Washington, DC, December 12, 2017)

On December 12, 2017, the U.S. Department of State featured HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu as a speaker for its Storytelling for Human Rights online streaming event to discuss effective ways to raise the awareness regarding North Korean human rights issues by using social media and other appropriate methods to share the stories of North Koreans. HRNK staff and interns participated as part of the U.S.-based team. The event was streamed to U.S. embassies worldwide.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (left) at the U.S. Department of State for a Storytelling for Human Rights online streaming event.

HRNK Testifies at a Congressional Hearing on “Protecting North Korean Refugees” by the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations (Washington, DC, December 12, 2017)

On December 12, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and two Board Members, the Honorable Robert King (Former U.S. Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues) and Suzanne Scholte (Co-Vice-Chair, HRNK), testified at

the Subcommittee hearing entitled “Protecting North Korean Refugees.”

Their testimonies focused on the situation of North Korean refugees in China and the horrifying truth about the extent of human rights abuses in North Korea. HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu spoke during the third plenary session on “International Support for Humanitarian Aid and the Improvement of Human Rights.” His speech highlighted North Korea’s current operation of gulags and the UN COI’s finding that crimes against humanity are being committed in North Korea and China. In addition, HRNK Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen submitted a written testimony.

HRNK Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen’s and Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu’s written testimonies are available here: <https://www.hrnk.org/events/congressional-hearings.php>.

Please follow the link to view the photographs here: <https://www.hrnk.org/events/image-gallery-photos.php?album=91>.



From left to right: Ambassador Robert King (Board Member, HRNK), Greg Scarlatoiu (Executive Director, HRNK), and Suzanne Scholte (Co-Vice-Chair, HRNK) testify at the Congressional hearing entitled “Protecting North Korean Refugees.”

Korea Club with General “Chip” Wallace Gregson (Vienna, VA, December 12, 2017)

On December 12, 2017, HRNK and KEI hosted the Korea Club with General Wallace “Chip” Gregson who gave a presentation entitled “North Korea: The Land of Lousy Options.” General Gregson is Senior Advisor at Avascent Global Advisors and formerly served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs. From 2003 to 2005, he was Commanding General of the Marine Corps Forces Pacific and Marine Corps Forces Central Command, where he led and managed over 70,000 marines and sailors in the Middle East, Afghanistan, East Africa, Asia, and the United States. Topics General Gregson discussed included the increasing North Korean nuclear threat, the U.S.-ROK alliance outlook, U.S. policy toward North Korea, and the impact of international sanctions against North Korea.

Please follow the link to view the photographs here:

<https://www.hrnk.org/events/image-gallery-photos.php?album=95>.



HRNK staff and interns with General “Chip” Wallace Gregson (fourth from the right).

Thank You to Our HRNK Interns

HRNK would like to sincerely thank and recognize each individual who participated in the internship program from October to December of 2017. Our work would not be possible without their efforts, talent, enthusiasm, and dedication.



Huiwon Yun



Jihye Lee



Ayoung Kang



James Park



Chloe Pulfer



Grace Kan



Elizabeth Yang



Grace Warwick



Sabrina He