

NEWSLETTER: July–September 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 July 2017 to September 2017, 37 news articles in English language media featured HRNK, including CNN, Yahoo! Sports, VOA News, NBC News, and CBS News. Here are a few highlights from the third quarter of 2017:

- On July 21, 2017, CNN interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in a feature entitled “US to ban Americans from visiting North Korea.”
- On August 2, 2017, Yahoo! Sports quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in “How North Korea’s annual marathon became a big draw for adventure-seeking Americans,” discussing tourism’s ability to enable the Kim regime to funnel hard currency to areas critical to its survival.
- On August 15, 2017, VOA News quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in the article, “More Than 10,000 US Visas Issued to North Koreans in Past 20 Years,” on how most of the North Korean citizens traveling or living abroad are members of Pyongyang’s upper echelons.
- On August 30, 2017, NBC News featured an article dedicated to HRNK’s ads in Times Square. 41 WMGT and Democracy Digest subsequently relayed this.
- On August 30, 2017, CBS News, in the article titled “North Korean prison camps exposed by State Dept,” cited figures from HRNK reports of North Koreans that are in prison camps and that have died during imprisonment.

Korean Media

From July 2017 to September 2017, 56 news articles in Korean language media featured HRNK, including Chosun Ilbo, Newsis, JoongAng Ilbo, SBS News, KBS News, Yonhap News, Radio Free Asia, Voice of America, and Financial Today. Here are a few highlights from the third quarter of 2017:

- On July 16, 2017, Chosun Ilbo covered Greg Scarlatoiu's appearance on "That's What I Want to Know," a popular SBS TV Saturday night program. Scarlatoiu discussed the death of Otto Warmbier and the human rights situation in North Korea. This story was subsequently picked up and relayed by News and Media and Daegu News.
- On August 19, 2017, Newsis published an article regarding the HRNK initiative to light up Times Square as part of a campaign to refocus discussions on human rights in North Korea. JoongAng Ilbo, Chosun Ilbo, JoongAng Ilbo, SBS News, News 1, Voice of America, Yonhap News, Newstown, Radio Free Korea, Financial Today, KBS News, and Ulsan Daily subsequently relayed this story.
- On August 31, 2017, Yonhap News published an article reporting on the dire situation of North Koreans living in prison camps and featuring HRNK reports based on satellite imagery of North Korea's political prison camps.
- On September 26, 2017, Voice of America quoted HRNK Board Member Nicholas Eberstadt and Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu stating US travel restrictions that ban North Koreans from traveling to the United States send a very clear message to North Korea.
- On September 27, 2017, JoongAng Ilbo reported that HRNK Board Member Ambassador Robert King and Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, along with representatives of other non-governmental organizations, signed a letter to the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations requesting an expedited review process for extending the North Korea Human Rights Act.

UN Reports and Events

Meeting with Special Rapporteur Tomás Ojea Quintana (July 19, 2017)

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and Seoul HRNK Project Officer Amanda Mortwedt Oh met with Tomás Ojea Quintana, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to discuss human rights trends in North Korea. Mr. Ojea Quintana was in Seoul for a five-day mission to meet with senior members of the ROK Government and civil society groups from 17-21 July. The Special Rapporteur provided his findings to the UN General Assembly in October 2017.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (left) and HRNK Project Officer Amanda Mortwedt Oh (right) meet with Special Rapporteur Tomás Ojea Quintana (center) in Seoul on July 19, 2017

HRNK Publication Quoted in Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK (August 28, 2017)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres submitted a report providing an overview of human rights issues in North Korea from September 2016 to August 2017, and of North Korea's engagement with the United Nations. The report directly cites

HRNK's September 2016 publication authored by Joseph S. Bermudez Jr. and Greg Scarlatoiu entitled "North Korea, flooding at *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 12, Jongo-ri." The report of the UN Secretary-General is available at <http://undocs.org/A/72/279>. HRNK's report is available at www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Kyo-hwa-so%20No_%2012%20Flooding.pdf

NK Hidden Gulag Blog

"Two Birds, One Stone" by Elizabeth Chu (August 2017)

Former HRNK intern's blog post, "Two Birds, One Stone," was published on HRNK's blog nkhiddengulag.org. This is an excerpt:

During my summer in Washington, DC, I had the opportunity to visit the Laogai Museum on the corner of 18th Street and T Street. It offers a one-of-a-kind exhibition showcasing the history and abuses of China's vast network of prisons. I was appalled at the similarities of camp conditions between the Chinese laogai and the North Korean political prison camps. Derived from the Soviet gulag system in the 1950s, the political prison camps in North Korea and China were established for the purpose of containing political dissidence against their respective totalitarian governments. Over the last six decades, both systems have grossly perpetuated human rights abuses through the lack of due process, arbitrary detention, re-education, forced starvation and labor, torture, deaths in detention, and execution. The parallel between these two systems is undeniable. However, the North Korean and Chinese prison systems have evolved to possess several distinct characteristics.

Please follow the link to the article here:

<http://www.nkhiddengulag.org/blog/two-birds-one-stone>.



A display highlighting Nazi camps, Soviet gulags, Chinese laogai, and the Khmer Rouge's killing fields at the Laogai Museum in Washington, DC (Photograph Credit: Elizabeth Chu for HRNK)

Events

Meridian Center US Congress-Republic of Korea National Assembly Exchange Program Featuring HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park (July 17, 2017)

HRNK Director of Programs Rosa Park welcomed a group of students from the Meridian International Center to speak about HRNK's mission, research, and programs. Park discussed HRNK's role in uncovering North Korea's prison camps in addition to HRNK's extensive research on the human rights situation in North Korea.



HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park with a group of students from the Meridian International Center

VOA News Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatou (July 21, 2017)

On July 21, 2017, Jenny Lee of VOA News featured HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatou in an article. Scarlatou discussed HRNK's role and objectives in helping to record North Korean human rights violations. He explained the importance of HRNK's continued efforts to research and collect evidence regarding North Korean atrocities at detention facilities, labor camps, and political prison camps. Please find the link to the article here: <https://www.voanews.com/a/right-group-uses->

satellite-imagery-defectors-testimony-to-record-north-korea-atrocities/3954221.html.

HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park Speaks at Forum on International Affairs Panel “United Nations Human Rights Council: What Is It Good For?” (July 25, 2017)

HRNK’s Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park spoke at a Forum on International Affairs (FIA) panel on the United Nations Human Rights Council (OHCHR) alongside Ted Piccone of the Brookings Institution. The discussion revolved around the OHCHR’s efforts to hold the Kim regime accountable for crimes against humanity and highlighted the discrepancy between North Korea’s “democratic” constitution and oppressive reality.



HRNK Director of Programs Rosa Park (center) with Ted Piccone (far right) and FIA staff members

HUFS International Summer Session: “North Korean Human Rights: Is There a Way Forward?” (July 25, 2017)

On July 25, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu organized and moderated an event co-hosted with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) in Seoul, Korea. HRNK Project Officer Amanda Mortwedt Oh and HRNK Editorial Consultant Raymond Ha joined a panel that included: His

Excellency Lee Jung-hoon, Republic of Korea (ROK) ambassador for North Korean human rights; Signe Poulsen, head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Seoul; North Korean escapees Kim Kwang-jin, senior researcher, Institute for National Security Strategy, and Jung Kwang-il, CEO of No Chain; and pastor and activist Tim Peters of Helping Hands Korea. During the event, they discussed the human rights situation in North Korea and the way forward after the 2014 findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) revealed that crimes against humanity are being committed in North Korea. The event was attended by activists and practitioners from 12 different countries who gathered to exchange their reviews on human rights documentation and investigation worldwide.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, Ambassador Lee Jung-hoon, Signe Poulsen, Kim Kwang-jin, Tim A. Peters, HRNK Project Officer Amanda Mortwedt Oh, Jung Kwang-il, and HRNK Editorial Consultant Raymond Ha

VOA News Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (July 27, 2017)

Kim Hyun-jin of VOA News interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding the controversial re-defection of Lim Ji-hyun to North Korea. Scarlatoiu discussed the reasons defectors might want to return to North Korea. Please find the link to the interview here: <https://www.voanews.com/a/why-would-defector-return-north-korea/3960514.html>.

Yahoo! Sports Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Regarding Pyongyang Marathon (August 2, 2017)

Jeff Eisenberg of Yahoo! Sports interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding North Korea's annual Pyongyang Marathon and its ability to attract Americans in search of adventure. Scarlatoiu voiced his concerns regarding this phenomenon, raising safety issues as well as questioning the ethical aspects of tourism to North Korea. Please find the link to the article here: <https://sports.yahoo.com/running-north-korea-150614535.html>.

San Antonio Express News Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (August 9, 2017)

Jay Lawrence of San Antonio Express News interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding tensions building over North Korea's expedited nuclear ambitions. Please find the link to the interview here:

<http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/North-Korea-tensions-hit-new-high-amid-11746660.php>.

VOA News Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (August 15, 2017)

Dave Sebastian of VOA News interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu. Scarlatoiu expressed his views on North Korean citizens allowed to travel or reside overseas, stating that they are likely members of the North Korean "core" class. Please find the link to the interview here:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/more-than-10000-us-visas-issued-to-north-koreans-in-the-past-20-years/3985120.html>.

NBC News Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park, Highlighting the HRNK Times Square Initiative (August 17, 2017)

NBC News featured HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park regarding the HRNK initiative to light up Times Square as part of a campaign to refocus discussion on human rights in North Korea. Scarlatoiu emphasized that trading away human rights is not the answer, while Park reported that the initiative had received positive comments. Please find the link to the interviews here:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/nonprofit-uses-times-square-ads-jumpstart-north-korea-human-rights-n796631>.



One of three ads by HRNK displayed in Times Square

i24 News Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatiou (August 17, 2017)

On August 17, 2017, i24 News interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatiou regarding the US-ROK joint military exercises amid rising tension with North Korea. Scarlatiou stressed the importance of the US-ROK alliance. Please find the link to the interview here:

<https://www.facebook.com/i24newsEN/videos/813543922147612/>.



*i24 News interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatiou
(Photograph Credit: i24 News)*

World Magazine Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (August 19, 2017)

On August 19, 2017, World Magazine interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding waging an information campaign against Kim Jong-un by North Korean escapees. Scarlatoiu discussed several human rights violations in North Korea as well as the regime tightening its grip on North Korean defections. He also gave his views on the atmosphere in South Korea concerning its hostile neighbor and voiced concerns regarding the looming threat of nuclear missiles that could threaten the lives of millions in Seoul and Tokyo. Please find the link to the interview here:

https://world.wng.org/2017/08/the_campaign_against_kim.

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Lectures to US Military Audience in St. Louis, Missouri (August 21-22, 2017)

On August 21-22, 2017, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu gave a lecture to a US military audience in St. Louis, Missouri.

US State Department's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (August 30, 2017)

On August 30, HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu gave a lecture on North Korean peninsula issues at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute (FSI).

History Channel Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu for a North Korea documentary (August 30, 2017)

The History Channel interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu for a documentary on North Korea, scheduled to air in early 2018.

HRNK Annual Board Meeting (September 7, 2017)

On September 7, 2017, HRNK held its annual Board Meeting.

HRNK Staff Meets with *Kotjebi* Team of the NAUH (September 7, 2017)

HRNK staff members and interns had an opportunity to meet with the *Kotjebi* performers of Now Action & Unity for Human

Rights (NAUH). NAUH is a human rights organization in Seoul consisting of North Korean refugees and South Korean college students. Its presentation included “Jangmadang” and “Kotjebi,” focusing on personal experiences of persecution by the North Korean regime. HRNK Co-Chair Katrina Lantos Swett chaired the meeting.



HRNK staff and interns meet with the Kotjebi Team of the NAUH

Asia Foundation's "Observation Program in the US for Media Leaders from the Republic of Korea," Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on Second Panel, “North Korea: Domestic Conditions and Human Rights” (September 11, 2017)

HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu spoke to a group of senior South Korean journalists together with Frank Jannuzi, President and CEO of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. He addressed topics including human rights trends under the Kim Jong-un regime, North Korean regime dynamics, and the economic transformation of North Korea and its implications for human rights.

Korea Club with Lieutenant General Chun In-Bum (ROK, Ret.) (September 13, 2017)

HRNK and the Korea Economic Institute co-hosted the Korea Club with General Chun In-Bum, who gave a presentation entitled "Facing North: Managing North Korea's Military Challenge." General Chun is a Visiting Scholar at the US-Korea

Institute at Johns Hopkins SAIS and a Visiting Fellow at the Center for East Asia Policy Studies of the Brookings Institution, following his July 2016 retirement from 35 years of active duty. General Chun is one of the most decorated officers in ROK military history with awards including three US Legion of Merit awards, a US Bronze Star Medal, and the U.S. Special Operations Command Medal.



HRNK staff and interns with General Chun In-Bum (third from left, top row)

Romanian American Community Symposium Featuring HRNK Executive Greg Scarlatoiu in Cleveland, Ohio (September 14-15, 2017)

On September 14-15, HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu spoke to the annual Romanian American Community Symposium in Cleveland, Ohio. Invited by the Romanian Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio, Scarlatoiu gave two three-hour lectures with Q&A on the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia issues, including North Korean human rights, the economic, social, and political situation, prospects for Korean unification as well as political security issues. He also addressed political security challenges facing Romania and other newer NATO members. The event, organized by a diverse group of Romanian American churches, was held at St. Helena Romanian Greek Catholic Church in Cleveland, Ohio, the oldest Romanian church in the United States (established in 1903). The organizers and participants included numerous former Romanian dissidents and escapees who identified with HRNK's mission to bring

freedom, human rights, and opportunity to the people of North Korea.

The Center for the National Interest Hosts Panel Discussion on US Policy toward North Korea Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (September 18, 2017)

The Center for the National Interest hosted a panel discussion on US policy toward North Korea featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, Lieutenant General Wallace “Chip” Gregson, Jr. (Ret.) and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, and Joseph DeTrani, former US Special Envoy to the Six Party Talks with North Korea during the Bush Administration. HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu discussed human rights violations of the North Korean regime and the objectives of Kim Jong-un. Please find the link to the discussions here: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?434164-1/north-korea-nuclear-program>.



HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu featured at the Center for the National Interest discussion panel. (Photograph credit: C-Span2)

Maryland Foreign Service Retirees Association Hosts HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (September 19, 2017)

HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu spoke to a group of about 120 retired Foreign Service Officers. Topics included Kim regime dynamics, the human rights situation in North Korea, Kim Jong-un's "byungjin" policy line, the dramatic acceleration of North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, the implications

of UN Security Council resolutions 2371 and 2375, as well as increasing tension with North Korea.

The Capitol Hill Workshop Featuring HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (September 20, 2017)

Speaking to a senior military audience, HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu addressed the nexus of North Korean human rights violations and threats to regional and international peace and security.

Save North Korean Refugees Day (September 22, 2017)

On September 22, 2017, HRNK Co-Vice-Chair Suzanne Scholte launched the worldwide Save North Korean Refugees Day.

38 North and Foreign Policy Magazine Quote HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (September 22, 2017)

John Feffer for 38 North and Foreign Policy Magazine quotes HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu. Please find the articles here: <http://www.38north.org/2017/09/jfeffer092817/> and <http://fpif.org/engaging-north-korea-successfully-on-human-rights/>.

CNN Interviews HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu (September 28, 2017)

CNN interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu regarding North Korea's denial of torturing American student Otto Warmbier, who died shortly after returning from 17 months of detention in North Korea. In the interview, Scarlatoiu affirmed that there is no doubt that North Korea is responsible for the tragedy of the Warmbier family. Please find the link to the interview here:

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2017/09/28/exp-tsr-todd-north-korea-denies-torturing-otto-warmbier.cnn>.



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

Thank You to Our HRNK Interns

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



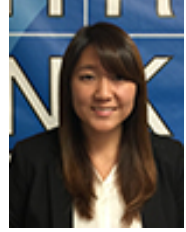
Marina Booth



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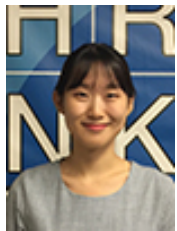
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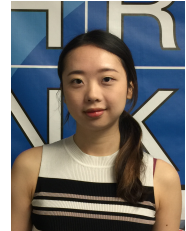
Hyerang Lee



Jihye Lee



Lisa Lee



Yezi Liu



James Park



John Park



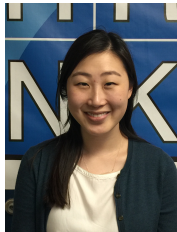
Chloe Pulfer



Grace Warwick



Seth Warnick



Elizabeth Yang



Kayla Yoon



Huiwon Yun

