UN Humanitarian Actors and North Korea’s Prison Camps

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Contact: International Council on Korean Studies (ICKS)  
5508 Chestermill Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-7248, U.S.A.  
Tel & Fax (703) 808-7088, E-mail at hugo33kim@gmail.com  
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In Memoriam

Dr. Il-pyong John Kim, founding President of the International Council of Korean Studies, died peacefully at home on October 23, 2017. Dr. Kim was born on August 15, 1931 in a rural village in South Korea. His parents died when he was young, and an uncle raised Dr. Kim and his two sisters on a nearby farm. His exemplary academic record and exposure to American missionaries led to his becoming a Republic of Korea Army intelligence officer during the Korean War. Dr. Kim was awarded the U.S. Bronze Star Medal for distinguished service.

Dr. Kim emigrated to the United States in 1954 after receiving a scholarship to attend Asbury University in Kentucky. He earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University, worked at the East-West Center in the early 1960s, and taught at various universities before becoming a Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. Dr. Kim’s distinguished career spanned more than three decades, including service as a Fulbright Professor at Tokyo University and Seoul National University. He was Visiting Professor at Columbia University and Visiting Scholar at Harvard University’s Fairbank Center for East Asian Research. He lectured at Brown, Indiana, Princeton, and Yale Universities. He participated in the Scholar-Diplomat Program at the U.S. State Department, as well as research seminars organized by the State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research. A specialist in the comparative politics of China, Korea, and Japan, Dr. Kim authored or edited a dozen books and contributed more than 35 articles to academic journals and edited volumes. He also served as editor of the five volume series “China in a New Era,” of which Chinese Politics from Mao to Deng; Chinese Defense and Foreign Policy; Chinese Economic Reform; and Reform and Transformation in Communist System (with Jane Shapiro Zacek) were published to wide acclaim. He published his last book, Historical Dictionary of North Korea, in March 2003.

Dr. Kim is survived by his wife of 54 years, Hyun-yong, and daughters Irene and Kate. He introduced his daughters to domestic politics and global issues at an early age, inculcating a curiosity and openness to the ideas and experiences that the world had to offer.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES
Roberta Cohen is a specialist in human rights and humanitarian issues, and a leading expert on internally displaced persons. For more than a decade, she was a Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution, where she co-directed its Project on Internal Displacement and served as Senior Adviser to the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons. She co-authored the first major study on internal displacement, *Masses in Flight* (Brookings), and co-won the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order and the DACOR (State Department Ret.) Fiftieth Anniversary Award for Exemplary Writing on Foreign Affairs and Diplomacy. Earlier, Ms. Cohen served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and senior adviser on U.S. delegations to the UN. She is Co-Chair Emeritus of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK), a member of the Committee on Conscience of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, a member of the Administrative Council of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights and a member of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars. Ms. Cohen has an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the University of Bern, an M.A. with distinction from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. in History from Barnard College (Columbia University).

Robert M. Collins is a 37-year veteran employee of the U.S. Department of the Army. He served 31 years in various positions with the U.S. military in Korea, including several liaison positions with the Republic of Korea military. He finished his career as Chief of Strategy, ROK-US Combined Forces Command, serving the four-star U.S. commander as a political analyst for planning on Korean Peninsula. Mr. Collins holds a B.A. in Asian History, University of Maryland, 1977, and a M.A. in International Politics from Dankook University, 1988, with Ph.D. work at Hanyang University 1993-1996 (no degree). He received the Republic of Korea Sam-il Medal (Order of National Security Merit, Fourth Class) from President Lee Myung-bak and the Department of the Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from the Secretary of the Army. Mr. Collins is the author of “Marked For Life: Songbun – North Korea’s Social Classification System” (2012), and “Pyongyang Republic: North Korea’s Capital of Human Rights Denial” (2016), both published by HRNK. Mr. Collins is a senior adviser for the HRNK.
Greg Scarlatoiu is the Executive Director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) in Washington, D.C. He has coordinated 18 HRNK publications addressing North Korea’s human rights situation and the operation of its regime. Prior to HRNK, Scarlatoiu was with the Korea Economic Institute in Washington, D.C. He has over six years of experience in international development, on projects funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. For fourteen years, he has authored and broadcast the weekly Korean language ‘Scarlatoiu Column’ to North Korea for Radio Free Asia. A seasoned lecturer on Korean issues, Scarlatoiu has appeared as an expert witness at several Congressional hearings on North Korean human rights. He is a visiting professor at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul as well as instructor and coordinator of the Korean Peninsula and Japan class at the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Service Institute. He holds a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School, Tufts University, and a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts from Seoul National University’s Department of International Relations. Mr. Scarlatoiu was awarded the title ‘Citizen of Honor, City of Seoul,’ in January 1999. A native of Romania, Scarlatoiu is a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Gordon G. Chang is the author The Coming Collapse of China and Nuclear Showdown: North Korea Takes On the World, both from Random House. Mr. Chang lived and worked in China and Hong Kong for almost two decades, most recently in Shanghai, as Counsel to the American law firm Paul Weiss, and earlier in Hong Kong as Partner in the international law firm Baker & McKenzie. His writings have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Barron’s, Commentary, The National Interest, and The Weekly Standard, among other publications. Mr. Chang has given numerous briefings to U.S. government agencies, universities, research institutions, and industry and investor groups. He has also appeared before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. He has frequently appeared on CNN, Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network, Bloomberg, CNBC, and MSNBC and is a regular co-host and guest on The John Batchelor Show. He is a columnist at The Daily Beast and a Forbes.com contributor. Mr. Chang blogs at World Affairs Journal. He has served two terms as trustee of Cornell University.

James F. Durand is the editor of the International Journal of Korean Studies • Vol. XXI, No. 1
A career Marine officer specializing in intelligence and cryptology, he completed five assignments in the Republic of Korea and Japan. Mr. Durand’s military education includes graduating from the Republic of Korea Naval War College and Japan’s National Institute for Defense Studies. Following the Marine Corps, he worked at Morgan Stanley Japan Securities, where he was responsible for enhanced Due Diligence focusing on identifying entities linked to significant transnational criminal groups and organizations sanctioned by the Office of Foreign Asset Control. Returning to the United States, he worked for Aspen Medical USA, a global provider of healthcare solutions in remote and austere environments. He has published papers on cultural, historical and security issues in English, Korean, and Japanese language professional journals. Mr. Durand earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a M.A. in National Security Studies from Georgetown University.

Cheon Seong-whun is a visiting research fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. From 2014 to 2017, Dr. Cheon was the Secretary to the President for Security Strategy at the Office of National Security of the Blue House. Prior to this position, he had worked more than twenty years at the Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU) and served in various positions, including senior research associate, research fellow, senior research fellow, and finally, the 13th president of KINU. His research focuses on inter-Korean relations, North Korea policy and unification strategy, North Korean nuclear issues and arms control, international security and nuclear strategy, and mid-to-long term national strategy. He was a member of the Foreign Affairs and Security Bureau of the Presidential Council for Future & Vision and an expert member of the Foreign Affairs, National Defense and Unification Subcommittee at the Commission on Presidential Transition for the 18th ROK President. He has been an editorial consultant for Radio Free Asia from 2000 to 2013. Dr. Cheon is the recipient of the Commendation of the President of the ROK in 2003 and has received awards for excellent research from the Korea Research Council for Humanities & Social Sciences in 2001, 2002, and 2003. He received his B.Sc. in industrial engineering from Korea University, M.Sc. in industrial economics from Stanford University, and Ph.D. in management science from the University of Waterloo, Canada.