

Universal Periodic Review 47<sup>th</sup> session - Stakeholders' Report

# **Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Abduction of Three South Korean Citizens**

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## **Submission by:**

**PeaceCorea** is a Christian NGO registered in the Ministry of Unification of South Korea. It was founded in April 2007 for the unification of the Korean peninsula and world peace. PeaceCorea focuses on a prayer movement, research, and education to serve domestic and international underprivileged people including North Koreans.

**The Korea Evangelical Fellowship (KEF)** was founded in 1981 at the Asian Center for Theological Studies and Mission by and with the Korean evangelical church leaders. KEF is a representative body for Evangelicals in South Korea.

**The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA)** is a network of churches in over 140 nations that have each formed an evangelical alliance and over 100 international organizations joining together to give a world-wide identity, voice, and platform to more than 600 million evangelical Christians worldwide.

For additional information, please contact the Geneva Office of the World Evangelical Alliance at [geneva@worldea.org](mailto:geneva@worldea.org), or visit <https://un.worldea.org>

1. The following report addresses cases of abduction and detention of three South Korean citizens by the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).
2. Three South Korean Christians are detained in DPRK. All three were located in Dandong, China, the largest Chinese border city, facing Sinuiju, North Korea, across the Yalu River, which demarcates the Sino-North Korean border.
3. **Kim Jung-wook**, Christian minister affiliated to the Korea Baptist Convention, is in captivity since 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013, on charges of crime of conspiracy and crime of espionage against North Korea. He was sentenced to hard labor for life, in May 2014. From 2008 to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013, his activities consisted in providing humanitarian aid and refugee shelter, teaching Bible, and rescuing North Koreans defectors.
4. **Kim Guk-gi**, Christian minister affiliated to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Korea, is in captivity since October 2014 on charges of crime of conspiracy and crime of espionage against North Korea. He was sentenced to hard labor for life, in June 2015. From 2004 to September 2014, his activities consisted in operating a shelter for North Korean defectors (Kotjebi – homeless North Korean children), providing North Korean defectors with travel expenses, daily necessities, agricultural machinery, tofu machines, baking machines, electric generators and sewing machines for farming and family members, and providing medicine and clothing with the help of the Korean Church.
5. **Choi Chun-gil** is in captivity since December 2014 and was sentenced to hard labor for life, in June 2015. He was a business colleague of Kim Guk-gi, already mentioned above.
6. Since February 2014, the South Korean government has been vigorously urging for the release and repatriation of these detainees, but to date, even whether they are alive or dead remains unconfirmed.
7. **We call on the government of the DPRK to release the three South Korean Christians detained; Kim Jung-wook, Kim Guk-gi and Choi Chun-gil.**