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FSI VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FREEDOM SPEAKERS INTERNATIONAL



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MISSION STATEMENT:
EMPOWERING NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES TO FIND THEIR OWN VOICE AND PATH THROUGH EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, AND SUPPORT.

A NOTE FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS OF FSI

Freedom Speakers International (FSI) was founded in 2013 by co-directors Casey Lartigue Jr. and Eunkoo Lee. Both had prior experience working for other humanitarian causes, and both were deeply interested in the plight of North Korean refugees living in South Korea. They saw the obstacles that the refugees faced and recognized their need for support.

One of the most common questions we are asked as co-founders of Freedom Speakers International (FSI): "Where do you see the organization five years from now?"

The answer is easy: The same thing we have been doing from the start. We talk to and listen to the refugees to make sure their voices are heard, then develop programs based on what we learn and our capacity. For seven years, we engaged in both English-language tutoring and public speaking because of what we were learning from North Korean refugees. In the wake of the pandemic, we made the decision to scale back to public speaking. We expect to be more dynamic and effective, as we steer one rather than two boats simultaneously.

As we approach our 10th anniversary, more people are sure to ask us what our vision will be for the next five or ten years. As this newsletter documents our activities, it should be clear that we are listening to and talking to the refugees, making sure their voices are heard.

Casey Lartigue Jr.
Co-Founder





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Welcome to Freedom Speakers International

*The Story Behind Our New Name:
"Making Invisible People Visible"*



**Freedom
Speakers
International**

Starting in the year 2021, Teach North Korean Refugees will be known as Freedom Speakers International (FSI), overhauling its identity and goals. FSI will reorient its mission towards empowering refugees to present their stories in public.

Why is it so important for North Korean refugees to share their stories with the public? In a Korea Times column, FSI cofounder Casey Lartigue Jr., discussed interviews he had with North Korean refugees preparing to join FSI's 10th English speech contest. One refugee said the speech contest provided him a unique opportunity to think about what it means to be a North Korean refugee and the discrimination he faces in South Korea, whether that be when applying for a job or renting a house. Another refugee said that competing in FSI's speech contest gave her a chance to 'heal her heart' after suffering unspeakable tragedies. Mr.

For the first time, she felt like she could express herself.

Lartigue observes, "She never really had an opportunity to speak out, but after participating in our contest, she had an opportunity to reflect and talk about these memories in a safe environment."

For years, FSI has been facilitating such speech contests and public speaking opportunities but, as Mr. Lartigue

notes, he felt that they were "getting caught in the Pareto principle", in that the organization was spending "80% of its time on activities that only produce about 20% of its success." Focusing on the tutoring program was "making it difficult for us to develop as an organization and widen our impact" and the difficulties of COVID-19 proved once again the benefits of moving away from attempting to manage two separate programs with a skeleton paid staff and volunteers.

This shift is something Mr. Lartigue, who is responsible for the organization's strategic direction, proposed to the staff four years ago. Some of the students had grown beyond just studying English, and were looking to focus more on public speaking.

Significantly, empowering people to share their stories has been an interest of Mr. Lartigue's since he was 12 years old, when he read all three of the books written by Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave turned abolitionist. And the message of respecting the individual, and the importance of people having control of their own lives because Douglass did not when he was young, resonated with Mr. Lartigue. "In the introduction to the book, former Congressman Charles Sumner told the Aesop Fable of the Man and Lion. When the man tells the story, he presents himself conquering the lion. When the lion writes the story, then man is under the lion's paw. Sumner wrote that Douglass was a case of the lions writing the history, as a slave was writing the

FSI's Next Steps

Starting from 2021, Freedom Speakers International will channel its efforts toward building on its progress. "Everything we do will be connected with some form of public speaking." Whether that is having mentors adjust their lessons to work towards a specific goal, such as writing a speech or publishing a book, or hosting online conferences with refugees as speakers. However, refugees will not be limited to sharing their experiences about North Korea; "if they want to write about their hobbies, talk about playing sports, their opportunities will be wide open." One refugee has started a YouTube channel focused on cooking, and FSI has paired her with a graphic designer and building a marketing team. "It's more about how we can partner together so that FSI speakers can achieve their goals."

story. Mr. Lartigue's career has since been centered around the tenet of empowering people to have choices and opportunities to tell their stories.

Freedom Speakers International has already made an impact in this regard on the refugee community. Mr. Lartigue noted that the "greatest compliment" he has ever received has been a result of his efforts to share the stories of defectors with others. One of the projects FSI supports is the Send His Father Home campaign, which advocates for the release of the father of Mr. Hwang In-Cheol. His father was on a South Korean airplane that was hijacked to North Korea in 1969. When Mr. Hwang's sister visited South Korea, she met with Mr. Hwang to learn about what FSI was doing. She then said, "You are the person who makes invisible people visible. You listen to people, find out what they need, and try to find people who can help them so their voices can be heard. I finally feel that I have the power for my voice to be heard." As Mr. Lartigue noted in the introduction, listening and talking directly to people is at the heart of FSI's approach.

By Haley Son
Editor-in-Chief

The FSI Youth English Speech Contest: My Experience as a Mentor

Mentoring refugee students in public speaking so that they can share their stories.

Members of the FSI Global High School Union volunteer to mentor North Korean students for the FSI English Speech Contest.

Since last December, North Korean refugee students have been preparing for the 2021 FSI Youth English Speech Contest with their high school mentors. I have been fortunate to work with one of the North Korean refugee students and guide someone for the first time as a public speaking mentor. The sessions are held online enabling lively discussions between students and mentors. During class, the student and I usually worked on verbal delivery, revision of word choice, and interpersonal connection with the audience. There is so much to cover within those ranges: tone, pace, volume, pronunciation, eye contact, and so forth. Yet, it could never be more worthwhile to see the student improving immensely in every class.

It was intriguing, genuine, poignant, but most importantly exceedingly powerful. Because the story was so invaluable, I felt the need to do the best I can to help this project out until it gets told to the world.

My first response, before joining in this project, was excitement along with some obvious worries. I had a doubt whether I could be helpful to the student; I was only a student too. Then, I remembered the time I received the script of the student's speech and read it for the first time. It was intriguing, genuine, poignant, but most importantly exceedingly powerful. Because the story was so invaluable, I felt the need to do the best I can to help this project out until it gets told to the world.



The TNKR Youth English Speech Contest was held on February 19.

The process has been promising so far. I always get surprised by the enthusiasm and the positivity the student brings into every class. On the first day of class, he asked me to record the first part of his speech so that he could listen to it and practice his pronunciation. He then showed up to the next class, fully prepared after practicing the part tens and hundreds of times, fluently reading the script without the mistakes he previously made. That is, by my standard, incredible. The more positive energy I receive in class, the more I want to teach the student the essence of public speaking. Last week, when we were done practicing with the script, I taught him the four elements I consider to be the most important in delivering the speech. Then, we watched examples of a good speech made by adept public speakers along with the speech that I once gave in my school.

"It was very fun and helpful," said the student.

The shortcoming of the online sessions is that it is challenging to give advice on the physicalization and the gestures which are important for the final presentation. It would rest upon the student's preparation outside of class on practicing natural postures and physical expressions. Yet the benefit outweighs the rest as it enables a strong connection between the mentor and the student during this period of COVID-19. There is nothing more worthwhile than to see motivated students trying to get their meaningful message across to people.

The FSI Youth English Speech Contest was held on February 19, 2 pm (kst) at Seoul Square.

By Jiwon Hwang
Member of the FSIGHSU

This article was published in The Korea Times on June 29, 2021.

Spotlight:

Female Expression In North Korea

Eunhee Park: "This is not the life human beings deserve. There is so much more than this outside of North Korea."

Women in North Korea are routinely deprived of basic freedom of expression and face discriminatory working conditions, ultimately persuading North Korean refugee Eunhee Park to leave her home and come to South Korea when she was 19 years old.

The turning point for Ms. Park was when she was 17 years old, and her friend gave her a USB containing clips of South Korean dramas and American movies. Ms. Park recalled, "It was an eye opening moment. In the movies the women are very pretty and free to do as they please. They didn't care about the police." She then compared this foreign world to her life and realized "this is not the life human beings deserve. There is so much more than this outside of North Korea."

In North Korea, the police painstakingly ensure that all citizens do not deviate from the set standard, which for women entails conservative clothes and short hair, monitoring their outfits daily. "The North Korean system is that everybody is the same," observed Ms. Park. But beyond the police, Ms. Park described the role of common citizens in reporting any breach of the rules: "Everyone is a spy around you in North Korea." If a person goes against the law, they are made to stand for 24 hours straight at a police station, or, in extreme scenarios, sent to a labor camp. Even while still in North Korea, Ms. Park would attempt to express herself through her fashion choices, even in a small way. "There is a regulation to have short hair, but I kept my long hair and hid it. I would

adjust my clothes, just a little, to make it different from the 'proper' way," said Ms. Park.

To somebody as passionate about self expression as Ms. Park, these rules in North Korea went against her very nature. "I could not wear what I wanted to wear. I had no control over my body. Fashion is your expression, your identity, and what you want to express about yourself."

I am so proud as a North Korean. I appreciate democracy and how individual voices are what makes society so beautiful.

Now in South Korea, Ms. Park has geared her message towards women in North Korea as well as embracing her own identity. "I am so proud as a North Korean. I appreciate democracy and how individual voices are what makes society so beautiful. I am very grateful, even for the smallest things." In South Korea's "materialistic" culture, the value of 100,000 KRW is miniscule compared to in North Korea. Ms. Park observed that, in her homeland, "Many people are dying because of \$100; they can not even offer one meal. So I am perhaps more grateful than the average person born in a free country."

However, adjusting to South Korea was not without its challenges. Compared to the image of South Korea she had built up in her head, South Korean society posed more obstacles than expected. "This society didn't accept [me] as an equal person. That was the hardest part for me: I realized that I had to take responsibility to figure out how to use my new freedom and overcome these challenges." Ms. Park firmly believes in the potential of North Korean refugees and the role they can play in South Korea; "They have lots of potential to develop themselves as leaders in this country. And in this world."

Impact of FSI

Ms. Park shared that the impact of Freedom Speakers International was crucial in helping her become comfortable with her identity. "When I was 24 years old in 2015, I was ashamed to be a North Korean defector, and I was ashamed to even say those words," said Ms. Park. But through FSI (then TNKR), she met scores of volunteers who were "willing to help defectors rather than blaming them or discriminating." Since then, Ms. Park has wished to "give something back" to and has dedicated herself to study English, picturing herself as a public speaker.

Interview with Eunhee Park

By Haley Son
Editor-in-Chief

This article was published in The Korea Times on June 15, 2021.



Eunhee Park came to South Korea when she was 21 years old.

She is a public speaker and YouTube creator with her own channel, Liberty21

The FSI Translation Project: Translating North Korean Memoirs

Volunteers help mentor and translate speeches and books for the “Voices From The North Project”



“TNKR is recruiting members from the TNKR GHSU to work as translators for a North Korean refugee publishing her late father’s manuscript...”

As soon as I saw the Discord notification pop on to my screen, I knew I would need to participate in this project. Not because it will help me add an extracurricular activity, but because I felt it will be a meaningful contribution.

Ever since I joined the Teach North Korean Refugees Global High School Union, now Freedom Speakers International Global High School Union, I have particularly felt drawn to the plight of North Korean citizens and refugees as they are (or were) suffering from poverty and exploitation under a dictatorial regime. Although I wanted to help them, I hesitated to participate in tutoring public speaking as I was unsure whether I could be a suitable teacher for public speaking, an activity in which I lacked confidence. However, unlike mentoring in public speaking, the newly posted translation project appeared to give me an opportunity to fulfill my desire to add value to TNKR,

now FSI. In particular, since the author of the book passed away due to brutal torture in North Korea, I wanted to help the translation process so that more people could be informed about the malicious and sorrowful reality of North Korea.

I have particularly felt drawn to the plight of North Korean citizens and refugees as they are (or were) suffering from poverty and exploitation under a dictatorial regime.

Although there were difficulties during the translation process, overall, I think the project turned out to be more successful than I had initially envisaged. At first, it was quite hard to balance my high school’s course load with this translation project. Also, it was challenging to translate Korean words written by a North Korean author. There were many North Korean words and run-on sentences that were difficult for

me to understand as the two Korean languages have developed somewhat separately since the end of the war.

However, in my effort to tackle this strenuous task, I used this opportunity to improve on my time management. Moreover, the management at FSI supported us translators by sharing resources (e.g., a North Korean dictionary) and extended the deadline in consideration of the challenges facing us. Thanks to these factors, I think the translation process proceeded smoothly. I want to express my gratitude to my team members for their hard work, as they eventually all accomplished their assigned tasks despite their challenging situations.

It was nice to participate in such a meaningful activity, and I am eager to see the translated book published. I hope that FSI will carry out a lot of translation activities in the future and also encourage a lot of members of the GHSU to participate.

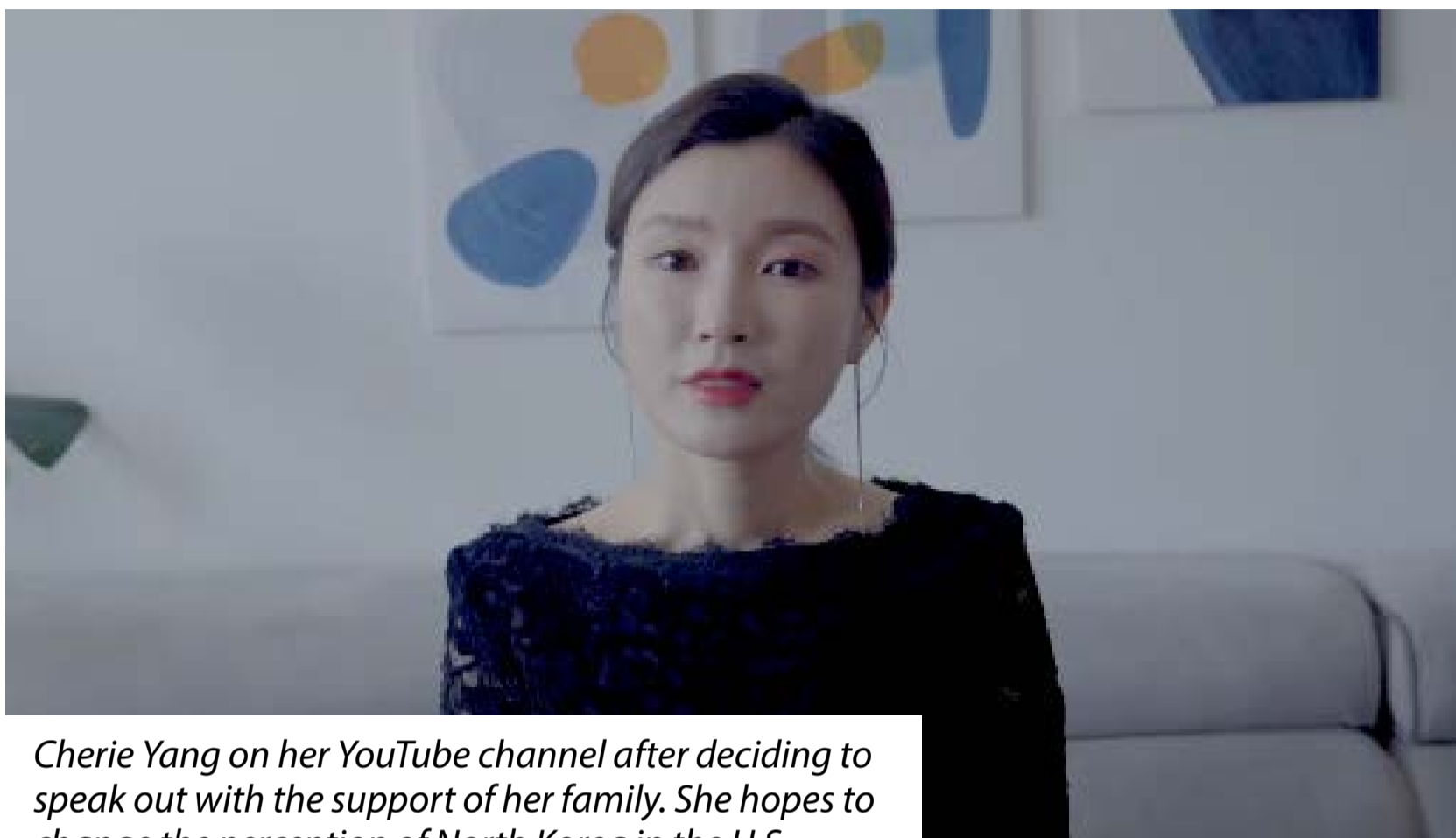
Special thanks to FSI for proceeding with this activity and my fellow translators Yubin Kim and Seoha Min.

By Bryan Kang
Member of the FSIGHSU



FSI high school volunteers at the International Youth Forum

Cherie Yang: Deciding To Tell My Story



Cherie Yang on her YouTube channel after deciding to speak out with the support of her family. She hopes to change the perception of North Korea in the U.S.

This excerpt was originally published in *The Korea Times* in the article *I was in a North Korean propaganda video*. The article was assisted and edited by Casey Lartigue Jr., co-founder of Freedom Speakers International.

A few years ago, I became a regular guest on a talk show about North Korea called the “Moranbong Club.” It is an entertainment show, so I didn’t have to talk about my personal story.

It was fun until everything got serious when another panelist on the TV show was sent back to North Korea. The North Korean regime had apparently kidnapped her and taken her back to North Korea. She was spotted later on North Korea’s state-run TV denouncing the people of South Korea.

North Korea showed footage from the show where I appeared as a panelist. My mom saw my face was on North Korean TV. She begged me not to talk about North Korea, because we still have relatives living there. As a result, I abruptly pulled the plug on my TV career. There are two main reasons that I am now starting a YouTube channel.

One, I have the support of my family. My mom and sister have changed. They now support me speaking out publicly.

Two, my grandmother passed away, but my mother couldn’t even attend the funeral. Recently, her younger sister was sent to prison, where she was cruelly tortured. Now her sister is in a serious condition. It is only with support from my mom and sister that I can be here talking publicly about North Korea.

Three, while I’ve been living in the United States, I found out that many Americans don’t know very much about North Korea. Even if they know where North Korea is located on our planet, they don’t really know what’s happening there. When I see YouTube videos of Westerners on tours to North Korea, it seems like they think they understand North Korea and believe what they have seen represents the true North Korea.

The North Korean regime doesn’t want to show foreigners the real North Korean system. You are naive if you think you understand North Korea because of a tourist trip. Therefore, I would like to communicate with people directly to help them understand North Korea better, and to know what is really happening inside the North. My family was loyal to the regime, but the regime turned my father and myself into traitors.

My first introduction to this was when I was 10 years old, when I saw my father, a loyal North Korean, be accused of being a traitor. They sent my father to prison, and he suffered for the rest of his life from the aftereffects of imprisonment. They gave us no choice but to escape from North Korea. My father died during our arduous journey to freedom. I put my life at risk to search for freedom because it was a worthy pursuit. I am now a free person, but my relatives, friends, and 25 million North Koreans are still trapped in North Korea. They live as slaves to the dictator, with their rights being violated every day by him.

Freedom for North Koreans is possible. We need more people to care about them and let the world know about the brutality of the Kim regime. I want my channel to be a space to communicate and share our thoughts about North Korea. I can’t do this alone. Please join me, let me know your thoughts and questions. Let’s talk about North Korea and see what we can do together to make a change in the lives of North Koreans.

By Cherie Yang

Find the rest of the article on [The Korea Times website](#).

I Escaped From North Korea Thanks To The Foreign Media



Foreign media opened the eyes of North Korean refugee Ju Chan-yang and her family. She is now pursuing a major in media at Korea University in Seoul.

This excerpt was originally published in *The Korea Times* in the article *I escaped from North Korea thanks to the foreign media*. The article was assisted and edited by Casey Lartigue Jr., co-founder of Freedom Speakers International.

There once was a nine-year-old girl who had no idea that she would ever meet you. That's because she was born in North Korea. If not for her father's decisions, she would not be here today talking to you, she would still be a prisoner of North Korea.

I don't know what you were doing at the age of nine, but I know what I was doing. At that time, my father began to prepare me to escape to freedom.

I made it to freedom because of my father and foreign media. Can you

imagine, a nine-year old girl getting ready to risk her life to get to freedom? Looking back, I can see how well prepared my father was.

To make sure I grew up as an open-minded person, my father introduced me to foreign radio. In North Korea, that was a criminal act. I was listening to "FEBC Christian Broadcasting," "Sound of America Broadcasting," "Free Asia Broadcasting" and "KBS Seoul Broadcasting." My father wouldn't allow me to be brainwashed by the Kim dictators.

To get me ready physically, he taught me how to swim. Most people around the world learn to swim for fun or for exercise. In my case, my father taught me so I could be ready to swim across the Tumen River from North Korea to China, to get to freedom.

I didn't know it, but my father was preparing me for the day that I could meet you.

At last, it was time for us to escape.

I was on the verge of being repatriated to North Korea and it was going to take a miracle for me to get to freedom.

Escaping from North Korea is not easy, especially when an entire family is planning to escape. For a decade, my father prepared his family for this escape. By the time I finally escaped, I had already spent more than half of my life getting prepared to leave North



Korea. Sometimes people ask me if I was brainwashed by North Korea. How could I be brainwashed when I had been preparing to leave from the age of 9?

My father was the first to leave, in 2008. My mother and two younger siblings left next. I tried to escape next, but I got caught. As the last of the family, the North Korean police were watching me closely, investigating me. I tried again, three years later. That time, I made it out of North Korea.

I arrived in China, but I was caught almost immediately by Chinese security. I was on the verge of being repatriated to North Korea and it was going to take a miracle for me to get to freedom. My four family members had escaped, so I could be tortured or executed if I was sent back to North Korea. Acquaintances and NGO groups

prayed for me and rallied around me, raising money to bribe Chinese officials. It worked. At last, I made it to Seoul.

People often want to hear North Korean refugee escape stories, but it seems they often don't realize there is also the "rest of the story." Our lives don't stop once we escape. I am now living well with my family and so happy to be the mother of a beautiful boy. I learned English, mainly thanks to FSI. Despite these many changes, the media is still with me.

Media changed the perceptions that my family had about the world. It can wake people up from the brainwashing attempts of the Kim regime.

The media opened my eyes to the world when I was still in North Korea. Media changed the perceptions that my family had about the world. It can wake people up from the brainwashing attempts of the Kim regime.

I was once a young girl in North Korea who started learning about the world. There are so many young and old people in North Korea who will never get to experience freedom. Even this kind of online meeting is impossible with North Koreans. North Korea is a land of dictators. We need more people to get involved so we can improve the level of human rights.

There once was a nine-year-old girl who had no idea that she would ever meet you. That's because she was born in North Korea. If not for her father's decisions, she would not be here today talking to you, she would still be a prisoner of North Korea. Let's work together so more North Koreans can experience the freedom to watch the media according to their wishes, to talk to anyone around the world, and to enjoy their lives as they see fit. My father and the media prepared me for the day I would meet you, and I hope that I can help free the minds and bodies of North Koreans who want to get to freedom.

By Ju Chan-yang

Find the rest of the article on [The Korea Times website](#).

Giving Tuesday: A Global Generosity Movement



By the end of 2020, we successfully raised 1,322,052 KRW through our Giving Tuesday campaign.

"55% of Young Adults Have Never Heard of Giving Tuesday, and only 16 percent of those have given annually during the event," according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

What is Giving Tuesday? To most people, not very much, based on those statistics. But if you are a non-profit organization, then it is like an early Christmas! It is the one day a year that you can request financial support, without feeling guilty.

Giving Tuesday started in the USA in 2012 as a project of the UN Foundation. It has spun off into a separate organization that now operates in more than 60 countries. Until recently, South Korea was not one of those countries.

This Giving Tuesday is special because FSI's leaders are helping to bring the concept to South Korea by establishing Giving Tuesday Korea. If you are part of 45% who has heard of Giving Tuesday, then please consider donating to a worthy organization. Of course, we hope you will donate to FSI, but even if you don't, please support at least one organization this year.

Why support FSI?

It empowers North Korean refugees to find their own voice and path through education, advocacy, and support.

General Director: Eugene Kang



TNKR high school global union started in 2017.

What motivated you to start/co-found TNKR GHSU?

I started working with TNKR as a volunteer and then an intern in 9th grade. During that time, I noticed many high school students were also working for TNKR and many more were interested in helping North Korean refugees. There were also a few TNKR school clubs that had been created in different international schools.

Those who wanted to support North Korean refugees but didn't know where to start could gain the help and support needed to find those opportunities readily.

I co-founded this special project for two main reasons. The first was so that each of our different FSI school clubs could work more closely together and efficiently, as well as share information and help each other out where necessary. The second reason was so that those who wanted to support North Korean refugees but didn't know where to start could gain the help and support needed to find those opportunities readily. I know that I definitely struggled at the beginning finding ways in which to get involved.

FSI Global High School Union

Our High School Students Take Charge



Members of the TNKR GHSU on a cycling tour for Giving in Jeju Island

FSI high school global union volunteers keep education programs free for refugees by organizing fundraisers, host refugee-speaking contests and events, and participate in humanitarian conferences.

What have been the organization's most notable successes?

There are a few events that could be considered successes that I remember fondly. In 2019 we held our first One Korea Union New Year's Concert where we presented the school with scholarship funds of 3,000,000 KRW. In our 2020 Global Highschool Union International Youth Forum, we were able to present TNKR with a check for 14,673,500 KRW.

However, I'd say that our most notable successes boil down to the singular actions of each and every one of our members. FSI GHSU members have volunteered as tutors, mentors, and translators for North Korean defectors since the start, providing speech and english tutoring and even helping translate a North Korean defector's book. They've been active in pursuing their own projects: one school club organized their own bazaar raising 3,000,000 KRW in the process, four FSI GHSU members donated 100 won per 1 kilometer on a Cycling Tour for Giving in Jeju Island, and a group of members

even organized the first TNKR GHSU Discussion Forum. Pretty cool, if I say so myself.

What role can highschoolers play in contributing to FSI's efforts?

Generally, stay informed on the subject of North Korean defectors, actively participate in fundraising events and volunteer opportunities, and contribute to the discussion of how to best support North Korean defectors. That being said, I wouldn't boil down what highschoolers should do in contributing to affecting change regarding rights for North Korean defectors to one role simply because everyone has different strengths and interests. Understand what you're good at or enjoy doing and find ways in which to use that to support North Korean defectors.

What are your goals for the coming months?

In addition to continuing to create projects and volunteering opportunities with and for our members, my main goal currently is to ensure a stable and transparent transition to the next school year.

**Interview with Eugene Kang
General Director and Co-Founder of
FSIGHSU**

#BringMyFatherHome: The *Send His Father Home Campaign*

After 50 years, Hwang In-Cheol's father remains trapped in North Korea.

On a cold December afternoon in 1969, a Korean Airlines plane, en-route to Gimpo International Airport, was hijacked by a North Korean spy and redirected to land around 100 km East of Pyongyang.

Since then, Mr. Hwang's son has created his campaign, Send His Father Home, to fight for the repatriation of his father back to South Korea. With the help of Freedom Speakers International, he has continued to launch demonstrations in which many of our members, including myself, have participated in.

Mr. Hwang's sole memento of his father is a photo they took together when he was only 2 years old. Since then, this photo has been plastered on posters across Seoul. I joined Mr. Hwang's campaign on December 8, 2019 with my fellow high school union members in Imjingak, a landmark in the city of Paju.

Mr. Hwang's sole memento of his father is a photo they took together when he was only 2 years old. Since then, this photo has been plastered on posters across Seoul.

Mr. Hwang's greatest wish is to be able to go to the bathhouse with his father as they did back when he was a child. When I heard this, I could feel how his father's absence left a hole in Mr. Hwang's childhood. Even though North Korea has already released 39 of the passengers, I found it confounding that they still felt it necessary to continue to deprive Mr. Hwang's father, Hwang Won, of his freedom.

Although I certainly am not able to relate closely to Mr. Hwang's exact situation, I have become heavily invested in his campaign. Following the



Members of the FSIGHSU participating in a rally with Mr. Hwang and Mr. Lartigue

event in Imjingak, I gave a speech in November on the topic of Mr. Hwang's Send His Father Home campaign to inform my peers unfamiliar with his struggle, hoping to encourage them to become involved as well.

Many people in my generation, including myself up until a short while ago, are not aware that such an incident occurred, and I hope to correct this and lead others to the cause of Mr. Hwang's father's repatriation. While the the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has recently sent an inquiry to Pyongyang, urging the regime to repatriate the remaining 11 people, Mr. Hwang shared that "until now South Korean society — as well the government — has regarded the [1969 KAL] incident with apathy" in an article in the Korea JoongAng Daily. It is my hope that continued awareness of his struggle will eventually lead Mr. Hwang back to his father.

By Yoonho Kim
Member of the FSIGHSU



Hwang In-Cheol at the Send His Father Home Campaign Rally in Imjingak, December 2019

Freedom Speakers International's Upcoming Events

What Freedom Means To Me

June 15, 2021



Join us for FSI's 2021 Asia Regional Conference "What Freedom Means To Me".

Hear from speakers across Asia on what we can do to support freedom around the world. Four North Korean refugee speakers headline a lineup. Find the link on EventBrite by searching "fsi21".

Refugee English Speech Contest

Late August 2021



Our speech contests are unique opportunities for refugees to share their stories. All speeches are original and given in English.

Find our previous winners at fsi21.org, as well as more information on how to become mentor or participate in the event.



*Haley Son
Editor-in-Chief of the FSI
Newsletter*

A Note From The Editor-In-Chief

It's been a year since I started working with Teach North Korean Refugees (now Freedom Speakers International), and it is an honor to head the FSI newsletter, FSI Voice.

In realizing our new mission of empowering people to share their stories, I hope this newsletter will serve as yet another outlet for refugees to write or speak about their experiences. In this edition alone, we have three unique stories by defectors on issues ranging from female expression in North Korea to brainwashing attempts by the Kim regime.

On top of publishing articles from refugees, this newsletter will serve to update our base and general public on FSI's recent initiatives and upcoming

events. FSI has hundreds of dedicated volunteers and donors, and several of the pieces were written by volunteers on their amazing experience of working with refugees.

To the readers, I hope you will be likewise motivated to help us in our cause and develop your passion for "making invisible people visible." In the coming months, we will be working to ensure consistent publications and quality pieces.

Finally, I would like to thank the co-founders, Casey Lartigue and Eunkoo Lee, and all the contributing writers for their support throughout this process.

**By Haley Son
Editor-in-Chief**



Learn more about FSI at fsi21.org

Get involved with FSI. Help us make invisible people visible.

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