

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

North Korean Defectors to attend UN Human Rights Council.

Geneva, Switzerland – March 12, 2013 - The People for Successful COrean REunification (PSCORE) NGO will hold a seminar before the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), disputing various claims made by the North Korean regime in their Human Rights report.

In light of the upcoming North Korea Universal Periodic Review report (UPR) in 2014, PSCORE will present several cases illustrating the violations of human rights by the North Korean regime, and in doing so, bring proof of these violations to the international society and the various country representatives.

The seminar will consist of a video presentation containing ten testimonies from North Korean defectors illustrating several human rights violations by the North Korean regime. These testimonies have been selected from dozens of interviews held from 2009 to the present. Additionally, the video will show recent footage taken from inside North Korea, which is generally too difficult for foreign news institutes to obtain. PSCORE will systematically dispute the contents of North Korea's 2009 UPR report using these detailed testimonies. There will be a specific focus on North Korea's violations of women's rights. Aside from the video presentation, there will also be two live testimonies from two North Korean defectors who will tell their experiences in person.

PSCORE has invited the North Korea Intellectuals Solidarity (NKIS) and the Database Center for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB) to present their findings on the North Korean human rights situation. Also invited to attend are the Korean Bar Association and the Korean representatives from the German political advocacy institution Hanns Seidel Stiftung (HSS).

Last year, PSCORE became the first organization to testify before the UN on behalf of North Korean defectors. This year, the NGO is planning to present an oral statement to the seminar's Special Rapporteur urging the creation of a special research organization focusing on human rights abuse in North Korea.

PSCORE is the only North Korean human rights NGO registered with the UN ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council). Taking advantage of the momentum gained from last year's participation on the Council, PSCORE will directly accuse the North Korean regime of committing various human rights violations. The 22nd UN Human Rights Council will be held from February 25th to March 22nd 2013, and there will be an in-depth debate about creating a Commission of Inquiry (COI) for North Korean human rights abuses.

Presentation of human rights violations in North Korea: Cases from 2009 to present.
March 12, 2013 from 2 to 4 p.m. Geneva UN Human Rights Council Conference Room XXIII. Hosted by People for Successful COrean Reunification (PSCORE)

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