

Petition to 21<sup>st</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
General Assembly 2017

Do you know the distress of life of 12 female overseas restaurant female employees?

- Turn back a true spring to meet their family in North Korea.

Dear International Red Cross, Red Crescent representatives from all over the world attending the International Conference of the Red Cross!

First, in order to protect and restore the human life and dignity, in order to jointly cooperate and solve humanitarian issues around the world, I would like to give warm greetings with love for humanity to the delegates and the Red Crescent delegates who attended the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross Societies held in Turkey from 6 to 8 November.

Hello. We are “the lawyers against Planning scandals on North Korean defectors regarding on North Korean overseas restaurants employees” who belong to Lawyers for a Democratic Society that is to improving the human rights of human beings in general and to the democratic development of the Korean society.

Dear each country's Red Cross, Red Crescent Representatives,

Here are people who are eager for your attention and help. What if you have to live without knowing the life and death of your family for 600 days? What if you have to live under the constant supervision and control of someone for 600 days? Here, I would like to introduce those people who have been thoroughly trampled on human rights and moral laws of family relationships.

On April 8, 2016, the Republic of Korea was five days ahead of the general election to represent the will of the people. In the afternoon of the day when all kinds of aggression and propaganda were overflowing like any other election, the Unification Ministry reported that 12 North Korean restaurant workers from overseas restaurant have left North Korea and have entered the Republic of Korea.

Korea is a divided nation. Inter-Korean relations and policy toward North Korea are always a sensitive political issue, and especially the logic of security and

ideology, during the election period, make healthy debate based on policy and philosophy impossible because conservative government always mobilize in elections. The news that 12 North Korean women in their 20s and 30s yearned for life of the Republic of Korea voluntarily came to South Korea, as soon as they arrived in Korea, covered the whole media with facing in five days after such a sensitive parliamentary general election.

Those who have left North Korea and have entered the Republic of Korea enter the North Korean Refugee Protection Center operated and managed by the National Intelligence Service. There they will be investigated whether they are defectors or they really want to settle in South Korea. Until the investigation is completed, the North Korean defectors are not known. However, the fact that employees entered to Korea was announced by the Korean government (Ministry of Unification) in one day.

At that time, Park Geun-hye regime explained that these employees voluntarily have entered the country with the effect of their sanctions policy and tried to use it for the election but failed.

At present, in South Korea, the argument that these employees intervened by the National Intelligence Service to win victory in the parliamentary elections at that time, conspiring with the manager of the overseas restaurant in North Korea and an inducing action to kidnap into the Republic of Korea, is getting spreader and the demand for investigation is getting stronger.

On the other hand, if people is confined into the North Korean Refugee Protection Center, it can be investigated for up to 180 days, any no contact with the outside is allowed in the process. Even those who are convicted and accepted will be allowed to contact with the outside world. However, because of the fact that the female employees of North Korean restaurant have left North Korea and have come to South Korea, the attorney assistance and meeting with family members are completely blocked without legal grounds and they can be admitted for 6 months. The most basic human rights, the freedom of the human body, the right to live as human beings, is losing their footing in front of the security logic of the National Intelligence Service.

After these employees were admitted to the North Korean Refugee Protection Center, South Korean lawyers who were barely authorized to the North Korean families of these employees for all the lawsuits in

South Korea filed several applications to interview these employees, but National Intelligence Service never once allow. In their request to confirm their intention and their physicians, they simply repeat that the employees themselves do not want to meet. Even NIS hasn't give them a chance to check their will.

Attorneys tried to get in touch with them through all the procedures that the law of the Republic of Korea was providing, to give their family members the best regards, and to see what the real intention was. However, the National Intelligence Service has been consistently responding to the fact that it is living freely and refusing to speak to lawyers, and the Korean court has also refused to ask the lawyers to confirm the current status of their employees and their true intention in court.

In the Republic of Korea, nobody except the National Intelligence Service had no way of knowing their employees, and the North Korean family had to spend a year and a half without knowing whether their daughters were alive or dead. The respect of the employees who are living freely is only from the NIS, and no one, including the court. NIS has properly checked the employee's well-being and no one is not guaranteed such an opportunity.

North Korean families have demanded the international community to return the daughters of their families to the National Intelligence Service for abduction, but nothing has changed. In the meantime, the father of one employee died without seeing his daughter's face. For what, employees should be so thoroughly controlled?

We are calling for the interest and support of those who are completely dismissed from the human rights and moral laws of family relationships at the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, where the representatives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent have gathered together.

It is more than ever before that the voice of the International Red Cross Society is urgently needed to respect and guarantee the dignity of human beings in front of those who can not even confirm the life and death of each other for 600 days. It is time for these employees and the North Korean family to exert their most intense international red cross spirit to relieve suffering according to the desperate needs of individuals,

regardless of differences in nationality, race, religious belief or political position. The international interest in these issues and the active efforts to solve this problem are the realization of the international red cross.

Communication between the North and South Korean Red Crescent Society are urgent for the 12 employees to live up to their true freedom without any interference, and at least to be able to freely confirm their family and friendship. And this will only be possible in the continued interest and efforts of the international community. At the meeting of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the representatives of the South and North Korean Red Crescent Societies gathered in front of the world to gather 12 employees to meet the North Korean family members. We urge you and your attendees to pay much attention and effort.

6 November, 2017

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