



U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

U.S. Policy and Freedom of Religion or Belief in North Korea

Panel

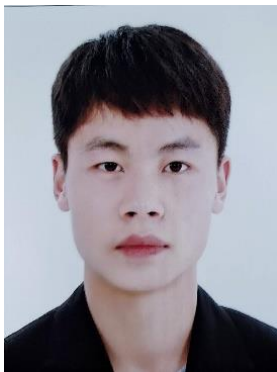


Ambassador Robert R. King served as Special Envoy for North Korean human rights issues at the Department of State (2009-2017). Since that time, he has been senior advisor to the Korea Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a senior fellow at the Korea Economic Institute, and a board member of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. Previously, King served for 25 years on Capitol Hill (1983–2008) as chief of staff to Congressman Tom Lantos (D-California), and staff director of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (2001–2008). King is author of *Patterns of Impunity: Human Rights in North Korea and the Role of the U.S. Special Envoy*, and with Gi-Wook Shin he edited *The North Korean Conundrum: Balancing Human Rights and National Security* (both published by the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia and Pacific Research Center at Stanford University, 2021).

Shirley Lee is a consultant for Korea Future. She co-authored “Freedom of Religion, Thought, and Conscience in North Korea,” released by USCIRF in 2022. Previously, she was a researcher at Leiden Asia Centre and Leiden University in the Netherlands. Her expertise on North Korea was honed through a decade of working with and interviewing North Korean escapees from a wide range of backgrounds, including former high-ranking officials. She holds a MA from the University of Oxford and is currently working on a doctoral dissertation.



Inje Hwang is an Investigator at Korea Future where he gathers and analyses evidence of religious freedom violations. He holds a Master of Arts from the University of Kansas and is pursuing a Master of Arts at the Academy of Korean Studies.



Jinmyung Choi escaped North Korea in 2017 after experiencing torture by North Korea's Ministry of State Security. He travelled through China, Vietnam, and arrived in South Korea with the aid of a Christian missionary organization. He is now pursuing a law degree in Handong Global University, South Korea, and seeks to become a legal professional.