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Life & Human Rights in North Korea



Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

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Improvement of North Korean Human Rights and the Roles of Lawyers*

The KBA and Korean lawyers' active role in North Korean human rights are the needs of the times and a historical calling.



Benjamin H. Yoon

Chairman of the Board, NKHR

I would like to express my deepest gratitude that the Korean Bar Association (KBA) has made a huge step forward to improving human rights situation in North Korea.

I, as a civic activist, would like to share my experience of working with other congenial friends since 1970 with the vocation of human rights activists. I was informed that my duty in this conference today is to introduce the history and the achievements of the North Korean human rights movement, the issues facing the international community, and the challenges for the future and that is what I am going to outline.

It is commonly known that the international community begun to pay attention to North Korean human rights in the mid/late 1990s. However, the problem of the political prison camps in North Korea was known to the international community at least 30 years ago because 'A Personal Account of the Experience of a Prisoner of Conscience in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea' was published by Amnesty International in 1979. Ali Lameda, a

*
This is a Keynote Speech of the 1st Conference on Human Rights and Environment of the Korean Bar Association on February 21-23, 2010.

