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# **Life & Human Rights in North Korea**



Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

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# Canadian Views on Human Rights in North Korea : An M.P.'s Perspective



The purpose of this article is to summarize recent efforts by me, other Canadian Members of Parliament and the Government of Canada regarding the treatment of people in North Korea. In particular, I would like to focus on my experiences dealing with human rights abuses in North Korea, refugees in China and defectors in South Korea.

My personal interest in North Korea began with an invitation to the 4th Annual General Meeting of the International Parliamentarians Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights in Seoul, South Korea in September 2007.

Today, I'm almost embarrassed to admit that it was during my preparations for that IPCNKR meeting that I became aware, for the first time, of the extreme human rights atrocities taking place in North Korea - even though my wife and I had lived in South Korea in 1996-98.

Until that time, like many public officials and informed citizens around the world, I had a general sense that conditions in North Korea were very difficult, and that Kim Jong Il's government was merciless in doing whatever it took to maintain their regime. It wasn't until 2007,



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