

SCREENING PACKET

# THE PEOPLE'S TOUR



# 2012 SPRING TOUR SCREENING PACKET



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## LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



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**THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION IS TWO-FOLD: TO EDUCATE ATTENDEES ON ONE OF TODAY'S MOST OVERLOOKED HUMANITARIAN CRISES AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO ENGAGE PEOPLE TO BECOME LEADERS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS GLOBAL EFFORT.**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,**

**L**iNK, or Liberty in North Korea, invites you to participate in a global movement for human rights in North Korea. We are asking your institution to host a screening of our Final Cut documentary called "The People's Crisis," a 50-minute film that exposes what life is like for the 24 million people living in North Korea today. The screening is free of cost and can be tailored to your institution's needs.

There is no better time than now to learn about the North Korea Crisis with the recent news of Kim Jong-il's death. Our team of representatives are thoroughly trained by experts and will be able to speak to the recent succession in North Korea and what this means for one of the last true standing communist countries in the world today.

Included with this letter you will find additional information detailing the severely restrictive conditions that drive up to 50,000 North Koreans to flee to China, where they are often met with more obstacles and dangers. Without the freedom to speak or the freedom to learn, the people of North Korea endure oppressive living situations that will surely surprise but also challenge your community.

As the global community becomes more intertwined, problems on the other side of the world are no longer ignorable. As North Korea is receiving much more media and political attention due to the security concerns it poses to other nations, it is pivotal to understand the complexities of one of the last true-standing communist nations. With critical changes looming for North Korea in the coming years, the current generation will be the ones to respond to the resulting geopolitical and economic challenges. However, for human rights challenges, the time is now to become educated and participate as change agents.

With over 2,000 screenings booked in the last two years, each of our presentations has been well received by attendees, be it teachers, students, administrators or community members. The film has sparked active discussions and has inspired teachers to incorporate some of the themes, issues, and conflicts into their lessons. After screenings, our staff is ready to provide additional information or resources to encourage participation.

Included with this letter are the history of the North Korea crisis, a teacher's recommendation, LiNK's current initiatives, and information on the film. We are excited to partner with you and thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you.

**Justin Wheeler**

Vice President of Global Awareness

# THE CRISIS



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**NORTH KOREA IS ONE OF THE LEAST KNOWN BUT MOST EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS CRISES IN THE WORLD TODAY.**



**T**he North Korean regime maintains control through a ruthlessly effective system of political oppression and fear. Basic freedoms such as speech, religion, movement, press, and access to information hardly exist, positioning North Korea as the worst violator of human rights in the world.

Suspected dissidents are routinely executed in public where even children are forced to watch, to warn the entire population to submit to the government's control. Others accused of political crimes are sentenced to prison camps, reminiscent of the Soviet Gulags or Nazi concentration camps. These North Korean political prison camps still exist today, imprisoning up to 200,000 citizens in 6 locations. Over 400,000 people have already died in these camps.

Hundreds of thousands of North Koreans have risked their lives to flee across the border into China in search of food, medicine and freedom, but fear of repatriation forces them to live in hiding. Contrary to China's obligations under international law, in order to maintain stability and relations with the North Korean government, Chinese authorities forcefully repatriate North Korean refugees.

If caught and sent back, they face imprisonment, forced labor, torture, and even execution. Pregnancies are brutally and forcibly terminated. 70-80% of female refugees are sex-trafficked -forced to work in brothels or sold to Chinese men as wives. Their children often lack basic rights and access to education because China does not recognize them due to their mothers' illegal status.

Thousands of refugees continue to live in fear and hiding in China, but some of them risk the arduous journey and leave through a "modern day underground railroad." Many eventually find freedom in South Korea, North America, or Europe - but continue to face difficult challenges in their resettlement.

North Korea remains as the last totalitarian dictatorship and has maintained the most closed and isolated society in the world. But things may be changing. Information is finding its way in; new technologies are being introduced; markets, both illegal and legal, are spreading across the country as people find ways to provide for themselves and each other with the goods their government can no longer provide.

In an attempt to regain control over economic activity and destroy private wealth, the North Korean government reformed their currency in late 2009. The effects were disastrous and a rare backlash forced the government to backtrack and issue an unprecedented public apology. The people are becoming aware that the propaganda they previously believed is untrue. But ruthlessly efficient political oppression still prevents any challenges to the government.

**WHO WE ARE**



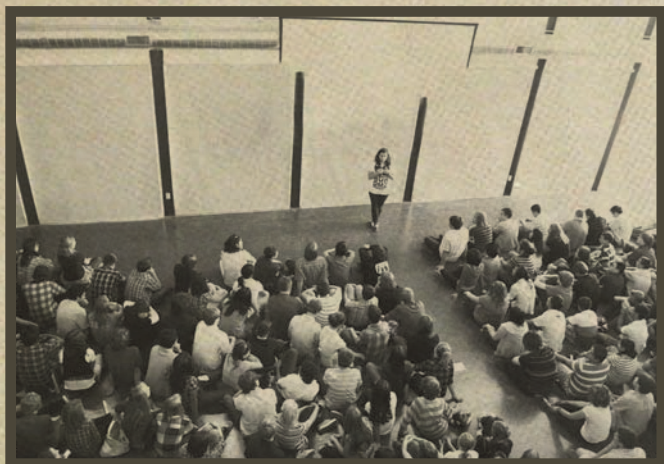
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## **LINK'S MISSION**

**REDEFINING THE NORTH KOREA  
CRISIS THROUGH CREATIVE  
STORYTELLING, WHILE  
PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF  
TO NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES  
AND PURSUING AN END TO THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS.**

**L**iNK, or Liberty in North Korea, is the only full-time grassroots organization in North America devoted to the North Korean humanitarian and refugee crisis. LiNK provides protection and aid to North Korean refugees hiding in China and, utilizing a modern-day underground railroad through Southeast Asia, rescues refugees and helps them to reach freedom. LiNK's global grassroots movement seeks to raise awareness of this crisis and provides a way for the international community to take part in bringing about effective change. To this end, we document the stories of North Koreans to tell the world about the North Korea crisis through our Movement program, which consists of high school and college Chapters that serve as LiNK's arms in building awareness across the nation.

## **ABOUT THE TOUR**



**T**he death of Kim Jong-il has brought renewed focus on North Korea. But too often that focus is dominated by concerns over nuclear weapons or security issues or on the attitudes of its recluse leaders. But despite changes at the top of the leadership in Pyongyang, the harsh reality of life for ordinary North Koreans goes on. The North Korean people are living under the most ruthless system of political repression ever assembled. They have suffered through humanitarian disasters, crippling poverty, chronic food shortages and a denial of even the most basic freedoms.

The People's Tour will redefine the North Korea crisis by highlighting the suffering and stories of the North Korean people. We are promoting an approach to North Korea that will be defined and created by the North Korean people.

This spring, join the North Korean people's struggle by learning more about this crisis and how you can get involved. Hosting a LiNK screening will provide you and your community with an opportunity to join the fight to resolve the unheard suffering of the North Korean people.

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT. FIGHT FOR A COMMON LIBERTY.**

# LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION



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**“WHAT WAS ALMOST AS MEANINGFUL FOR OUR STUDENTS AS THE INFORMATION COMMUNICATED BY THE FILM WAS THE MODEL OF ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT PROVIDED BY THE THREE LINK VOLUNTEERS, THE “NOMADS” WHO WERE THERE TO HANDLE THE LOGISTICS OF THE SCREENING AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AFTERWARDS.”**

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

**A**s an IB World School, we at Metro Academic and Classical High School have a commitment to promote international awareness. We were delighted, therefore, when we were contacted by LINK. The screening of the film, during an all-school assembly in March of 2010, was an eye-opening experience for our students—on many levels.

Because mainstream media provides very little information about life within North Korea, the content of the film was indeed “news” to our students and provoked many questions. Students were so moved by the plight of the North Korean people that many of them lined up after the screening to purchase tee shirts and other items that would both publicize the issue and contribute financially to LINK’s efforts to inform.

What was almost as meaningful for our students as the information communicated by the film was the model of active engagement provided by the three LINK volunteers, the “nomads” who were there to handle the logistics of the screening and to answer questions afterwards. Our students were amazed that these young people, all recent college graduates, were donating themselves and their time—travelling the country, bunking with a series of volunteer hosts, and providing for their own “keep” because they believed so strongly in the mission of LINK. The film was indeed informative; the young LINK volunteers were awesome--both informative and inspiring!

**Judith Gainer, Ed. D.**

Coordinator

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

## WHAT A SCREENING LOOKS LIKE



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**LINK'S PRESENTATION WILL PROMOTE UNITY AND LEADERSHIP AMONG ATTENDEES AS THEY BEGIN TO THINK MORE GLOBALLY, REALIZING THE POSITIVE INFLUENCE THEY CAN HAVE ON WORLD ISSUES SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION.**

### THE SCREENING

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b> MINUTES	Nomads introduce themselves, the tour, and the organization
<b>THE FILM</b>	<b>50</b> MINUTES	<b>THE PEOPLE'S CRISIS</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>10</b> MINUTES	Nomads speak about the North Korea crisis, LiNK's programs, and ways the audience can get involved.
<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>5-10</b> MINUTES	The audience can respond and is encouraged to ask questions.
<b>INFO TABLE</b>	<b>UNTIL END OF EVENT</b>	Afterwards, the nomads will be available for further discussion, questions, classroom presentations, and to offer LiNK resources and T-shirts.
<b>WE ARE FLEXIBLE AND WILL ALTER THE TIMES ABOVE TO ACCOMMODATE TO SHORTER OR LONGER SESSIONS.</b>		

## THE NOMADS



**W**e will provide 1 to 3 college-aged representatives to conduct the screening. These are trained individuals we have carefully selected and feel best to represent our organization. They have undergone comprehensive and intense training and are fully equipped to provide clear and thorough information about the North Korea crisis and LiNK's work.

## THE DOCUMENTARY



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# THE PEOPLE'S CRISIS

**A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE REAL CRISIS IN NORTH KOREA**

**T**he real crisis in North Korea is not about its reclusive leaders or its nuclear weapons. It is about 24 million people living under the most ruthless system of political oppression ever assembled by humankind. The North Korean people have suffered through crippling poverty, humanitarian disasters, chronic food shortages and a denial of even the most basic of freedoms.

This documentary offers a comprehensive overview of the North Korean people's crisis, featuring interviews with North Korean refugees who have escaped, their journey to freedom, expert analysis, and insight into some of the little-known grass-roots changes that are happening inside the country.



**CONTACT**



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!**

[www.linkglobal.org/tours](http://www.linkglobal.org/tours)

**(310) 212-7190**

**LiNK**

LIBERTY IN NORTH KOREA