

January 22, 2002: North Korean Defector to Testify at Hearing on Religious Freedom in North Korea

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2002 Contact:

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WASHINGTON - The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent government agency advising the Administration and Congress, announced today the addition of Mrs. Soon-Ok Lee, a North Korean defector, to the list of witnesses to testify before the Commission Thursday. Mrs. Lee witnessed brutal treatment of Christians in North Korean labor camps. Her testimony will take place during the Commission's hearing on "Promoting Religious Freedom in North Korea." The hearing will examine religious persecution in North Korea and explore policy options for the U.S. government to improve the situation of religious people there. The hearing is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. January 24 in the Longworth House Office Building, Room 1302, Washington, D.C. The confirmed witnesses and schedule are as follows: 9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introductory Remarks by Michael K. Young, Chair Panel I: 9:15-10:15 Religious Freedom Conditions in North Korea Norbert Vollertsen, former volunteer medical doctor in the DPRK Sang-Chul Kim, Secretary General, Commission to Help North Korean Refugees Soon-Ok Lee, North Korean defector and author of *Eyes of the Tailless Animals* 10:15-10:30 Break Panel II: 10:30-12:00 U.S. Policy Options for North Korea Stephen Linton, Chairman, Eugene Bell Foundation Donald Oberdorfer, Adjunct Professor, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University Chuck Downs, Private consultant and author of *Over the Lines* Jack Rendler, Vice Chairman, U.S. Committee on Human Rights in North Korea

Michael K. Young, Chair

- Felice D. Gaer Firuz Kazemzadeh Richard D. Land Bishop William Francis Murphy Leila Nadya Sadat Nina Shea The Hon. Charles R. Stith The Hon. Shirin Tahir-Kheli Steven T. McFarland, Executive Director