



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

NORTH KOREA

Introduction

These victim profiles are illustrative of those in the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief Victims List database. Mandated by the amended International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Victims List documents individuals who are detained, imprisoned, tortured, disappeared, forced to renounce their faith, or subjected to house arrest due to their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy.

Religions of Individuals in North Korea on the FoRB Victims List

Christian – Protestant



Kim Jung-wook

Religion or Belief: Christian – Protestant
Arrested: October 8, 2013
Sentence: Life Imprisonment
Current Status: Unknown
Reason for Persecution: Missionary and humanitarian activities to North Koreans



Kim Kook-kie

Religion or Belief: Christian – Protestant
Arrested: October 2014
Sentence: Life Imprisonment
Current Status: Unknown
Reason for Persecution: Missionary and humanitarian activities to North Koreans



Choi Chun-gil

Religion or Belief: Christian – Protestant
Arrested: December 2014
Sentence: Life Imprisonment
Current Status: Unknown
Reason for Persecution: Missionary and humanitarian activities to North Koreans

PROTESTANT CHRISTIANS

North Korea's ruling ideology, known as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, forbids competing ideologies—including religious ones—and treats religion as an existential threat to the country. The government regards Protestant Christians as “counter-revolutionaries” and “traitors,” i.e. political criminals, who must be eliminated. Possessing a Bible, interacting with Christian missionaries, or engaging in worship can lead to severe punishment, including torture, forced labor, imprisonment, and execution.



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UNKNOWN

Chang Man Sik
Choi Chun-gil
Chung Yong Cheol
Joo Gwang Ho
Kim Jung-wook
Kim Kook-kie

DIED IN CUSTODY

Lee Soo Gil

RELEASED

Zhang Wen Shi