FREE NORTH KOREA RADIO FACT SHEET

Free North Korea Radio is a unique partnership between North Korean escapees and freedom loving Americans including both private citizens and churches, who seek the peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula through spreading the truth to North Korea. FNKR was established in 2003 by Kim Seong Min and other North Korean defectors, in Seoul, South Korea, as an internet radio broadcast. With the support of the Defense Forum Foundation, it began a short wave daily transmission in 2006 to North Korea that can be heard throughout North Korea and South Korea and regions of China close to the North Korean border. Since that time, FNKR has broadcast every day to North Korea overcoming tremendous obstacles from attempted jamming by the DPRK regime to death threats against its leadership and staff. It has remained -- since its inception -- the most popular single hour of broadcasting to North Korea according to surveys of defectors.

Its founder and director, Kim Seong Min, is the recipient of the Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award from the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy and the Media Award from Reporters Without Borders. Its Honorary Chairman, Suzanne Scholte, is the recipient of the Seoul Peace Prize, the Walter Judd Freedom Award, and the Sungnye Diplomatic Service Award, the highest award given by the Republic of Korea to a non-Korean. Scholte is the President of the Defense Forum Foundation which supports 100% of the budget for FNKR in this special partnership between North Korean defectors and Americans who support DFF.

The daily program of FNKR is produced to educate the people of North Korea with true history, provide current news, to introduce the concepts of democracy, freedom, and human rights, to reveal the differences between South Korea’s Republic and North Korea’s dictatorship, and to expose the reality of the Kim family dictatorship including their crimes against humanity. FNKR provides truth and hope to the people of North Korea ever day. FNKR does not just broadcast news, it also broadcasts the GOOD NEWS: Since May, 2013, FNKR has also included a special Gospel program whose transmission is 100% funded by Korean American churches and individual Christians. DFF also provides special programming for FNKR to help them combat the anti-American propaganda of the Kim regime. This includes special messages from Members of the U.S. Congress for the New Year and August Liberation Day, and Letters from America, greetings sent to North Koreans from American citizens, and Coming to America, interviews with North Koreans.

In South Korea, the FNKR website has regularly ranked the most popular website for news about North Korea. FNKR has by far the best network of sources inside North Korea and regularly breaks stories that are picked up by the South Korean, regional and international media. FNKR’s network includes sources in every province in North Korea ranging from elites in the regime to average citizens. Another measure of FNKR’s effectiveness is that it is heavily targeted for jamming by the Kim Jong Un regime and its founder and director has been a regular target for assassination by the regime, strong indicators of how powerful the program is.

FNKR broadcasts every night from 9-11:30 pm with a 30 (thirty) minute Gospel program airing from 11-11:30 pm and then the programs are re-broadcast every morning from 4-6:30 am. The entire budget to produce and transmit via short wave transmission 5 hours every day is under $750,000 per year: $744,660 per year, approximately $62,000 per month.

For further information, contact Suzanne Scholte at Suzanne@defenseforumfoundation.org or visit www.defenseforumfoundation.org