

NO FENCE

(Association for the abolition of concentration camps in North Korea)
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**To the President of the United States of America,
Mr. Barack Obama,**

We represent a group of Japanese citizens who are seriously concerned about humanity and human rights in North Korea. The group is called "NO FENCE". We work not only by ourselves but also in cooperation with other citizen, human rights, and humanitarian groups in Japan, the United States, and South Korea.

We have been informed that you are going to visit Buchenwald in Germany in which a Nazi prison camp used to exist.

We highly respect your great interest in humanity and human rights and prompt actions in this regard, including your decision to close the Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp and commitment to nuclear disarmament.

“Buchenwald” is by no means the remains of the past; we wish to take this opportunity to call your attention to the undeniable fact that the same type of prison camps continue to exist now in the 21st century.

North Korea has recently launched missiles and maintains that nuclear testing will follow. This nation operates a multiple number of large forced-labor camps in its mountain areas, in which an estimated total of 300,000 innocent prisoners are abused and maltreated as slaves every day and a considerable number of them are slaughtered.

The existence of these prison camps has been revealed clearly through the testimony of several refugees and defectors from North Korea and satellite photographs. There is also a detailed report prepared by the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (<http://www.hrnk.org/>) that has already been published.

In recent years, among the refugees deported from China to North Korea, those whose contact with the Christian church has been discovered have been the first to be sent to the prison camps or to be executed.

The nuclear development of North Korea is also closely related to the prison camps. Mr. An Myung-Chul, who worked as a prison guard in North Korea, has testified that numerous men and women from teen-age to middle-age were mobilized from a nearby prison camp to work for the construction of a large underground tunnel in Punggye-ri, in which nuclear testing was conducted, and none of the prisoners returned alive. They may have been killed for the purpose of maintaining secrecy. In other words, the nuclear development and testing of North Korea are achieved through crimes against human rights and humanity at the prison camps.

Although Nazi concentration camps were demolished in less than a decade due to Germany's defeat in World War II, those in North Korea already have a history of more than forty years and continue to consume victims and pose threat to other countries.

If the governments, leaders, and citizens of our liberal democratic countries connive at the North Korean prison camps, which may be regarded as Buchenwald of the 21st century, without condemning North Korea, we will be questioned by our future generations what lessons we have learned from the experience of the Nazis.

Mr. President!

We believe that if you learn about the reality of these North Korean prison camps, innocent prisoners, and persecution of Christians, you will hardly be able to suppress your anger coming from your conscience.

We, the people of liberal democratic countries, must not focus merely on the bargaining with the dictator who is hinting at nuclear development.

We earnestly hope that you take the opportunity of your visit to Buchenwald to make direct reference also to the issue of the North Korean prison camps, and that you will pursue strong humanity and human rights diplomacy to demonstrate the leadership demanded by the history.

June 3rd, 2009

Joint Representative;

OZAWA, Mokuri (Signature)
Co-representative, NO FENCE

SUNAGAWA, Shojun (Signature)
Co-representative, NO FENCE

SONG, Young-bok (Signature)
Secretary General, NO FENCE

Approved by;

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