

Han Ga Hee (alias) (Announcer and Sound Engineer) Han was born in 1980 in Hoeryong, North Hamkyung Province, North Korea. She studied at an Agriculture College and worked as a laborer at a collective farm. Just like any other North Koreans who were trying to survive, she started her own business to sell things in the market. While in North Korea she listened to the radio broadcast of Free North Korea Radio and she wondered if the staff, who were all from North Korea, really fled to South Korea or were abducted and forced to go there. The difficult conditions in North Korea and her curiosity led her to cross the border to go to China in 2002. She worked various jobs in China but was always in constant danger of repatriation to North Korea. After six years in China she saved up enough money to hire a broker to help her get to South Korea. After she paid him the money, the broker dropped her off at the border of Mongolia and handed her a compass and told her to head North across the grassland and the Gobi desert. Alone, she walked for several days without knowing where to go, and finally was found by Mongolian Police. Once she reached South Korea in 2008, she went to visit the Free North Korea Radio station and learned the truth: all the people working there were defectors who fled North Korea. She had no background in radio broadcasting, but she wanted to work for Free North Korea Radio. Since they needed a sound engineer, she decided to teach herself how to do this job. She has been working ever since for Free North Korea Radio -- over 8 years -- and has become a news announcer and is the producer of the Gospel program which was added to the hour broadcast in May, 2013. After Kim Seong Min, who founded Free North Korea Radio and is the director, she is the longest serving staff person at Free North Korea Radio.