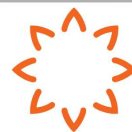




**NORTH KOREA
TODAY**



GOODFRIENDS



Weekly Newsletter

No. 309-1 Hot Topics December 2009

[“Good Friends” aims to help the North Korean people from a humanistic point of view and publishes “North Korea Today” describing the way the North Korean people live as accurately as possible. We at Good Friends also hope to be a bridge between the North Korean people and the world.]

[Hot Topics No. 309-1]

Swine Flu Breaks Out in *Sinuiju*

[Hot Topics No. 309-1]

Swine Flu Breaks Out in *Sinuiju*

Swine flu is going around in *Sinuiju* North *Pyongan* Province. Yesterday and today primary care physicians are visiting each household to conduct epidemiological investigation. It was reported that there are more people with fever today than yesterday. The symptoms are similar to a regular flu at the onset, but it progresses into severe coughing, fever, and pain in the joints. Suh Hye-ran (alias) thought her young daughter was having a cold, but her coughing became very severe. So, she took her daughter to a doctor and learned that it was a swine flu. Ms. Suh said in frustration, “The doctor told me this is a new flu transmitted by virus from pigs and I heard that *Kaesong* area is completely quarantined. My daughter is now complaining about pain in the lungs. I need some kind of medicine like fever remedy, antibiotics, or vitamins, but I can’t get them anywhere.” Doctors are saying that they need a third-generation antibiotics called cefotaxime for intravenous injection even though it is not a cure for swine flu. They say at least 10 of them in penicillin bottle are needed. The medicine was traded at 1,200-1,300 NK won per bottle among individual medicine dealers, but it is difficult to obtain because all sales are suspended with the currency revaluation. The current situation requires an immediate action against the new flu virus at the national level. ✨



Good Friends: Center for Peace, Human Rights, and Refugees



Please become a good friend of the Good Friends

Good Friends– An International NGO for Peace, Human Rights and Refugees

Good Friends provides relief works for international refugees to become all lives' friends, peace movement to fundamentally resolve disputes and conflicts that human beings face, and human rights movement to protect human rights.

Good Friends has been providing information on food shortages in North Korea, raising funds for humanitarian assistance, dispatching activists to national border areas between China and DPRK and having them investigate local situations, and publishing reports on food shortages in North Korea.

Currently, Good Friends is making efforts to improve humanitarian and human rights situation of North Korean people and to inform this situation to the international community by:

- 1) Collecting information on food shortages, public health conditions, education, the basic necessities situations and inform humanitarian organizations so that they can support North Korean people effectively.
- 2) Reporting the current human rights situation in North Korea where rights duly protected by law are being violated; assessing incidents of human rights violations in the process of arrest, punishment, and imprisonment and informing international communities; and requesting that the North Korean Government act to improve human rights.
- 3) Investigating the current situations of North Korean refugees in China, and providing protections and aid for them and their children in particular.

For these purposes, Good Friends USA publishes the weekly newsletter North Korea Today (English edition) to inform the international public.

You can make a difference by donating to **Good Friends USA, Inc.** Contributions to the Good Friends USA, Inc. (a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) are tax deductible.

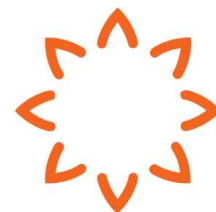
Individuals wishing to make a financial donation to **Good Friends USA** may send a check to the following address. For more information, please contact us.

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