



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

13
APRIL

Thursday
3:30-4:45pm
Derby Hall 1039

**2023 THE INSTITUTE FOR KOREAN
STUDIES AND MERSHON
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY STUDIES PRESENT:**

**"NORTH KOREA IS A LAND WITH
DARKNESS, NOT A LAND OF DARKNESS"**

JOSEPH KIM

Expert in Residence, Freedom and Democracy at the George W. Bush Institute

To many, North Korea is a faraway "gulag state" run by a dictator threatening the world with nuclear weapons. All that is true. But to Joseph, it is more than that. In South Africa's international airport, Joseph saw a message on the wall saying, "They call it Africa, but we call it home." Although North Korea holds many sad memories for him and is one of the darkest places in the world, it is still a place close to his heart. It is still his home and home to 25 million North Korean people today.

Joseph Kim serves as Associate and Expert-in-Residence, Freedom and Democracy at the George W. Bush Institute. He was born and raised in North Korea. At the age of 12, his father died of starvation and he was separated from his mother and sister. In 2006, Joseph escaped North Korea and went to China. In China, he connected with an international NGO called Liberty in North Korea (LiNK). A year later, he left China for the United States and claimed refugee status under the North Korean Human Rights Act, signed by President George W. Bush in 2004. In 2013, Joseph delivered a TED Talk on the importance of hope and published a memoir, "Under the Same Sky."



Free and open to the public

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/iks-lecture-joseph-kim-north-korea-land-darkness-not-land-darkness>

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