

Who we are

Board Members



Park Dong Wun _ Chief Director

Park, his mother, sisters and brothers, uncles, and aunts were tortured in a secret room in the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) because they were framed as North Korean spies. According to NSP, Park's father, who had been missing since the Korean civil war, was the North Korean spy who made all his family members North Korean spies, and the entire family was sentenced to life imprisonment. The doctor who was in charge of treating Park's family said the torture they experienced was "unbelievable" and "it was not something a person can do to another, nor was it a thing that a person can experience by another person."

In the trial, the lawyer insisted that the family members show the wounds that they got from the torture by NSP, but the judge obstructed. Physical examination was not approved either. As a result of the 'trial', the entire Park's family was recognized as a spy group and their lives fell apart. They were kidnapped by NSP agents at dawn on March 5, 1981 and came back home 17 years and 5 months later on August 15, 1998. While in prison, Park received a number of letter from the member of International Amnesty and determined to work for those who are worse off situation when he gets out of prison.

After his release, he raised honeybees in a temple and endeavored to seek out the truth. In November 2009, he was found unguilty in the retrial at Seoul High Court. He took the lead in establishing the Truth Foundation and is serving as the third Chief Director since October 2015.



Lim Bong Taek _Director

Born in 1947, Lim had been raised in Gaeyado, a small island on the west coast, In January 1972, he and his friends were taken to Gunsan Police Station. After brutal torture, his friends became 'spies' and were imprisoned on the charge of 'misprision'. His father gave up his life not standing neighbors' blame on his son for 'serving out his sentence as a North Korea spy.' He was found unguilty by the supreme court in March 2011. Although his past cannot be compensated by any means, he believes that the establishment of the Truth Foundation can make up for his past and has become an active member of the Truth Foundation.



Kang Yong Ju _Director

During Gwangju Democratization Movement in May 1980, Kang, who was a high school student back then, participated in the movement as a member of the 'citizen militia'. When he became a medical student in 1985, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for being involved in "Europe & America student espionage case." While in prison, he resisted to "ideology conversion system" and fought by performing a fast for over 300 days, sending constitutional appeal, using UN Human Rights Council individual communications, and so on. Finally, 14 years and 6 months later, in February 1999, he came out of prison without the oath. He returned to medical school and became family medicine specialist in 2008. After the administrative litigation on cancellation of security observation disposition, the prosecutions and the trials on Security Observation Act violation, he succeeded in abolishing "ideology conversion system". He raised the aftereffect and treatment of torture survivors as a social agenda and has served as the first Head of Gwangju Trauma Center. He is currently running a private hospital.



Cho Yong Whan _ Director

Starting his career as a lawyer in 1988, Cho has tackled lawsuits and mediation cases of various fields and played a pioneering role in adopting international human rights conventions into a domestic level and practical legal field as well as introducing the procedures of international organizations such as the United Nations. Cho was the first person to suggest establishing the National Human Rights Commission of Korea and has participated in founding the commission and enacting relevant legislatures. He has reflected on the role and responsibility of a lawyer based on his experiences with victims of serious violation of human rights such as espionage fabrication cases and civilian massacre. Since Ham Ju Myoung case in 2003, which was the first case to be found unguilty at a retrial, Cho laid the theoretical and practical groundwork of retrials and demonstrated that trials can alleviate the pain of victims. Currently working as a lawyer in Law Firm Kyong.



Mun Yo Han _ Director

Psychiatrist Mun has a profound interest in the growth of life and has endeavored to integrate self-improvement with counseling. He has participated in torture survivor group therapy-sessions since 2008. He hosted the first 'My Day, the Unburdening' on November 23, 2011. Mun believes that sincere support and condolence are possible when there is someone who truly shares pain. His interactions with torture survivors have strengthened his belief that pain "does not destroy one's life but conceives a new life with deeper insights and scents."



Choi Young A _ Director

Choi has been with the founding members, who are torture survivors themselves, since the very establishment of the Truth Foundation as a supporting member. She shared all the pain, relief, and delight with us from retrial court to 'My Day, the Unburdening'. Her deep examination of others' lives led to the examination of her own life. She has sincerely supported the Truth Foundation as a supporting member for over 10 years and has been with the Truth Foundation on behalf of other supporters.



Song So Yeon _ Director

Song had endeavored to raise various human right issues such as prisoner of conscience or Nation Security Act as a social agenda since 1993 as a member of Minkahyup(NGO to support prisoners of conscience). She encountered many victims of human rights violation not as an abstract character from newspapers or a mere subject of aid but rather as a living 'person' who experience pain. For the plea and tears of the victims of espionage fabrication and their families, she led a fact-finding process and a retrial. We walked the long way of 'torture victims' becoming 'survivors' then 'wounded healers.' She served as a secretary manager of Minkahyup, an expert member in Law Firm Jipyong, and the secretary general of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea.

Secretariat

Soon Young Lim _ Publishing Manager, Expert Member

Kim Du Hyang _ Executive Manager