

Pastor Set Free From North Korea: 'It's Like a Dream'

Three American citizens released yesterday by North Korea were welcomed home by U.S. President Trump as they arrived at the Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C. early this morning (May 10).

"It's like a dream, and we are very, very happy," Kim Dong-chul, a pastor in his early 60s, told the president in front of the media. "We were treated in many different ways. For me, I had to do a lot of labor. But when I got sick, I was also treated by them."

According to the BBC, the released detainees seemed to be in good health and were smiling and waving upon arrival.

In a statement, the trio expressed their "deep appreciation to the United States government, President Trump, Secretary [of State Mike] Pompeo and the people of the United States for bringing us home."

"We thank God and all our families and friends who prayed for us and for our return," they added.

Kim Dong-chul, Tony Kim (also known as Kim Sang-duk) and Kim Hak Song were arrested in North Korea between 2015 and 2017. They were imprisoned and put in labor camps for 'anti-state activities'.

According to the White House, they were released as a gesture of goodwill ahead of the much-anticipated meeting between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, which Trump announced today will take place in Singapore on June 12.

Rumors that the three men might be released started last week when it was reported they had been relocated to a Pyongyang

hotel and were receiving good food and medical care. They traveled home with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who had been in Pyongyang to prepare the way for next month's Trump-Kim meeting. {eo}

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