

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13, 2007

Sam Kim, Executive Director
Korean Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom
5661 Beach Blvd. #200
Buena Park, CA 90621

Dear Mr. Kim:

Thank you for your invitation to appear at the Korean Church Coalition's July 17th rally at the U.S. Capitol. While I regret that I will not be able to join you at this event in person, I wanted the Coalition and its members to know that I strongly support your goal of easing the suffering of the people of North Korea.

As we work to ease tensions and improve security on the Korean Peninsula, we must remember one of history's most important lessons: that true and lasting peace can only be built on a foundation of human rights. North Koreans should not have to flee their country just to enjoy the most basic rights of life, liberty, and conscience. When they do leave, they should not be forced back to persecution; they should have the protection to which refugees are entitled under international law. These issues should be on the table when we talk to countries in the region, including China.

I am proud to stand with Korean-Americans and with people of good will around the world in calling attention to the plight of the North Korean people. I wish you success in your campaign and hope I can be of help.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator