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Congress of the United States
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July 14, 2008

Sam Kim
Executive Director
Korean Church Coalition
5661 Beach Blvd. #200
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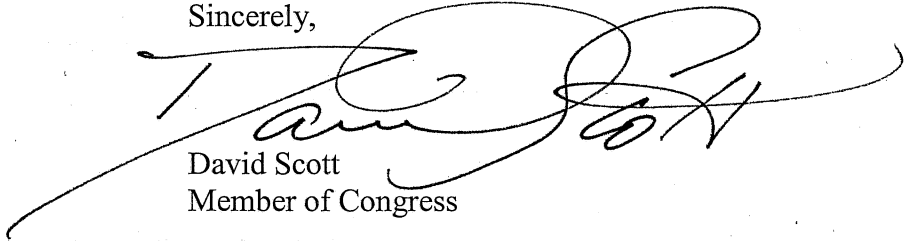
Dear Mr. Kim:

It is unconscionable that in today's day and age we still find human rights abuses running rampant in many countries, not the least of which is North Korea. The seemingly unending North Korean famine coupled with the continuing global food crisis and the brutal actions of the North Korean regime have created a dire situation for many citizens. As a result, countless North Koreans have had been forced to leave their homes to seek refuge elsewhere.

Many North Koreans—numbering at least in the tens of thousands—have entered China in search of assistance. Once an individual is considered a refugee, they automatically have certain rights. Furthermore, countries that are parties to the Refugee Convention and its Protocol are obligated to provide them certain resources and protection. However, despite being a party to the Refugee Convention and Protocol, China has not allowed United Nations agencies to have access to North Korean refugees residing in China. While China ignores this duty, it is even less of an option for many North Koreans to return home as repatriation may result in punishment ranging from imprisonment to death. This is neither an acceptable nor a sustainable state of affairs.

I commend the Korean Church Coalition on their work to raise awareness of and combat this important issue. I will continue to work diligently with my colleagues in Congress to find a mutually acceptable solution that will bring an end to the suffering of the North Korean people.

Sincerely,



David Scott
Member of Congress

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