

United States Senate

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

July 18, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Kim:

I commend the work that you and the Korean Church Coalition have been doing on behalf of the thousands of North Korean refugees who are living in China and those who have been repatriated to North Korea. I was disturbed to hear that many of these individuals are often subject to punishments that range from forced labor to execution once returned to North Korea. I agree that this treatment is a gross violation of human rights and must be stopped.

I believe that China should abide by the provisions it has agreed to as a state party to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. This convention states that a member country should not expel or return a refugee to a place where his or her life or freedom may be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion. I am proud that the U.S. willingly accepts North Korean refugees, and hope that we will continue to be a model for other countries as a place where the oppressed will find refuge.

Thank you again for your effort to bring attention to these important issues and to pray for your fellow man. It is my hope that your upcoming vigils around the country will be recognized by the Chinese government and that they will take immediate action concerning the plight of these distressed individuals. All people deserve the chance to be free of tyranny and fear.

Sincerely,



Bob Corker
United States Senator