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

Dear Mr. Kim:

The dire human rights situation in North Korea, under the authoritarian dictatorship of Kim Jong Il, demands the world's attention. I share your concern for those suffering and support efforts to bring an end to the distress of the North Korean people.

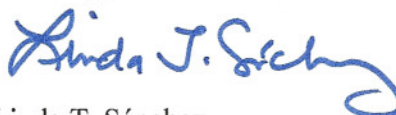
The international community cannot stand idly while thousands of North Koreans continue to flee their country to escape rampant food shortages and blatant human rights violations.

Current efforts to address these issues are further complicated by China's unwillingness to fulfill its obligations under the United Nation's Refugee Convention and Protocol. International aid agencies continue to be turned away, unable to enter China to provide refugees with critical assistance and fundamental protections.

While North Korea's decision to begin relinquishing its nuclear program and its recent pronouncement that it would allow the United Nations Food Program to distribute food assistance paves the way for incremental change, North Korea must commit to major changes in the way it treats its citizens.

The United States, along with the support of the world community, must continue to press for the unqualified protection of North Korean refugees in China. Please be assured that North Korean human rights and the plight of refugee are significant concerns of mine, and I will continue to support efforts, at home and abroad, that address these issues.

Sincerely,



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress