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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and
the Global Environment

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM COMMITTEE
Subcommittee on Domestic Policy

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Sam Kim, Executive Director
Korean Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom
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To KCC:

Thank you for bringing my attention to the imminent humanitarian crisis in North Korea. It is inspiring for the Korean-American communities across the nation joining efforts in advocating the importance and necessity to end the human rights violations against victims who live in China and North Korea. I commend Korean Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom on your hard work.

The Korean-American community now numbers more than 2 million people nationwide. It has been my privilege to represent California's 33rd Congressional District with the largest number of Korean-American constituents in the nation. From the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement to the human rights violations against North Korean refugees in China, I have vigorously been involved in working with various officials on issues that greatly affect the Koreatown community and the Korean-American community nationwide. Being Co-Chair of the Congressional Korea Caucus and member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have actively brought the attention of the issue on human rights violations and will continue to do so.

The United States Congress wants to make sure the world knows the horrible conditions befalling North Korean refugees who are lucky enough to escape their country, but so unlucky to end up in China. The numerous human rights abuse by China needs to end. A rising economic tide may lift many boats, but in the case of China, the rising tide has also capsized the voices of many who are committed to human rights, due process, fairness, justice and equality. We cannot continue to let that happen. China must change the way it does business at home and abroad. Its current model is neither viable nor sustainable over the long term.

My best wishes go out to KCC and the greater Korean community on July 20, 2008. Please continue to keep me informed of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress

DEW: bp