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July 31, 2008

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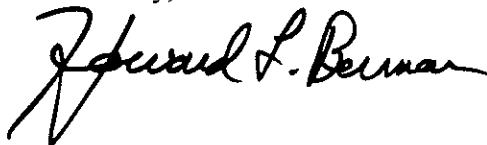
Dear Mr. Kim,

Since 2004, the Korean Church Coalition has been a leading voice in the movement to end the terrible suffering of the North Korean people, who for over half a century have been subject to political persecution, mass starvation, and other terrible human rights violations at the hands of the regime in Pyongyang.

I commend the important work of the KCC and all of those who have attended its prayer vigils to help draw the world's attention to the many injustices faced by the people of North Korea – both at home and abroad. Even when North Koreans manage to escape to China, they are still at risk. Though Beijing is a party to the Refugee Convention and Protocol, it has failed to live up to its obligations to protect those seeking refuge from North Korea and has not allowed United Nations agencies to gain access to most of these vulnerable refugees.

With the help of organizations such as the KCC, we can continue to put pressure on the governments of both North Korea and China to ensure that the human rights of the people of North Korea are respected.

Sincerely,



HOWARD L. BERMAN
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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