

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2307

<http://coleman.senate.gov>

July 17, 2008

Korean Church Coalition for North Korean Freedom
5661 Beach Boulevard #200
Buena Park, California 90321

Dear Friends:

I would like to express my admiration for all of you for attending this important and timely vigil to call attention to the plight of North Korean refugees. I am very sorry that due to a schedule conflict I am unable to be there in person. Nevertheless, I join you in your concern for the welfare of this group of people who have endured much suffering and face great persecution.

It is a very sad reality that the human rights situation in North Korea is something no human being should be forced to endure. And tragically, we know that those fortunate North Korean refugees who manage to escape the prison represented by their country too often face new abuses beyond North Korea's borders – including the threat of forcible return and even greater persecution.

I support you in your efforts to raise awareness of the plight of North Korean refugees, who might otherwise be overlooked in the countless issues that our world faces today. It is because of the work and dedication of groups such as yourselves that there is hope for freedom and well-being for North Korean refugees, and indeed all North Koreans. Your leadership also inspires others to join your cause and work together to find solutions for injustices throughout the world. As Martin Luther King once observed, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Again, thank you for your efforts on behalf of North Korean refugees and devotion to this important issue. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this vigil as you press for freedom and human rights.

Sincerely,



Norm Coleman
United States Senator

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
RANKING MEMBER
PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
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