

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2015

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We write to encourage you to prioritize the reunion of Korean Americans separated from their families in North Korea. In the seventy years since the liberation of Korea, millions of Korean families have been separated from their loved ones. The House Foreign Affairs Committee recently passed H.Con.Res.40 – legislation that we were proud to introduce – that encourages the reunion of these divided families.

An estimated 100,000 Korean Americans are separated from their relatives in North Korea and have long sought an opportunity to be reunited. Congress has long promoted a humanitarian solution to this tragedy. In 2008, the National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181) required the President to transmit a report to Congress on the state of family reunions between U.S. citizens and North Korea. In 2009, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (Public Law 111-242) urged the Special Representative on North Korea Policy to prioritize the Korean divided families issues.

Unfortunately, there has been little progress in reuniting Korean Americans with their families. As a result, we respectfully request a report on the State Department's efforts to facilitate reunions between Korean Americans and their family members in North Korea. We ask that, among other issues, this report specifically address the steps that the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues and the Special Representative on North Korea Policy have taken to help facilitate these reunions between Korean Americans and their families in North Korea.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to increase efforts to create a pathway to reunite divided Korean American families. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Affairs



CHARLES B. RANGEL  
Member of Congress