



## PRESS RELEASE

**Co-Chairman  
Frank R. Wolf**

**Co-Chairman  
James P. McGovern**

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***Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chairs Join International Parliamentarians in Urging  
End to Human Rights Abuses in North Korea;  
Co-Chairs Also Support Call for United Nations Commission of Inquiry***

Washington – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chairs Frank R. Wolf (R-VA) and James P. McGovern (D-MA) yesterday demanded an end to the grave and substantial human violations committed by the North Korean government against its own people. Addressing the Eighth General Meeting of the International Parliamentarians’ Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights, the co-chairs joined with parliamentarians from around the globe to condemn the horrors of the North Korean prison camps and urge the safe return of those who were abducted by the North Korean regime, including South Korean war veterans and Japanese citizens.

Congressman Wolf said, “Bold leadership is needed. Government officials and faith leaders in the free world must stand with the North Korean people. I believe that one day we will come together to celebrate the day that North Korea is truly free.”

Congressman McGovern declared, “The North Korean government terrorizes its own people and crushes any attempt to exercise basic freedoms. [The regime’s] actions help sustain its authority by creating an overpowering wall of fear. We clearly have a duty to stand up against this atrocious system and the destructiveness it causes in people’s lives.”

Relatedly, the co-chairs strongly supported a global initiative by the International Coalition to Stop Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea (ICNK) urging the United Nations to establish a Commission of Inquiry to investigate crimes against humanity in North Korea. ICNK comprises more than 40 international human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Freedom House (USA), Human Rights Watch, and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), aims to hold the North Korean government accountable for its systematic and widespread abuses of human rights.

The mission of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission is to promote and advocate human rights in a nonpartisan manner both inside and outside of Congress.

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