

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

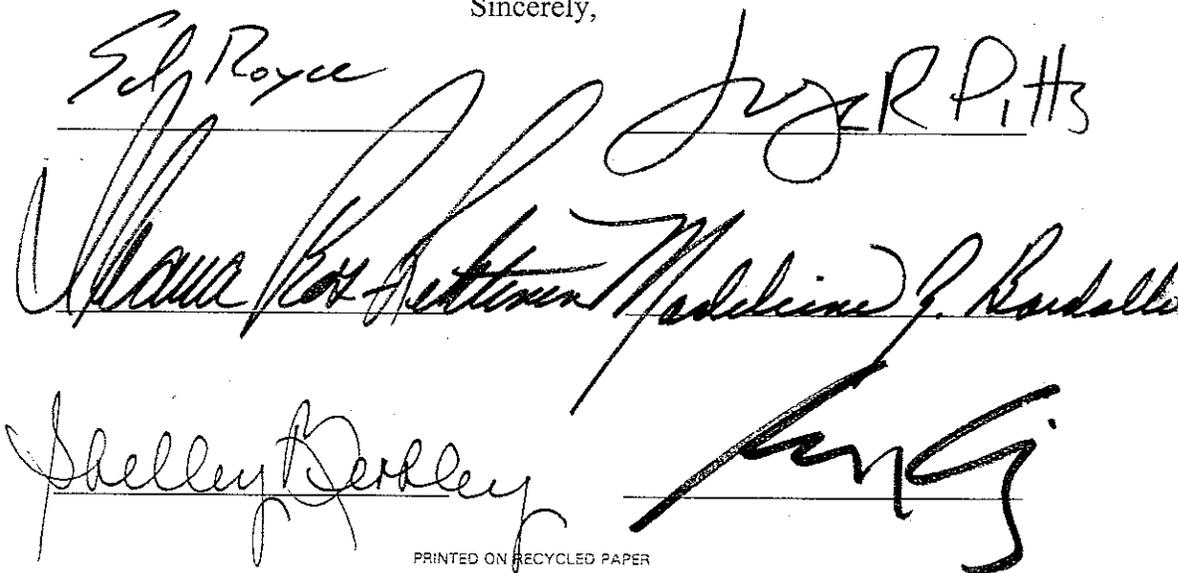
We are writing to express our grave concern over the fate of two American journalists currently held in North Korea. As you know, Laura Ling and Euna Lee of Current TV of San Francisco have been found guilty of illegally entering North Korea and sentenced to 12 years of hard labor. We ask that you take urgent action and pursue every avenue to secure their release.

Simply stated, there is no justice system in North Korea. Representatives from the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang, which is the United States' protecting power in North Korea, were not even allowed to witness the court proceedings. According to the State Department's 2008 Human Rights Report on North Korea, "Prison conditions were harsh and life threatening and torture occurred." Indeed, North Korean defectors have spoken of unfathomable horrors in labor camps. That is what these two young women face.

Without question, these two Americans should be immediately released on humanitarian grounds. Laura Ling has an ulcer condition that requires medical attention. Euna Lee has a four-year old daughter from whom she has been separated since March.

Given the horrendous conditions that face Laura Ling and Euna Lee, coupled with their draconian sentence, this situation requires your urgent and personal attention. We look forward to working with you to speed the release of these two young American journalists.

Sincerely,


Ed Royce
Jay R. Pitts
Dana Rohrabacher
Shelley Berkley
[Signature]

~~Scott Ganett~~

Bob Inglis

Scott Ganett

Betty McElhin

Michael H. Michael

Carol Shea-Potter

Tammy Baldwin

Dan Burton

Elton Gallegly

Jim Oberstar

Ken Calvert

Jim Moran

Robert W. Rush

Daniel E. Lungren

Paul R. Ryan

Frank Lautenberg

Allyson

Michael E. Caputo

Signatures

Letter to President Obama on American journalists sentenced in North Korea

Rep. Ed Royce

Rep. Joe Pitts

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Rep. Madeleine Bordallo

Rep. Shelly Berkley

Rep. Peter King

Rep. Gerry Connolly

Rep. Scott Garrett

Rep. Bob Inglis

Rep. Betty McCollum

Rep. Michael H. Michaud

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter

Rep. Tammy Baldwin

Rep. Dan Burton

Rep. Elton Gallegly

Rep. Jim Oberstar

Rep. Ken Calvert

Rep. Jim Moran

Rep. Robert Wexler

Rep. Dan Lungren

Rep. Don Manzullo

Rep. Trent Franks

Rep. Albio Sires

Rep. Michael Capuano