

How You Can Help – Do Your Part – Letter to MP

Note: MPs are only required to answer your letter if you include a return address that is within their riding. So be sure to include your address when you mail your Member! The bolded square brackets, or [], indicate items you have to change yourself.

[January 3rd, 2009]

**[Bob Rae
Room 365 Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6]**

To **[Bob Rae]**, Member of Parliament for **[Toronto Centre]**,

I write to you today as a concerned Canadian. I am concerned about the plight of North Korean refugees in China and ask you to lend your voice as a Member of Parliament on behalf of these people.

Through a group called Hanvoice, I've recently learned that anywhere between 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 North Koreans perished in a famine that lasted nearly half a decade in the late 1990's. Almost 300,000 North Koreans have fled their own country to escape hunger or persecution into neighbouring China. However, China, despite being a signatory of international refugee conventions, does not recognize any of these North Koreans as refugees, instead labeling them as "economic migrants." By using this label, they actively search for and capture North Koreans and repatriate them back to North Korea. Once they are repatriated, North Koreans are subject to torture, imprisonment and even public execution.

I believe that the Canadian government has not only the responsibility to act in this situation, but a unique role in engaging in dialogue with the Chinese government to end this repatriation. I believe that Hanvoice and other Canadian organizations involved in the issue have realistic solutions to this human crisis. I urge you to become a champion of this cause by working together with Hanvoice and ensure the safety of these refugees, once and for all.

You can reach Jack Kim, the executive director of Hanvoice, at jack@hanvoice.org, or (647) 828-8025.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]