

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretaries Pompeo, Mnuchin, and Ross:

We write to express grave concerns regarding the Government of the People's Republic of China's (China) disregard for the human rights of those who seek to escape from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Recent reports, including from the State Department, have highlighted China's active facilitation of the exploitation of North Korean women and children.<sup>1</sup> China's lack of oversight and enforcement puts thousands of women and children into forced marriages, prostitution, and sex trafficking.<sup>2</sup>

The human trafficking industry that targets female North Korean defectors is estimated to generate, at a minimum, \$105 million annually. Some of them, who are as young as 9 years old, are sold into forced marriages with Chinese men. Others are forced to perform sexual acts for online audiences. As a Tier 3 country in the Trafficking in Persons Report of 2018, China has failed to properly address rampant human rights violations across its territory.

---

<sup>1</sup> *State Department 2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Democratic People's Republic of Korea* (March 13, 2019), <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/democratic-peoples-republic-of-korea/> Accessed on 31 May 2019; "You Cry at Night but Don't Know Why: Sexual Violence against Women in North Korea" (Human Rights Watch, November 1, 2018), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/11/01/you-cry-night-dont-know-why/sexual-violence-against-women-north-korea> Accessed 31 May 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Yoon Hee-soon, "Sex Slaves: The Prostitution, Cybersex & Forced Marriage of North Korean Women & Girls in China," (Korea Future Initiative, 20 May 2019), <https://www.koreafuture.org/report/sex-slaves> Accessed 31 May 2019; Amy Gunia, "Thousands of North Korean Women are Being Forced Into China's Sex Trade, a Report Says," Time Magazine, 22 May 2019, <http://time.com/5593352/north-korea-women-sex-slavery-china/> Accessed 31 May 2019.

China must address this issue immediately. We urge you to raise these reports in your engagements with senior Chinese government officials and consider taking punitive measures, including *Global Magnitsky Act* sanctions, against officials and entities connected to human trafficking of North Korean women and children. We also ask you to elevate these concerns with allies and work with them to develop multilateral ways to combat these cruel violations of human rights. Finally, we request a briefing no later than 90 days after this letter is sent that details the ongoing role that China, North Korea, and entities within them play in this human rights crisis. We request that this briefing include a list of industries directly benefiting from the trafficking of North Korean people. That individuals and corporations can reap benefits at the expense of the innocent through such barbarism is unconscionable.


We appreciate your attention to ending these human rights violations taking place in China and North Korea.

Sincerely,



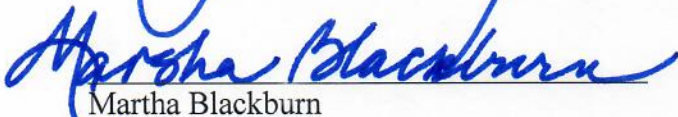
---

Josh Hawley  
U.S. Senator



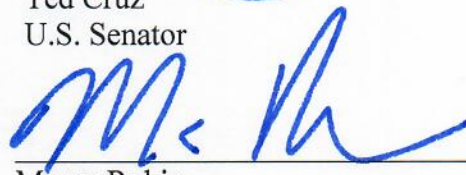
---

Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senator



---

Martha Blackburn  
U.S. Senator



---

Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator