Mr. Speaker, news came

yesterday that Laura Ling and Euna

Lee, two American journalists held in

North Korea, and held there since

March, have been found guilty of illegally

entering North Korea. They’ve

been sentenced to 12 years of hard

labor. These court proceedings were a

cruel joke, nothing more than a kangaroo

court. I know of no justice system

in North Korea. The two should be

immediately released.

As if there were any doubts, the

North Korean regime has shown its

true colors, a hostile regime bent on

destroying the lives of its own citizens

and others.

Let’s be clear. These two wouldn’t

have been near North Korea were it not

for the barbaric cruelty of its regime.

Ling and Lee were convicted of socalled

‘‘grave crimes.’’ It is the North

Korean regime that commits real grave

crimes against millions of North Koreans

every day.

President Obama, himself, must

make it clear that this action cannot

stand. Now is the time for urgent action.