Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief. I

want to thank you for holding this hearing. I want to commend my

colleagues for introducing the North Korean Human Rights Act of

2004.

It is incomprehensible what has been going on in North Korea

for such a long time, the numbers of people that have been tortured

and abused and murdered and starved, and unfortunately, the

world press has really given this short shrift. It is never talked

about in the world media. There are a few exceptions. *Nightline* did

a story several nights a few years back.

I read a book a couple of years ago. I think *The Aquariums of*

*Pyongyang* was the name of it, a young boy whose family was

taken into one of the camps and just the horrors that went on

there. And he escaped into China and ultimately got away, but the

stories he tells in there are just almost incomprehensible to the average

person, and I think it is a shame.

You know, there is the expression ‘‘out of sight, out of mind,’’ and

I think that is kind of what has happened here, and Kosovo is an

example of something that the press went in and we saw it, and

something was done to change that. Congo, on the other hand, was

one where the press has not been in there, and so many lives were

lost, and this is one of those instances where the press really has

not been able to. And to a considerable degree that is because Kim

Jong-il and his father kept them out, and so it is by design. But

I think the press and the world has a responsibility to get out what

is actually happening in North Korea, and do something about it.

And China ought to be ashamed because they could have real influence

on North Korea and what happens there, and they have

done very little. They have done some, but not nearly enough, and

I hold them especially accountable in what is happening in North

Korea.

I just want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing.

I think this is very important. And you, Mr. Smith, who has been

such a strong advocate for human rights for such a long time.

I know Curt Weldon. For example, I was on one of his groups

that tried to get into North Korea a few years back, we did not

make it in that time. We did go up to the DMZ, and he later on

got in, but there are Members here who really do care about this

issue a lot. But I hope China will take this seriously and do something

about it because they are the one country that really could

do something if they wanted to. Yield back.