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Media Advisory

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Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai expresses Canada's concerns over the fate of North Korean refugees in China

(OTTAWA) Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

“Mr. Speaker, we are concerned about the latest reports of North Korean refugees in China facing the risk of being forcibly sent back to North Korea. North Korea is a state where basic freedoms, including religious freedoms, are not respected. Disturbing reports include public executions, torture, arbitrary detentions, collective punishment, forced abortions in prison camps, and reports of increasingly harsh treatment against those who fled North Korea and have subsequently been repatriated.

Canada has raised this issue at the United Nations on multiple occasions. We call upon all parties, including China, to respect the principle of non-refoulement of refugees from North Korea.

I join the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in encouraging all parties concerned to find a viable humanitarian solution for these individuals.”

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