

EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
DANA ROHRBACHER, CALIFORNIA
STEVE CHABOT, OHIO
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
MICHAEL T. MCCAUL, TEXAS
TED POE, TEXAS
MATT SALMON, ARIZONA
TOM MARINO, PENNSYLVANIA
JEFF DUNCAN, SOUTH CAROLINA
ADAM KINZINGER, ILLINOIS
MO BROOKS, ALABAMA
TOM COTTON, ARKANSAS
PAUL COOK, CALIFORNIA
GEORGE HOLDING, NORTH CAROLINA
RANDY K. WEBER SR., TEXAS
SCOTT PERRY, PENNSYLVANIA
STEVE STOCKMAN, TEXAS
RON DESANTIS, FLORIDA
TREY RADEL, FLORIDA
DOUG COLLINS, GEORGIA
MARK MEADOWS, NORTH CAROLINA
TED S. YOH, FLORIDA
LUKE MESSER, INDIANA

AMY PORTER
CHIEF OF STAFF

THOMAS SHEEHY
STAFF DIRECTOR



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AMERICAN SAMOA
BRAD SHEERMAN, CALIFORNIA
GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
ALBIO SIRES, NEW JERSEY
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
THEODORE E. DEUTCH, FLORIDA
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
KAREN BASS, CALIFORNIA
WILLIAM KEATING, MASSACHUSETTS
DAVID CICILLINE, RHODE ISLAND
ALAN GRAYSON, FLORIDA
JUAN VARGAS, CALIFORNIA
BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER, ILLINOIS
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III, MASSACHUSETTS
AMI BERA, CALIFORNIA
ALAN S. LOWENTHAL, CALIFORNIA
GRACE MENG, NEW YORK
LOIS FRANKEL, FLORIDA
TULSI GABBARD, HAWAII
JOAQUIN CASTRO, TEXAS

JASON STEINBAUM
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

July 18, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are extremely concerned over the fact that a North Korean-flagged vessel, *MV Chong Chon Gang* – a vessel previously known to be involved in illicit activities – was detained and searched by Panamanian authorities on July 15, 2013, while en route to North Korea from Cuba, carrying military equipment. In light of these reports, we respectfully urge you to instruct our U.S. Mission to the United Nations to call for UN inspectors to immediately investigate this matter to ensure adherence to UN Security Council resolutions.

As you are well aware, any shipment of arms or related materiel being imported to or exported from North Korea is expressly barred by United Nations Security Council resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2094. If these reports are accurate, both Cuba and North Korea would be in violation of these resolutions. It is vital that we receive an accurate report of the inventory of the cargo contained on the *MV Chong Chon Gang* and the national security threat facing our nation.

Further, we would also urge an imposition of increased sanctions by the United States on any person or entity that was involved in transferring goods, services, technology or arms for North Korea's weapons program, and prohibit assistance to any foreign government that is involved in aiding North Korea in this matter.

Again, it is imperative that this investigation be conducted as soon as possible, and we respectfully request that you instruct our Mission at the UN to call for UN inspectors to immediately begin an investigation into this matter.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this gravely serious issue.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa



EDWARD ROYCE
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs



ELIOT ENGEL
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs



TED DEUTCH
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa



STEVE CHABOT
Chairman
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific



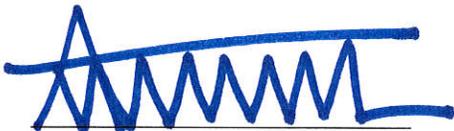
ENI FALEOMAVAEGA
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific



MATT SALMON
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere



ALBIO SIRES
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere



TED POE
Chairman
Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade



BRAD SHERMAN
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade