

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 1, 2018

His Excellency President Jean-Claude Juncker  
President of the European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Bruxelles  
Belgium

Dear President Juncker,

We strongly urge you not to appear or speak at the planned May 5th unveiling of the Karl Marx statue that the People's Republic of China—a country that continues Marx's legacy of repression and terror today—donated to the city of Trier. Marxism is a toxic ideology that has led to mass death, torture, and enslavement wherever it has been applied. Marxist regimes are responsible for murdering 65 million in China; over 20 million in the Soviet Union; and over 2 million in North Korea. Communism's death toll is at least 100 million dead, making it the most destructive ideology in human history.

Marx's defenders often say he cannot be held accountable for what communist regimes did long after his life and death; but Marxist dictators who massacred their own people were applying communist ideology to political practice. In an 1848 newspaper article, Karl Marx praised "revolutionary terror" as the only method that can shorten "the murderous death agonies of the old society and the bloody birth throes of the new society." His friend and collaborator Friedrich Engels claimed in 1849 that "the next world war will result in the disappearance from the face of the earth not only of reactionary classes and dynasties, but also of entire reactionary peoples," a mass murder that Engels saw as "a step forward." Violence and Marxism go hand in hand.

The city council of Trier's decision to accept China's Karl Marx statue as a gift is a direct insult to the millions of Europeans who suffered for half a century under Marxist dictatorships. Many of them were unjustly imprisoned or tortured or had family and friends imprisoned, tortured, or killed in the name of Marxism—to say nothing of the hundreds of millions in China, Vietnam, North Korea, and Cuba who continue to suffer under Marxist dictatorships.

If you do speak at the May 5th unveiling, we urge you not to honor Karl Marx in any way, rather to speak the truth about this man whose writings indeed called for the tyranny and murder that have been and continue to be committed in his name, and to honor of the victims of Marxism.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Congressional  
Victims of Communism Caucus



DANIEL LIPINSKI  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Congressional  
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MARCY KAPTUR  
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