



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder,

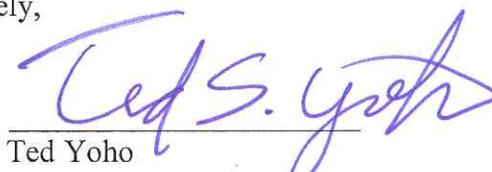
We are outraged and dismayed that Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce company, is selling replica military medals and decorations. The sale of these military items is a slap in the face to our service members, veterans, and military families who have made extraordinary sacrifices to earn these awards.

As you know, it is unlawful to manufacture and sell "any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States." This includes replicas. The Alibaba website makes available for purchase identical replicas of these military awards including the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, the Air Force Cross, and the Purple Heart. We have attached screenshots for your reference. These are awarded to members of our Armed Forces to honor outstanding service to our country, to those whose personal acts of valor go above and beyond the call of duty, for valor and extraordinary heroism in combat, and to those wounded or killed in the line of duty. The sale of these awards is about so much more than fraudulent representation about the receipt of military decorations and medals. It is about stolen valor.

We know you believe as we do that the valor and heroism of our nation's bravest are earned and should not be peddled on a Chinese website. Do you share our interpretation that the sale of these military awards and decorations is illegal? If so, what actions has the Department of Justice taken to investigate Alibaba? What additional actions will be taken, and how can the Congress support your efforts? Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick E. Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Ted Yoho  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS