

National Coalition to End the Korean War

www.endthekoreanwar.org
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President Barack H. Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

March 18, 2009

Open Letter to President Obama on Korea Policy

Dear President Obama,

As a nationwide coalition of Americans of Korean descent and other concerned Americans, we applaud your commitment to a foreign policy that emphasizes diplomacy and negotiation, and hope that this will bring about a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula. We are especially heartened by your campaign commitment to engage in dialogue without preconditions with other countries as a means for resolving tensions.

We urge you to make the signing of a peace treaty with North Korea (DPRK) a top priority of United States foreign policy. In addition, moving toward normal diplomatic relations would be a practical step toward resolving differences over nuclear proliferation and arms control, human rights, and economic reform.

We urgently request that you address the peace treaty issue as soon as possible so that more than 70 million people living on the Korean peninsula and their families here in the United States can at last be freed from the fear of war. Only then can other major regional and global problems be resolved.

It is time to end the Korean War.

As James Laney, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea, recently said in Seoul,

"... One item should be at the top of the agenda, however, in order to remove all unnecessary obstacles to progress, that is the establishment of a peace treaty to replace the truce that has been in place since 1953. One of the things that have bedeviled all talks until now is the unresolved status of the Korean War. A peace treaty would provide a baseline for relationships, eliminating the question of the other's legitimacy and its right to exist. Absent such a peace treaty, every dispute presents afresh the question of the other side's legitimacy."

We trust that your leadership will help usher in a new era of peace and stability in Korea and Northeast Asia. We urge you, therefore, in these first 100 days of your administration, to open up bilateral channels of communication with North Korea with a view toward signing a peace treaty to end the Korean War.

Respectfully yours,

Co-Signing Initiators

National Association of Korean Americans (NAKA)
National Committee for Peace in Korea (NCPK)
North American Network for Peace in Korea (NANPK)
National Lawyers Guild, Korean Peace Project
Veterans for Peace, Korea Peace Campaign

National Associations, Organizations, and Community Based Organizations

American Friends Service Committee, National

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American Friends Service Committee, Peace & Economic Security Program, New England
American Friends Service Committee - Hawai'i Area Program
Agglobe Services International, Plymouth, Minnesota and Fairfax, Virginia
ANSWER Coalition, Hudson Valley, New York
Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea (ASCK)
Asia Pacific Freeze Campaign, USA
Boston Korea Friendship Association, Boston, Massachusetts
CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities, New York City, New York
Center for a New Korea
Code Pink: Women for Peace, Washington, DC
Congress for Korean Reunification in USA (CKR)
DMZ-Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina, Hawaii
Eclipse Rising, Zainichi Koreans in the Bay Area
Fellowship of Reconciliation, Nyack, New York
Forum For Peaceful Reunification of Korea, Los Angeles, California
Good Friends, USA
International Action Center, USA
June 15 Korean American Committee for Peace and Unification of Korea
Korean American Cultural Center of Virginia
Korean Society of Maryland
Korean Americans for Korea Democratic Labor Party, Torrance, California
Korean American League, Michigan
Korean American National Coordinating Council, New York City, New York
Korean Peace Network, USA
Korea Policy Institute, Los Angeles, California
Korean Americans United for Peace (KAUP), San Francisco Bay Area, California
Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA), Los Angeles, California
Korea Truth Commission, Three Rivers, California
Malu 'Aina Center of Nonviolent Education and Action, Honolulu, Hawaii
Korean Community Center of the East Bay, Oakland, California
Nanum Corean Cultural Center, Los Angeles, California
Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, Queens, New York
Oakland Institute, Oakland, California
One Korea LA Forum, Los Angeles, California
Pan-Korean Alliance for Reunification in USA, Glendale, California
Peace Action and Peace Action Education Fund, Silver Spring, Maryland and National
Proposition 1: Convert Industry from Nuclear Arms to Humanitarian Aims, Washington, DC
Reah International, Los Angeles, California
Sahngnoksoo, Seattle, Washington
The K.W. Lee Center for Leadership, Los Angeles, California
Tri-Valley CARES, Livermore, California
United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), USA
United Methodist Church, Global Ministries & Korea Caucus
US-DPRK Medical Science Exchange Committee, Rochester, Michigan
Women of Color Resource Center, Oakland, California
Women for Genuine Security, San Francisco, California
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, U.S. Section & DC Branch
YouthSpeaks, San Francisco, California

Businesses & Media

Hodgepictures, Half Moon Bay, California
Korean Center, San Francisco, California

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Korean Quarterly, St. Paul, Minnesota
Korea Report, Washington, DC
DMZ/38, Los Angeles, California
Minjok Tongshin, Los Angeles, California

Korea Scholars

Bruce Cumings, Professor, University of Chicago
Henry Em, Professor, New York University
Cynthia Enloe, Professor, Clark University
John Feffer, Co-Director, Foreign Policy In Focus
Thomas Kim, Professor, Scripps College
Brenda Kwon, Professor, Honolulu Community College
Martin Hart-Landsberg, Professor, Lewis and Clark University
Ramsay Liem, Professor, Boston College
Katharine Moon, Wellesley College
Gary Pak, Professor, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Peter Rachleff, Professor, Macalester College
Seunghye Suh, Professor, Claremont College
J.J. Suh, Professor, Johns Hopkins University
Grace Jeanmee Yoo, Professor, San Francisco State University
Theodore Jun Yoo, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Ji-Yeon Yuh, Northwestern University

**Hundreds of individuals from around the country have also signed onto this letter.*

Cc: Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State
Senator John Kerry, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Congressman Howard Berman, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy