

## 10 REASONS WHY THE U.S. MUST SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH NORTH KOREA

- 1. Technically and Legally Still at War:** The Korean Armistice of 1953 temporarily stopped the hot war in Korea. A half century later, no peace treaty has replaced the Armistice Agreement.
- 2. Costly to U.S. to Maintain the Conflict:** A Peace Treaty will save the U.S. billions of dollars annually which it now spends to keep 28,500 troops in over 100 bases in South Korea.
- 3. State of War Wastes Resources:** Currently, North and South Korea spend \$3 billion and \$26 billion, respectively, on their military budgets. Irrational military spending diverts critical and shrinking resources necessary for human needs.
- 4. State of War Leads to Militarization:** The state of war is *the* major source of tension in Korea. It is an excuse for massive military buildups by South and North Korea, as well as Japan and China. The threat of war gives North Korea justification to continue its Military First policy and develop nuclear weapons for deterrence, as well as crackdown on dissent. South Korea also uses the threat of war to justify its National Security Law to silence political dissidents. It also enabled the U.S., South Korea and North Korea to engage in terrifying military exercises.
- 5. State of War Leads to Ineffective Diplomacy:** Without a diplomatic relationship, including appointing an ambassador and establishing an embassy in North Korea, no avenue exists to discuss thorny issues such as de-nuclearization, refugees and human rights.
- 6. Confrontation Did Not Work:** The Bush administration pursued a hard-line policy of regime change against North Korea by including it in the “axis of evil” and threatening a pre-emptive nuclear attack under the 2002 U.S. Nuclear Posture Review. This policy of confrontation only backfired as North Korea developed and tested nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.
- 7. Peace Will Lead to Disarmament:** With North Korea now off the state-sponsored terrorist list, it is time for peace. North Korea has clearly articulated its intention to give up nuclear weapons in exchange for a peace treaty, economic aid, and a security guarantee from the U.S.
- 8. Peace Will Promote Truth & Reconciliation:** Peace will create the necessary space and freedom for all nations to discuss the horrors of the Korean War and learn from the past. It will allow the healing of old wounds, and without peace, such pains will linger.
- 9. Peace Will Promote Peaceful Reunification:** Both Koreas have Reunification Ministers and plans for federated or gradual reunification. A peace treaty will help save strained inter-Korean relations, and help the Korean people achieve a peaceful reunification of their divided nation.
- 10. Peace Builds Trust and Friendly Relations:** Peace will lead to normalized relations between the U.S. and North Korea. Normalized relations are central to building peace, friendship and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. Over 155 countries have peaceful normalized relations with North Korea, including nearly all countries that participated in the Korean War. Normalized relations will make it possible for separated Korean American families to reunite with their loved ones in North Korea.

Prepared by a coalition of U.S. groups working for peace and reconciliation in Korea for March 18, 2009 Advocacy Day in Washington, DC