More Than 350 US, South Korean, and International Civil Society Groups Call for Suspending US-ROK Military Exercises and Decreasing Military Tensions on the Korean Peninsula

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We, civil society groups in the United States, South Korea, and around the world, urge the governments of the ROK (Republic of Korea, aka South Korea) and the United States to suspend the combined military exercises and to instead actively pursue a path to peace. We are deeply concerned about the recent increase in military tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The ROK, the DPRK (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, aka North Korea) and the United States should take steps toward sincere dialogue and cooperation, not military actions.

Without a peaceful resolution to the Korean War, we have witnessed increasing militarization on the Korean Peninsula for seven decades. The US-ROK combined military exercises, which prepare for an all-out war with North Korea, have developed into large-scale exercises that mobilize considerable weapons, equipment and US troops on the Korean Peninsula. In recent years, these war drills have been based on operations plans that reportedly include preemptive strikes and “decapitation measures” against the North Korean leadership. They also have involved the use of B-2 and B-52H bombers, which are designed to drop nuclear bombs, and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines. While the United States and South Korea have called them defensive in nature, these military exercises have long been a trigger point for heightened military and political tensions on the Korean Peninsula due to their scale and provocative nature.

Efforts toward reconciliation and cooperation at the governmental and civilian levels between the two Koreas and the US and North Korea have failed to build trust due to the vicious cycle of military provocations. While the leaders agreed on the peaceful future of the Korean Peninsula at the inter-Korean summits and the first US-DPRK summit in 2018, the US and the ROK then resumed the suspended US-ROK combined military exercises after no deal was reached at the US-DPRK summit in Hanoi in early 2019, and the US imposed additional sanctions against North Korea. North Korea, condemning the US hostile policy and military threat, resumed missile tests and recently ended its self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and ICBM tests. Without further efforts to implement the agreements between the leaders, including establishing new relations, resumed military actions could have disastrous consequences.

We want peace talks, not war drills and military confrontation. In particular, we urge the Biden administration to resolve the root cause of the conflict between the United States and North Korea — the unresolved Korean War. Continuing to rely on isolation, pressure, and threats to force North Korea’s unilateral denuclearization is a recipe for failure. Now more than ever, the US has a responsibility to pursue peace and show that responsible nations resolve differences through diplomacy, not by increasing tensions and relying on military escalation. We urge the Moon administration to uphold the commitments made in the Panmunjom Agreement, in which the leaders of the two Koreas agreed to defuse military tensions and eliminate the risk of war on the Korean Peninsula, and suspend the upcoming US-ROK joint war drills.

Suspending these costly and highly provocative military exercises will be a crucial step toward restarting genuine diplomacy with North Korea. It will allow all parties to address other intractable global issues facing our nations today, such as the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, nuclear weapons, and war. Now is the time to change direction from military confrontation and pressure toward cooperation, reconciliation, and peace.

Signed,

U.S. Groups (98)
1040 for Peace
3 Pour Press
350 Milwaukee
6.15 DC Committee for Reunification of Korea
6.15 NY Committee for Reunification of Korea
6.15 Seattle Committee for Reunification of Korea
American Friends Service Committee
ANSWER Coalition (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism)
South Korean Groups (182)

6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 (South Korean Committee for Implementation of June 15 Joint Declaration)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 경기본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Gyeonggi branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 경기중앙본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Gyeonggi-jungbu branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 광주본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Gwangju branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 대전본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Daejeon branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 수원본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Suwon branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 안산본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Ansan branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 울산본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Ulsan branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 인천본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Incheon branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 제주본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Jeju branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 청년학생본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Youth & Students Headquarters)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 충남본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Chungnam branch)
6.15 공동선언문추행 남북위원회 충북본부 (6.15 South Korean Committee, Chungbuk branch)
가톨릭농민회 (Corea Catholic Farmers’ Movement)
강경평화네트워크 (Gangjeong Peace Network)
건강권을위한보건의료단체연합 : 건강권을위한보건의료단체연합 (Korean Federation Medical Groups for Health Rights : Association of Korea Doctors for health rights, Association of Physicians for Humanism, Korean Dentist’s Association for Healthy Society, Korean Nurses association for health rights, Korean Pharmacists for Democratic Society, Solidarity for worker’s health)
거래의길 민족광장 (Gyeoleugil Minjoggwangjang)
거래학나 (Movement for One Korea)
경기북평화시민행동 (Gyeonggi Bukbu Peace Action)
경기여성단체연합 (Gyeonggi Women’s Association United)
경기여성연대 (Gyeonggi Women’s Solidarity)
경기전의평화기독교행동 (Gyeonggi Christian Action for Justice and Peace)
경기주권운동 (Gyeonggi Sovereignty Solidarity)
경기보전운동 (Gyeonggi Alliance for Progressive Movement)
경기평화교육센터 (Gyeonggi Peace Education Center)
경기환경운동연합 (Korea Federation for Environmental Movements Kyounggi)
경남전연합 (Gyeongnam Progressive Association)
고양여성민우회 (Goyang Womenlink)
국제전략센터 (International Strategy Center)
그리스도의 교육 수녀회 (Sisters of the Christian Doctrine)
기독청년아카데미 (Christian Youth Academy)
남북상봉통일중앙연대 (People's Solidarity for Reunification of Korea)
남원YWCA (Namwon YWCA)
노동복지나눔센터 (Labor Welfare Sharing Center)
노동평화축전소 (Plant for Labor’s Hope)
녹색연합 (Green Korea United)
대경진보연대 (Deageyeong Alliance for Progressive Movement)
독도시랑협회 (The Association of Dokdo Sarang)
독립유공자유술 (The Association of Descendants of Korean Independence Patriots)
동북아평화교육훈련원 (Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute [NARPI])
동학실천시민행동 (The Citizens' Movement of Donghak Revolution)
미디어기독연대 (Media Christian Solidarity)
민들레 (Progressive artists union 'Dandelion')
민족문제연구소 (The Center for Historical Truth and Justice)
민족문제연구소 고양파주지부 (The Center for Historical Truth and Justice Goyang Paju Committee)
민족문제연구소 안산시청지부 (The Center for Historical Truth and Justice Ansan Siheung Committee)
민족문학 연구회 (Writers Association of Korea)
민족민주음사협회 (Korean Council for Democratic Martyre)
민족주권통일중앙회의 (Minjatong)
민주노동자전국회의 (Democratic Workers' National Conference)
민주통일전국연합 (Korea Democratic Street Venders Confederation)
민주봉사단 활동가운영소 (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions Suwon Yongin Osan Hwaseong Regional Branch)
민주사회를 위한 변호사모임 (MIEYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society)
민주평화시민회를 위한 전국교수연구자협회 (Association of Professors and Researchers for Democracy and Equality)
민주사회운동의 협회 (Mingahyeop)
민중민주당 (Peoples Democracy Party (PDPI))
부산민중연대 (Busan Alliance for Progressive Movement)
부산사회민족문화재단 (Busan Society for Cultural Heritage)
북구 민원회 (Bugung Juminnoi)
(사) 6월민주화쟁웅사업회 (KDEMO)
(사) 경기민예총 (Federation of People's Art Organizations, Gyeonggi)
(사) 광주전남거취하나 (Movement for One Korea in Gwangju & Jeonnam)
(사) 광주평화통일교육센터 (The Education Center for Peace and Unification in Gwangju)
(사) 민족문학연구회 (The Korean People's Artists Association)
(사) 민족문예총 (Korean People's Artists Federation in Ansan)
(사) 이동아재동문 (Okedongmu Children in Korea)
(사) 올림픽예총 (Korean People's Artists Federation in Ulsan)
(사) 정의평화민권을위한당심수호회 (Support Committee for Prisoners of Conscience for Justice, Peace and Human Rights)
(사) 평화상경 (The Corea Peace 3000)
(사) 평화통일시민연대 (Citizen's Solidarity for Peace and Unification)
(사) 한국평화통일포럼 (Hankyoeroh Unification Forum)
사단법인 민주사회활동신체국민연대 (Corp. Minjuhwaundong-Jeongsingyeoseung-Gugminyeondae)
사단법인 수원민예총 (Federation of People's Art Organizations, Gyeonggi-Suwon Council10
사단법인 평화마을 (Raf of Hope)
사회혁명회 (April Revolution Association)
사회적민주화운동기념사업회
세로운 100년을 여는 동일의병 (The Righteous People for Korean Unification)
새로하다 (New One)
생명평화포럼 (Life and Peace Forum)
서울남부노동상담센터
서울대학교 민주문화회 (Seoul National University Democratic Alumni Association)
서울진보연대 (Seoul Alliance for Progressive Movement)
서해5도평화통일본부 (West Sea Peace Zone Association)
성공남반면의방선촉진회 3PIC (Columban JPIC Korea)
성공남반면의방선촉진회 (Columban Lay Missionaries (CLM))
수원진보연대 (Suwon Alliance for Progressive Movement)
수원환경운동센터 (Suwon Center for Environment Movement)
수원YWCA (Suwon YWCA)
슬로푸드한국협회 (Slow Food Korea)
시민평화포럼 (Civil Peace Forum)
액션원코리아 (Action One Korea)
여성평화운동네트워크 (Korean Women’s Movement for Peace)
열린군대를위한시민연대 (Civilian Military Watch)
예수살기 (Living with Jesus)
유리과학의 아이들을 지키는 시민모임 (Civil Network for the ‘Chosun School’ & Student in Japan)
울산대학교 민주운동회 (Ulsan University Democratic Alumni Association)
울산평화의회 (ULSAN-WOMEN)
울산여성평화 (Ulsan Alliance for Progressive Movement)
원불교성주성지수호비상대책위 (The Won-Buddhist Emergency Committee to Guard the Sacred Site at Seongju)
원불교평화행동 (WON-PEACE)
원불교평화행동 (Wonbulgyo Eco Network)
인권교육센터 동 (Human Rights Education Center ‘DEUL’)
인천노소모 (Incheon NOSAMO)
인천자주평화연대 (Incheon Independent Peace Solidarity)
일본군성노예제 문제 해결을 위한 정의기억연대 (The Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the Issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan)
자주동일평화연대 (Great Korea Action)
자주동일평화연대 (Silcheonyeontada)
전교조 고양중등지회 (Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union Goyang Middle and High School Branch)
전교조 고양초등지회 (Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union Goyang Elementary Education Branch)
전국교직원노동조합 (Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union (KTU))
전국농민회총연맹 (Korea Peasants League)
전국농민회총연맹 부산경남연맹 (Busan-Cyeongnam League, Members of Korean Peasants League)
전국민주민주적자치연합회 (Yugahyun)
전국민주농민조합총연합 (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions)
전국민주연합 (National Federation of the Poor)
전국여성농민단체총연합 (Korean Women Peasants Association)
전국여성연대 (Korea Women’s Alliance)
전국청소년진보연대 소망 (National Youth Movement Union Somyeong)
전남진보연대 (Jeonnam Alliance for Progressive Movement)
전북교육마당 (Cheonbuk Edumadang)
전주YMCA (Jeonju YMCA)
정의사회실천마당 (Jungsirun)
제주통일청년회 (Jeju Unification Youth Association)
제주평화민센터 (Jeju Peace Humanrights Center)
조국통일민족연합남북본부 (Pan-Korea Alliance for Reunification)
조선일방폐간운동본부
진보 3.0 (Progressive 3.0)
진보당 (The Progressive Party)
진보당 수원시지역위원회 (The Progressive Party Suwon Committee)
진보당 울산시당 (The Progressive Party Ulsan Committee)
진보대학생네 (Jinbo College Student Network)
진주YMCA (Jinju YMCA)
참교육부모회 경기지부 (The National Association of Parents for Cham-Education, Gyeonggi)
참교육부모회 강북지회 (The National Association of Parents for Cham-Education, Gimpo)
참살이문학 (CHAMSARI Literature)
참여연대 (People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD))
창직21각회 (Changjak21)
전주교민권위협회 (Catholic Human Rights Committee)
전주교민권위협회 (Korean Catholic Federation for Justice)
코리아국제평화포럼 (Korea International Peace Forum)
통일광장 (Tongillkwangjang)
International Groups (76)

6.15 Japanese Committee
6.15 Overseas Committee
Blue Banner, Mongolian NGO
Bolivian Women’s Efforts: Local Contributions for a Safer World
Commission 4-International League of Peoples’ Struggles, Canada
European Chartered Engineer for Water Management and Environmental Engineering, Austria
Frente Antimperialista Internacionalista, Spain
Friends of “Comfort Women” in Sydney
Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice, Guam
I Hagan Famala‘an Guahan, Inc., Guam
Independent and Peaceful Australia Network
International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)
International No to war – no to NATO network
International Women’s Network against Militarism
K-PA Global Network
KCRC Shanghai, China
Korea Peace Now!
Korea Verband, Germany
Korean New Zealanders for a Better Future
Koreanische Friedensgruppe in Deutschland (Women for Peace in Germany)
Koreans for Woori Schools, Canada
Marrickville Peace Group, Australia
Netzwerk der Koreaner in Deutschland, Germany
Okinawa Women Act against Military Violence
Pax Christi Australia
Peace Boat, Japan
Peace Depot Inc., Japan
Peace Philosophy Centre, Canada
PUAC, Canada
Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group, United Kingdom
SASASE Ottawa, Canada
Solidarity of Korean People in Europe
Stop the War Coalition Philippines
The Federation of Korean Residents in Japan for Democratic Reunification of Korea
The Korean Democratic Women`s Association in Japan
The United Church of Canada
Toronto Minjoo Forum, Canada
URI COREA, France
WILPF Kyoto, Japan
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
Worker-Communist Party of Iraq
World BEYOND War
高校無償化からの朝鮮学校排除に反対する連絡会
東京朝鮮人強制運行真相調査団
東アジア市民連帯
米軍基地に反対する運動をとおして沖縄と韓国の民衆連帯をめざす会(沖縄民衆連)
福島防潮者集い
日朝友好連帯群馬県民会議
日朝友好連帯埼玉県民会議
日朝友好連帯静冈県民会議
日朝友好福島県民会議
日朝友好北海道民会議
日朝国交正常化後実現市民連帯大阪
日朝国交正常化推進神奈川県民の会
日朝学術教育交流協会
日朝教育文化交流を進める愛知の会
日韓民衆連帯全国ネットワーク
在日朝鮮人作家を読む会
在日韓国民主統一連合東京本部
朝鮮女性と連帯する日本婦人連絡会
朝鮮統一支持長野県民会議
朝鮮の自主的平和統一を支持する日本委員会
朝鮮学校支援全国ネットワーク
村山談話を継承発展させる会
平和憲法を守る荒川の会
「憲法」を愛する女性ネット
憲法を生かす会東京連絡会
強制連帯問題解決と退去清算のための共同行動
ノレの会
ふえみん婦人主クラブ
フォーラム平和・人権・環境

Posted in Press, Uncategorised
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