

NEWS RELEASE

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VFP Sends Delegation to South Korea

St. Louis—Veterans for Peace(VFP), a national peace organization of U.S. veterans, is sending an official delegation of five members to South Korea(ROK) to participate in the September 24 International Peace March for Pyeongtaek Farmers in Seoul.

This historic delegation is organized, in response to the heart-breaking news of the forcible eviction of Pyeongtaek farmers from their farm land and the demolition of their homes, in order to facilitate the expansion of the U.S. military base (Camp Humphreys) there. At its August national convention, VFP already passed a resolution, extending its solidarity to the struggling Pyeongtaek farmers and calling upon the U.S. government to shut down its 100 military bases in South Korea, instead of relocating to Pyeongtaek, some 40 miles below Seoul.

John Kim, the National Coordinator for the VFP- Korea Peace Campaign project, who is leading the delegation to Seoul, explained the significance of their trip: “We want to convey a strong message to the Korean people that there are concerned American veterans who not only oppose the unnecessary, wasteful expansion of the U.S. military base in Pyeongtaek but also call for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from South Korea.” VFP believes such a withdrawal is long overdue, and it will serve the interest of the Korean people for genuine self-determination and peaceful reunification of their divided nation, for which the U.S. is largely responsible.

The delegation is composed of three veterans of the Korean War (Charles Atkins, Wilson Powell and Thomas Kennedy) and two veterans of the Vietnam War era (Larry Kerschner and John Kim). Atkins(78) and Powell(74) are from Missouri, Kennedy(72) and Kim are from New York, and Kerschner is from Washington state. The delegates will also participate in the 9/23 anti-war march in Seoul, and visit Pyeongtaek, Nogunri and the DMZ. They will return to the U.S. on 9/27.

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