

## An Open Letter to President Obama on Korea Policy

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

March 18, 2009

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)  
National Lawyers Guild, Korean Peace Project  
North American Network for Peace in Korea (NANPK)  
Veterans for Peace, Korea Peace Campaign

### **National Associations, Organizations, and Community Based Organizations**

Agglobe Services International, Plymouth, Minnesota and Fairfax, Virginia  
Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea (ASCK)

American Friends Service Committee, National  
American Friends Service Committee, Peace & Economic Security Program, New England  
American Friends Service Committee - Hawai'i Area Program  
ANSWER Coalition, Hudson Valley, New York  
Asia Pacific Freeze Campaign, USA  
Boston Korea Friendship Association, Boston, Massachusetts  
CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities, New York City, New York  
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: Center for Peace, Human Rights and Refugees  
International Action Center, National  
June 15 Korean American Committee for Peace and Unification of Korea  
Korea Policy Institute, Los Angeles, California  
Korea Truth Commission, Three Rivers, California  
Korean American Cultural Center of Virginia  
Korean American League, Michigan  
Korean American National Coordinating Council, New York City, New York  
Korean Americans for Korea Democratic Labor Party, Torrance, California  
Korean Americans United for Peace (KAUP), San Francisco Bay Area, California  
Korean Community Center of the East Bay, Oakland, California  
Korean Peace Network, USA  
Korean Society of Maryland  
Koreatown Immigrant Worker Advocates (KIWA), Los Angeles, California  
Malu 'Aina Center of Nonviolent Education and Action, Honolulu, Hawaii  
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  
Sahngnoksoo, Seattle, Washington  
Tri-Valley CARES, Livermore, California  
United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), USA  
United Methodist Church, Global Ministries  
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 and Freedom, U.S. Section  
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, DC Branch  
YouthSpeaks, San Francisco, California

### ***Businesses & Media***

Hodgepictures, Half Moon Bay, California  
Korean Center, San Francisco, California  
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  
Martin Hart-Landsberg, Professor, Lewis and Clark University  
Ramsay Liem, Professor, Boston College  
Katharine Moon, Professor, Wellesley College  
Peter Rachleff, Professor, Macalester College

J.J. Suh, Professor, Johns Hopkins University  
Grace Jeanmee Yoo, Professor, San Francisco State University  
Theodore Jun Yoo, Professor, University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
Ji-Yeon Yuh, Professor, Northwestern University