

Open Letter About the NPT

Dear Conference Attendees:

We are a group of Korean American, human rights and research organizations that are actively involved in peace and social justice movements. On the occasion of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), we join with other peace groups from around the world to **call for the abolition of nuclear weapons**.

Sixty years after the Korean War, **Korea still remains divided**, and a nuclear crisis threatens the Korean peninsula. North Korea has stated that it will permanently dismantle its nuclear defense program in exchange for a formal **peace treaty** with the United States (U.S.). Yet the U.S. has only responded to the unprecedented gesture with conditions to be met before any meaningful **dialogue** is to take place.

Tens of millions of people on the divided Korean peninsula and throughout the region have been faced with this sixty-year-old armed conflict that remains unresolved. During the Korean War, former President Truman authorized Operation Hudson Harbor, which **simulated atomic bombing** runs over North Korea.

In 1994, when the U.S. learned of North Korea's nuclear program, former President Clinton threatened a preemptive strike against North Korea. The Pentagon projected it would have cost **one million civilian deaths**. Ten years later, the U.S. revised OPLAN 5027, its military plan in the event of a war in Korea, to include **preemptive nuclear strikes against North Korea**.

These aggressive actions only serve to destabilize an already tense situation. The U.S. maintains an arsenal of more than **5500 nuclear warheads**. Yet, the U.S. continues to pressure nations such as North Korea and Iran to abandon their nuclear programs. We call upon the U.S. to stand by its own commitment to disarm for the sake of building a sustainable peace.

In order to create the nuclear free world that President Obama pledged last year in Prague, the U.S. must take genuine steps towards disarmament and guarantee other countries security from nuclear attack through diplomacy. In the case of North Korea, the path to denuclearization is through signing a peace treaty to finally **end the Korean War**, formalizing diplomatic relations, lifting sanctions and encouraging meaningful exchange.

Please join us as we demand that the U.S. honor the NPT by investing diplomatic capital into this sixty-year-old armed conflict on the Korean peninsula. Now is the time to usher in a new era of **reconciliation and peace**.

Sincerely,

*Nodutdol for Korean Community Development
National Campaign to End the Korean War
Korean American National Coordinating Council
National Lawyers Guild – Korea Peace Project*

*Korea Policy Institute
Channing and Popai Liem Education Foundation
DMZ – Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina*