

Open Letter to the Korean People **(Welcoming the Opening the Hyosoon-Miseon Peace Park)**

June 10, 2020

Dear Korean Friends,

On this historic opening of the long-awaited “Hyosoon-Miseon Peace Park” in Yangju City, South Korea, we send our warm greetings to all the Korean people who are assembled for this special ceremony on June 13. As a small contributor for the construction of this peace park, we are very pleased to hear of this ceremony and join you in spirit. In particular, we want to send our congratulations to all the Korean volunteers and the civil society groups that have worked so hard for many years to finish this important project successfully.

Whenever we think of the untimely deaths of the two Korean teenage school girls, we also feel your deep pain and sadness over this great tragedy. As former soldiers of the U.S. military, including many veterans of the Korean War and those who served in South Korea in the post-Armistice period, we would like to offer our sincere apology to the surviving family members of Shin Hyosoon and Shim Miseon as well as other Korean people who have suffered much due to the many crimes that have been committed in Korea by the U.S. military in the past 75 years.

It is very encouraging for us to see that the deaths of Hyosoon and Miseon are not in vain. Their cruel death on June 13, 2002, caused by a 50-ton U.S. armored vehicle travelling on a public road, and the subsequent acquittal of the three crew members of the vehicle in a U.S. military tribunal aroused justified anger among many Korean people—sparking a series of candlelight, vigil protests for about ten months in South Korea. This people’s movement resulted in the birth of a new protest culture of candlelight vigils in South Korea.

Finally, we believe that a full justice for Hyosoon and Miseon will be realized only when all the U.S. troops leave Korea. We hope such a day will come in the near future so that Korean people can live in peace at last—free from any fear or danger of the foreign forces and their deadly weapons of mass destruction. Let’s work together for a permanent peace in Korea!

Long Live Hyosoon and Miseon at this peace park!
End the Korean War Now!

In Solidarity,

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www.veteransforpeace.org