

Buffalo Forum



Local Publication of the
U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

Workers of all countries, unite!

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November 17, 2017

Vol. 21 #11



ACTIONS IN JAPAN, KOREA, PHILIPPINES SAY:

No Trump, No War, Trump Not Welcome Here!

Numerous anti-war actions in Japan, Korea and the Philippines greeted President Trump during his trip to the region. Simultaneous actions were also organized in the U.S. These included those by BAYAN, U.S., which opposes U.S. imperialism in the Philippines,

as well as those by Korean Americans and many other anti-war organizations in New York, Chicago, Washington DC, and Los Angeles.

The protests kicked off with a rally in New York's Koreatown on Friday, November
No Trump, No War • 8

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED

Anti-War Organizations in the U.S., Korea, and Japan Oppose War Against Korea

Ahead of Trump's arrival in South Korea as part of his 13-day tour through Asia, hundreds of organizations from Japan, south Korea and the United States issued a joint statement denouncing his policy of sanctions and war

threats against north Korea and demanding a halt to military exercises. The joint statement also calls on South Korea's Moon Jae-in administration to pursue inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation and Japan's
Joint Statement Opposes War • 9

Peace Not War in Asia

BAYAN, U.S. and Nodutdol

For over seven decades, U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), the largest and oldest of the nine U.S. unified combatant commands of the U.S. Armed Forces, has carried out military invasions, exercises, wars, and occupations throughout Asia and parts of Africa. These include the Korean War, the Vietnam War, nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, illegally

storing nuclear weapons in South Korea, the destabilization of local communities and denial of their development due to U.S. military bases and military exercises, including drone warfare, in Korea, Okinawa, the Philippines, Guam, and the list goes on. The U.S. has over 180 military bases concentrated in this region alone. Everyday, the peoples
Peace Not War in Asia • 8

ELECTIONS 2018

People Must Play a Role in Deciding the Agenda

As various individuals begin announcing their plans to run for office in 2018, which include races for New York State Governor and other state and federal offices, one of the problems that presents itself is that of the candidate's

platform. In the current set up, individuals decide to run, often depending on what kind of financial backing they can receive. The individual also commonly decides their platform, and for Governor, their running mate for Lieutenant

Governor. The people are then called on to support the given candidate based on what he or she promises. It is a process that excludes the people from deciding the platform, when that should be the starting point.

It is important to look at the necessity to modernize the process, to put working people at the center, not at the margins, as currently exists. Public meetings and forums of various kinds, at universities,
Elections 2018 • 3

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The national paper of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization. VOR works to raise the level of political discussion in society by taking stands that provide a way forward, oppose the chauvinism and racism of the U.S. state, and advance the interests of the working class and people. VOR also reports on the organizing work to build the alternative by Creating Politics of Empowerment. Together It Can Be Done! Read, write and distribute VOR.

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Buffalo Forum

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SIX NATIONS HOSTS: "WALKING WITH OUR SISTERS"



A commemorative art installation to honour missing or murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two Spirit people

Open to the public | Free to attend
November 19-25, 2017
Closing Ceremony November 26
Hours: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

School and community groups must be booked in advance.
Complete schedule details are available on our Facebook page.

JOIN US AT THE GATHERING PLACE BY THE GRAND

NOVEMBER 19 – 25, 2017

The Walking With Our Sisters Art Installation Is a Commemorative Installation To Honour Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirited People.

Address: 2593 Chiefswood Road, Ohsweken Ontario

Hours: 9:30am – 3:30pm
5:00pm – 8:00pm

For More Information Visit "Walking With Our Sisters – Six Nations" On Facebook Or Email Walkingwithoursisters6na@Gmail.Com

Six Nations will be hosting the commemorative art installation "Walking With Our Sisters" in 2017 to raise awareness on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and to show support for the sisters we have lost from our own community.

The Installation is for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women of Canada and the U.S. as well as for the children who died while in residential schools. Sometimes called "vamps," "tongues" or "uppers," the tops of moccasins are intentionally not sewn into moccasins, and represent the unfinished lives of murdered or missing Indigenous women and girls. These Vamps are exhibited on a pathway to represent their path or journey that was ended prematurely.

I • ELECTIONS 2018

workplaces, community centers, senior's homes, should be organized to engage the public in discussion about their concerns and the platform they want. If that were to occur, there is no question that problems like poverty, inequality, the environment and war would be key aspects of such a platform. Rights to education, housing and jobs would also be critical concerns, especially in cities like Buffalo where these rights are systematically denied and racism by the government prevalent.

Instead of candidates coming to promote whatever they have decided on for a platform, what is needed is public debate and discussion. Those considering running should themselves organize such debate — should begin by seeking the views of the public as to what problems to focus on and what solutions can be provided.

Given current conditions, where the threat of broader war and more wars is growing and where militarization is impacting all aspects of life, including the economy, the environment, education and healthcare, the need for an anti-war stand is crucial. More generally, supporting the need for an anti-war government and peace economy is an overall direction needed. What that may concretely mean for Buffalo and New York State needs to be explored. For example, the proposal to close the Niagara Air Force base and turn it into a solar farm, producing far more jobs and clean energy, would reflect anti-war, peace economy direction. So too would the elimination of military recruiters in our high schools and college campuses. Or at the very least, equal time for an anti-



war alternative and support for students opposing the military.

For Buffalo and New York State, the issue of lead poisoning is also an important one, both in terms of the right to safe housing and water and in terms of its impact on children and education. New York State refuses to utilize the CDC standard for what constitutes too high a level. New York uses 10 micrograms per deciliter of blood, while the CDC, in 2012, adopted a threshold of 5 micrograms. Further the CDC states that no level of lead in the blood is safe. How is it that New York can provide \$1.31 billion in public funds to the Pentagon but cannot ensure safe housing and drinking water for all?

An essential part of a platform is also that

on electoral reform, so as to modernize the current system in a manner that empowers the people themselves to govern and decide. The current set up does the opposite. It keeps the people out of power and the rich in power. It robs the people of a deciding role and imposes a system that is corrupt and characterized by hugely expensive negative campaigning divorced from the problems of the times and their solutions. It is a system that produced the two most hated candidates for president and that is increasingly depoliticizing people, depriving them of their right to decide the affairs of society.

Changing the electoral process would include funding the process, not the candidates, and ensuring a process that informs the public and enables the public to determine the platform and the best candidates to represent such a platform. It would outlaw the negative campaigning and character assassination which all divert from the fact that people do not want candidates of the rich and do want an alternative. It puts decision making in the hands of the people, not the individual candidates, not their financial backers, but the people themselves.

Buffalo Forum urges any considering running to join in taking this stand by organizing to meet with people and not just consult them, but actually accept their demands for a platform. We have no doubt that if potential candidates organized public meetings, common demands of an anti-war, pro-social and pro-peace direction will emerge. We also think its critical that electoral reform empowering the people to decide be part of any platform.

Erie County and Buffalo Elections Results

In the recent elections for Erie County and Buffalo, low voter turn out continued, with about 35% of registered voters participating. Elections included that for mayor of Buffalo, various county legislators, county sheriff and comptroller, and a number of judges. In many of the legislative races, there was only one candidate running, another indication, along with low voter turn out, of the dissatisfaction of voters with the current set up.

In the race for mayor, Byron Brown won another term. Turn out was only

28%. Of significance was the fact that Green Party candidate Terrance Robinson secured 3% of the vote, a positive result given his first effort as a candidate. In addition Vanessa Glushefski, another first-time candidate, did very well, securing 45% of the vote, about 91,500. Though she lost, she succeeded in raising important issues during the campaign. These included the power of the comptroller to conduct compliance audits of the county jail. The holding center is notorious for its rotten conditions, continuing high suicide

rates and lack of medical care, and the fact that many are held for long periods in these rotten conditions simply because they cannot afford bail.

The demand for a compliance audit remains an important one that can be made to Stefan Mychajliw, who won the comptroller election. The various forces who have been organizing to oppose the unjust treatment of prisoners and racism of the county sheriff's department should consider such a demand as one that would

Election Results • 6

#UNDOCUMENTEDUNAFRAIDANDUNAPOLOGETIC

Thousands of Immigrant Youth Demand Congress Take Action

Scores of immigrant youth and their allies demonstrated November 9, demanding that Congress pass a clean DREAM Act before the protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients end early next year. The demand for a clean bill opposes current efforts by Trump to use the DACA youth as a bargaining chip to secure further attacks on other undocumented immigrants. The youth are refusing to accept this and demanding that the DREAM Act be passed as a single, separate bill. Many are also concerned that the bill being proposed still includes a requirement to serve in the military, for those who cannot go to college. Demonstrators are also demanding that this be removed as part of having a clean act that provides documentation for youth brought to the country as children.

According to an email from United We Dream, a key organizer in the #DREAMActNow actions, "Immigrant youth shut down the Hart congressional building to call for a clean Dream Act. Hundreds of activists packed the building and 15 brave freedom fighters were arrested for holding their ground and refusing to be silenced. They put their bodies on the line to demand protection for millions of immigrant youth." Thousands more youth took the streets in Oklahoma City, El Paso, Texas, Phoenix and many other cities from coast to coast.

One of the demonstration organizers arrested in DC was Belén Sisa, who shared the following message:

Dear Friends and Movement Family,

If you are reading this, I have been arrested and am in jail for standing up to



Congress and the Trump administration in Washington, D.C. demanding that they pass a Clean Dream Act Now before the end of this year.

I participated in this action because my heart led me to commit myself to put everything on the line for something much bigger than myself. Two months ago the Trump administration took away DACA, something we knew would happen, but it opened many old wounds. I could not help but think back to every struggle my family endured for us and for me to be who I am. We cannot and will not go back. As immigrant youth we know the power we hold and we will no longer settle for anything less than permanent protection, respect and dignity, for ourselves, our parents and our communities.

I am willing to put my livelihood and ability to stay in this country at risk, because as a person with DACA it was crucial for me to speak out for justice for all

undocumented people. Because I am tired of being used as your political pawn for a white supremacist agenda, and I demand to be seen for my humanity not just what I have to offer you.

I did this for every undocumented person who feels voiceless, for every family that is scared for their children who had DACA, for those who's future is in the midst of uncertainty counting down to March 5th when work permits will begin to expire and need action. I am doing this because we need change in our immigration system and we will no longer be ignored. We are not victims, we are warriors.

Now more than ever I need you to be in this fight with me. [...]

Send me your love and your rage.

Abrazos,

Belen

#UndocumentedUnafraidAndUnapologetic

DEMAND FOR E-VERIFY ID TARGETS ALL WORKERS

Congress Trying to Use Immigrant Youth as Bargaining Chip

Various politicians in Congress are trying to use undocumented immigrant youth as a bargaining chip. These youth, brought to the U.S. as children and having lived here for years, will lose their current protected status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Trump

canceled the program and an estimated 700,000 youth could face deportation in March, as they are undocumented and registered for the program so are known to the government.

Some politicians are demanding various attacks on immigrants in exchange for

restoring DACA. These include elimination of what is called the diversity visa program, which is a lottery system providing applicants with a chance to receive a green card, but only if they pass all the usual government requirements. Ending **Immigrant Youth as Bargaining Chip • 6**

Buffalo State Speak Out

As part of the Scandalous News radio show on WBNY, students are provided with news and information on key issues of the day. In particular, a “scandal of the week” question is posed to generate discussion and thinking about problems. The question commonly addresses an issue that has been widely promoted in the news, and contrasts it with an alternative way of looking at the question.

Recently, the question concerned issues of government racism and Trump’s comments about Charlottesville, where the KKK and Nazis were opposed by a large demonstration standing against racism and for rights. A pro-Nazi person ran a car into the anti-Nazi, anti-KKK rally, killing one person and injuring many more. Trump commented that both sides were responsible and made various other remarks supporting the pro-Nazi/KKK forces, which were widely promoted.

The “scandal of the week” question asked: Is the real scandal Trump’s comments about Charlottesville OR State Organized Racist Attacks, such as mass incarceration, police killings, raids on immigrants and Muslims, growing inequality — and government refusal to solve these problems?

Here are some of the responses from students, gathered randomly in the library and student union.

“I think the real scandal is about the racist attacks and mass incarceration, not Trump’s comments, because those are just words, not actions. As a president he should be able to make comments about those problems, like mass incarceration, and not about Charlottesville. The real issue is what is he really going to do for us? Police killings and raids on immigrants and Muslims and growing inequality, those are the real issues.”

“I personally feel that Trump’s comments are not the main issue that should be discussed. There are way more important issues to discuss, such as student loans, such as poverty, or the war on drugs. All they really worry about is locking people up, rather than freeing people and helping others. There are a lot of people in Manhattan and Queens that are homeless but that



is not told. Trump’s comments, that is just an opinion, it’s not a fact. Issues like loans and poverty and violence are real, those are numbers you can add up.”

“I think what Trump said was wrong. But instead of focusing on what he said, we should focus on people’s lives.”

“I would have to say the real scandal would be Trump’s comments about Charlottesville because with all the hatred and violence and racism that is going on, instead of him really putting that to rest he just said well they are wrong and you guys are wrong also. You can’t say that. You have to say what is wrong and cut it right there and he didn’t. So I would say Donald Trump is the major problem.”

“My view is that it’s more on the police killings and raids on immigrants and Muslims because they all connect back to the president and he is the one that is supposed to be a leader for the country. If he is not solving his problems how are we supposed to be leaders for the world and for the kids? We as students can lead by example and tell kids at a younger age that they should be aware of what is going on.”

“The bigger scandal is definitely the state organized racist attacks, mass incarceration and police killings. It is something that people don’t really talk about. It kind of goes under the rug, that’s why they keep doing it. We are so focused on what Trump did or didn’t say about a situation that we are ignoring a bigger picture. The Charlottesville thing was horrible but the state organized racist attacks, those are always happening every day, all the time, and his comments were just a one-time incident. As

students we can voice together. We’ve seen that peaceful protest kind of works but kind of doesn’t. There is something else we need to do, like show up to town meetings, like get your voice heard.”

“I think the more serious problem is the police because they are supposed to protect us. We don’t have the power to stop them that we should have. We shouldn’t have police kill us, especially when we haven’t done anything.”

“I think that the problem is that the government is in control of the people and that the people can’t stop them no matter how hard we try. We have to overthrow the government. It needs to be gone. I don’t understand why it is the way that it is. I think education can be more based on teaching children and future generations on not being ignorant and realizing that love is love and we are all human beings. We are all on this earth and the way that we look doesn’t matter. We are all just here and need to work together so that we can be here longer and take care of our planet. I don’t believe anything the government tells me and never will.”

The next “scandal of the week” question is: “There has been a lot of news about nuclear weapons and most of it emphasizes north Korea as the threat. Is the biggest scandal testing by the Koreans, or the fact that the U.S. president, alone, can launch nuclear war?”

Look into the issues, get informed and join the discussion. *Buffalo Forum* and *Voice of Revolution* provide information on these matters, so get one from your campus distributor!

4 • IMMIGRANT YOUTH AS BARGAINING CHIP

“chain migration” is another attack called for. “Chain migration” refers to the ability of citizens and permanent residents to sponsor family members beyond their immediate family. It plays a role in reuniting families and has enabled larger numbers of people, about one million yearly, to come to the U.S. with documentation.

Perhaps most importantly, there is a demand for a mandatory e-verify identification system. E-verify, or electronic verification, is a federal system, with a federal database, that verifies whether an individual has documentation to be in the country and work. It currently is voluntary. It is however being widely demanded by the monopolies as a means to control the workforce, both in the U.S. and Mexico. As well, previous proposals, likely to be included in the legislation currently being drafted, begins with immigrant workers but then is extended to all workers, usually over a period of five years. The E-verify proposals also commonly include not only the usual FBI background check, but also a “national security” check. The Department of Homeland Security, the military or both could do this check. In either case, the federal government determines who does and does not constitute a “threat,” and can deny authorization to work to anyone it puts in that category. These could include anti-war activists, union organizers, and many others.

In this manner this legislation could be



presented as a win for immigrant youth, while being a major attack on immigrant workers and all workers. This is because it provides the basis for any worker to be denied authorization to work and potentially be subject to labor camps and slave labor.

Other politicians are threatening to shut down the government if the immigrant legislation they are proposing does not get passed. They too are using the youth as a bargaining chip, not as human beings with rights.

Immigrant youth are rejecting these efforts to divide the immigrant movement and persisting in demanding a clean act,

which provides documentation for youth with no attacks on any other immigrants or workers be passed. Many are also calling for the current military requirement for those who do not attend college, to be removed. The Pentagon was among the original authors of what is referred to as the DREAM Act, as an estimated 60,000 undocumented youth graduate high school each year. The military is targeting these youth for recruitment in conditions where the threat of more wars is increasing.

The youth are standing firm in their demand that they not be used as a bargaining chip, that their rights be met and that attacks on all immigrants stop now.

3 • ELECTION RESULTS

bring out the crimes of the sheriff and also the responsibility of the county to take action. While the comptroller does not have enforcement power, the county executive and legislature do. Armed with a compliance audit, action can be taken.

In the race for sheriff, current Sheriff Timothy Howard won a close election against Bernie Tolbert. Turn out was 35%. Tolbert secured 103,382 votes, or 49%, while Howard got 106,771, or 51%. Like many races in this period, a significant portion of Tolbert’s votes were not so much for him as against Howard. Howard is notorious for his brutality and

racism, including recently participating, in uniform, at a rally promoting slavery and the confederacy. As well, Tolbert, who is African American, when asked by youth activists how he would deal with issues of racism and police brutality responded that he was a sheriff first. Given this stand, and that he is also a former FBI agent, many felt the racism and brutality at the jail and by the county sheriff’s department would continue.

Perhaps what stands out most about the election is that the main concerns of the people, such as poverty, inequality and the danger of war and how the city and county

can contribute to peace, were absent. This is a reflection of an electoral process that blocks working people from having a say in the agenda and the ability to choose candidates that represent a people’s agenda. Instead people are reduced to being voting cattle and divided along various lines, such as race, religion and gender. Given the education and experience of workers and youth of Buffalo, this is a process that needs to be modernized to put the people in decision making positions at every step in the process. This includes choosing the candidates from among their own ranks and together determining the platform.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY 12-14

Conference Demands Closure of U.S. Foreign Military Bases

Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases

Learning Commons Town Hall,
University of Baltimore
1415 Maryland Avenue

(Anyone interested in attending the conference should contact Buffalo Forum at 716-602-8077 • buffaloforum@usmlo.org)

Conference Schedule

Friday, January 12:

3:00 – 5:00 PM — Peaceful Anti-Foreign Military Bases Rally (Location: TBD)
5:00 – 7:00 PM — Dinner (on your own)
7:00 – 9:30 PM — Keynote 1: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Strategic Role of Foreign Military Bases; Cultural Presentation

Saturday, January 13:

9:00 – 10:00 AM — Keynote 2: History and Economic Costs of U.S. Foreign Military Bases
10:15 – 11:45 AM — Plenary 1: Environmental and Health Impact of U.S. Foreign Military Bases
11:45 – 12:30 — LUNCH
12:30 – 2:00 PM — Plenary 2: South America / Guantánamo
2:15 – 3:45 PM — Plenary 3: Asia Pacific / Pivot to Asia
4:00 – 5:30 PM — Plenary 4: Europe / NATO
5:30 – 7:00 PM — Dinner (on your own)
7:00 – 9:00 PM — Cultural Event

Sunday January 14:

9:00 – 10:30 AM — Plenary 5: The Middle East
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM — Plenary 6: Africa
12:15 – 1:00 PM — LUNCH
1:00 – 2:30 PM — Plenary 7: Organizing: Coalition's Future Plan of Action
2:45 – 3:30 — Closing Remarks

Unity Statement

We, the undersigned peace, justice and environmental organizations, and individuals, endorse the following Points of Unity and commit ourselves to working together by

forming a Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases, with the goal of raising public awareness and organizing non-violent mass resistance against U.S. foreign military bases.

While we may have our differences on other issues, we all agree that U.S. foreign military bases are the principal instruments of imperial global domination and environmental damage through wars of aggression and occupation, and that the closure of U.S. foreign military bases is one of the first necessary steps toward a just, peaceful and sustainable world. Our belief in the urgency of this necessary step is based on the following facts:

While we are opposed to all foreign military bases, we do recognize that the United States maintains the highest number of military bases outside its territory, estimated at almost 1000 (95% of all foreign military bases in the world). Presently, there are U.S. military bases in every Persian Gulf country except Iran.

In addition, United States has 19 Naval air carriers (and 15 more planned), each as part of a Carrier Strike Group, composed of roughly 7,500 personnel, and a carrier air wing of 65 to 70 aircraft — each of which can be considered a floating military base.

These bases are centers of aggressive military actions, threats of political and economic expansion, sabotage and espionage, and crimes against local populations. In addition, these military bases are the largest users of fossil fuel in the world, heavily contributing to environmental degradation.

The annual cost of these bases to the American taxpayers is approximately \$156 billion. The support of U.S. foreign military bases drains funds that can be used to fund human needs and enable our cities and States to provide necessary services for the people.

This has made the U.S. a more militarized society and has led to increased



tensions between the U.S. and the rest of the world. Stationed throughout the world, almost 1000 in number, U.S. foreign military bases are symbols of the ability of the United States to intrude in the lives of sovereign nations and peoples.

Many individual national coalitions — for example, Okinawa, Italy, Jeju Island Korea, Diego Garcia, Cyprus, Greece, and Germany — are demanding closure of bases on their territory. The base that the U.S. has illegally occupied the longest, for over a century, is Guantánamo Bay, whose existence constitutes an imposition of the empire and a violation of International Law. Since 1959 the government and people of Cuba have demanded that the government of the U.S. return the Guantánamo territory to Cuba.

U.S. foreign military bases are NOT in defense of U.S. national, or global security. They are the military expression of U.S. intrusion in the lives of sovereign countries on behalf of the dominant financial, political, and military interests of the ruling elite. Whether invited in or not by domestic interests that have agreed to be junior partners, no country, no peoples, no government, can claim to be able to make decisions totally in the interest of their people, with foreign troops on their soil representing interests antagonistic to the national purpose.

We must all unite to actively oppose the existence of U.S. foreign military bases and call for their immediate closure. We invite all forces of peace, social and environmental justice to join us in our renewed effort to

I • NO TRUMP, NO WAR

3. Protesters denounced Trump for his military threats and economic sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). They also targeted the Pentagon and military monopolies for their massive sale of weapons of destruction to countries in the region, especially south Korea. Similar rallies took place outside the White House in Washington DC and in Chicago and Los Angeles on November 4. In all the actions there was a common stand against war and for political solutions to current conflicts. Trump and the U.S. were targeted as the main source of tensions and crimes of aggression and emphasis given to demands for a peace treaty with the DPRK, an end to the massive U.S. war games in the region, and closing of all U.S. bases and removal of U.S. troops, in Japan, Korea and the Philippines.

Another significant aspect of the actions was a number of joint statements involving anti-war organizations from the U.S., Japan and Korea. These reflect efforts to strengthen relations by developing common work in the struggle against U.S. imperialism. They included a petition for a peace treaty

with the DPRK, initiated by Veterans for Peace, which calls for living "in permanent peace and friendship" with the Koreans. It calls upon the "U.S. Government to stop its large-scale, joint war drills with the armed forces of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Japan, and commence a gradual withdrawal of the U.S. troops and weapons from South Korea;" and for "the U.S. Government to officially end the lingering and costly Korean War by concluding a peace treaty with the DPRK without further delay, to lift all sanctions against the country, and to join the 164 nations that have normal diplomatic relations with the DPRK." (see p.13)

Similarly, a statement by Korean and Filipino organizations in the U.S., together with various anti-war organizations states: "We call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. military bases, personnel, agreements, exercises, war games, and all other operations from Asia and the Pacific, and for the U.S. government to respect the sovereignty of the countries of the region, including their right to self-determination. We demand an end to

inflammatory rhetoric and anti-people policies of this Trump administration, which has already implemented anti-democratic processes in the United States." (see p. 1)

Various international lawyers organizations also issued a statement calling on Trump to "not use the military bases in South Korea and Japan to threaten North Korea to heighten the crisis on the Korean peninsula." They demanded that the "U.S.-ROK joint military exercises that deploy a U.S. strategic weapon in accordance with a pre-emptive nuclear strike" be stopped immediately." (see p.14)

Plans by anti-war organizations in the U.S., Korea and Japan are underway for a joint campaign to end the Korean War and for a Peace Treaty, and holding coordinated actions in all three countries, including possibly an international gathering in South Korea, on/around July 27, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice.

Buffalo Forum salutes all the many actions and efforts to unite peoples of Korea, Japan the Philippines and the U.S. standing to oppose U.S. wars, close all U.S. bases and *Bring All U.S. Troops Home Now!*

I • PEACE NOT WAR IN ASIA

of the Korean Peninsula, the Philippines, Asia and the Pacific region continue to wage life-and-death resistance to US-led war and military occupation — the biggest obstacle to genuine peace, democracy, development, and security in the region.

Asia is the largest market for U.S. exports, including military weapons exports, worth \$600 billion. From November 3-14, Trump will visit five countries in Asia – Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Amidst escalating hostility, war provocations, and threats to "destroy" North Korea, Trump will seek to consolidate U.S. lackeys in order to secure U.S. military and economic hegemony in the region. Trump will seek to put pressure on the governments he meets with. Some of his stated goals include re-negotiation of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and permanent deployment of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile defense system in South Korea.

Trump is expected to praise the Philip-

pine military's brutal implementation of the U.S.-instigated War on Terror in Mindanao and push for continued collaboration in intelligence gathering, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism between the U.S. and Philippines. The Trump administration will attempt to dominate the East Asia Summit in the Philippines, a regional gathering of state leaders where talks determining neoliberal economic policies will translate into greater U.S. military basing to protect U.S. trade interests and control major commercial shipping routes.

As Koreans, Filipinos, and peoples of the Asian diaspora, as well as peace activists, we stand with those in the frontlines of resistance to growing U.S.-led war, militarism, and neoliberalism in Asia and the Pacific, especially with those staging massive protests in Japan, Korea (where November 4 is called 'No Trump Day of Action'), and the Philippines against Trump's visit.

We call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. military

bases, personnel, agreements, exercises, war games, and all other operations from Asia and the Pacific, and for the U.S. government to respect the sovereignty of the countries of the region, including their right to self-determination. We demand an end to inflammatory rhetoric and anti-people policies of this Trump administration, which has already implemented anti-democratic processes in the United States.

We invite your organization to sign on by endorsing this statement. Signed:

Nodutdol for Korean Community Development

BAYAN USA

United National Antiwar Coalition

International League of People's Struggles- Seattle, WA

GABRIELA USA

Anakbayan USA

June 15th Joint Declaration Support Committee

Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality and many more

I • JOINT STATEMENT OPPOSES WAR

Abe government to cease moves to change Article 9, the peace clause of its constitution.

“Washington is forcing a trilateral military alliance and provocative war drills on Tokyo and Seoul that threatens North Korea and the region,” said Christine Ahn, international coordinator of Women Cross DMZ. “The people of Japan, South Korea and United States oppose war. Our demands are an urgent pivot towards peace.”

“In Japan, Prime Minister Abe utilizes the U.S.-North Korea crisis to promote public hysteria and fear and encourage right-wing groups that call for Japan’s militarization, including the acquisition of nuclear weapons,” explains Yoshioka Tatsuya, Co-Founder and Director of Peace Boat, Japan’s largest peace organization. “But we really have to understand that the joint military exercises by the U.S., Japan, and South Korea increase the risk of war in this region. Japan has the experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We have to work to abolish nuclear weapons, but it’s unreasonable to demand that north Korea be the only one to give up theirs. All of us, including the U.S. and Japan, must say no to them.”

“The South Korean public is highly critical of Trump for making threats of war and dismissing the gravity of its consequences as something ‘over there,’” says Choi Eun-a of the Korean Alliance for Progressive Movements, which is among the 222 south Korean organizations that have called for nationwide protest timed with Trump’s visit to South Korea. “The war-threatening, weapons salesman Trump is not welcome here, especially as he demands that south Korea pay more to host U.S. troops and set aside land for useless weapons like the THAAD missile defense system.”

“Peace-loving people in the United States, Japan, and South Korea reject the war-mongering policies of our governments and express our friendship and solidarity with the people of North Korea,” said Jackie Cabasso, Executive Director of the Western States Legal Foundation in California.



“The U.S. government must end its policy of sanctions and military threats against North Korea, cease the deployment of more weapons of mass destruction to the Korean peninsula and the region, and halt large-scale military exercises that impede dialogue with North Korea.”

Joint Statement

U.S., South Korean, and Japanese Organizations Call for Peace in Korea and Northeast Asia

As U.S. President Trump travels to Asia, we civil society groups from the United States, South Korea, and Japan call for a diplomatic solution to the dangerous conflict between the United States and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea). As those who would be directly impacted by the outbreak of such a conflict, we call on our leaders to take bold steps to ensure lasting peace.

Recent events have set the stage for a possible catastrophe on the Korean Peninsula and even throughout the greater Northeast Asian region. Any further escalation of tensions could rapidly degenerate into violence. In its 27 October 2017 report, the U.S. Congressional Research Service estimates that over 300,000 people would

die in the opening days of a military conflict on the Korean Peninsula, even without nuclear weapons, and it would ultimately claim 25 million lives.

Even as President Trump calls his predecessor’s policy of “strategic patience” on North Korea a failure, he continues the same policy, i.e., intensifying U.N. and unilateral sanctions and military threats. [...] We therefore demand that:

The Trump administration boldly shift to a policy of peace by:

Ending its policy of sanctions and military threats against North Korea;

Ceasing the deployment of more weapons of mass destruction on the Korean peninsula and in the region, and withdrawing the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system from South Korea as it only exacerbates tensions in the region; and

Halting large-scale military exercises that impede dialogue with North Korea

The administration of President Moon Jae-in of South Korea honor the spirit of past North-South joint declarations for peace and reconciliation by:

Assertively pursuing inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation;

Halting future large-scale U.S.-South Korea combined military exercises to minimize the risk of confrontation ahead of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyongchang, South Korea; and

No longer cooperating with investments in costly weapon systems with the United States and Japan, including spending on missile defense, which only exacerbates tensions in the region and diverts precious resources away from human needs.

The government of Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe immediately cease all further moves toward military buildup and instead contribute to regional peace by:

Abolishing the controversial “Conspiracy Law” and “State Secrecy Law,” as well as the 2015 “Peace and Security Legislation” or war bills which permit the use of the so-called right to collective

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SOUTH KOREANS PROTEST VISIT

Trump Not Welcome in Korea

ZoominKorea

The following is a presentation given by South Korean peace activist Choi Eun-a on a webinar entitled "On the Brink of War: Peace Activists in South Korea and Japan Respond," hosted by a consortium of U.S. peace organizations on October 25, 2017. Choi Eun-a is the chair of the Reunification Committee of the Korean Alliance of Progressive Movements (KAPM), which brings together social movements — trade unions, farmers, urban poor, women, youth — for peace and democracy. It was instrumental in the fight to oppose the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the struggle that ousted former President Park Geun-hye.

1. How do South Korean progressives view the current US-North Korea conflict?

I cannot speak for all progressive forces, but I will tell you the view of the Korean Alliance of Progressive Movements (KAPM).

We view the current conflict between the United States and North Korea as the product of the un-ended Korean War and antagonism that have continued for sixty years since the signing of the Korean War armistice in 1953. For decades, the United States has considered North Korea an ene-

my state, deployed US troops and weapons of mass destruction in South Korea, and held massive war games as displays of its military might. The South Korean government, too, has spent ten times more than the North on defense to exert asymmetric pressure on North Korea. Since the late 1980s, South Korea has normalized relations with former socialist countries, but relations between North Korea and the United States, Japan and South Korea have not normalized and instead have been one of asymmetric intimidation. This is the fundamental reason for North Korea's decision to strengthen its own deterrence and is at the root of the current crisis on the Korean peninsula.

We should note that the point at which North Korea stepped up its nuclear development was when agreements reached through the six party talks began to unravel. Multilateral agreements were tossed out unilaterally by the United States, which pursued a policy of regime



collapse and war in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. These events were key in driving North Korea to turn to strengthening its own deterrence, particularly in the form of nuclear weapons.

If anything, the decades of negotiations between the United States and North Korea have confirmed two things: that as long as the United States does not stop its military threats and sanctions targeting North Korea, North Korea will not abandon its nuclear deterrent; and that lasting peace and denuclearization on the Korean peninsula is a distant possibility. Sanctions, military threats and shows of force will only push North Korea to increase its own deterrent capabilities and

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self-defense;

Pursuing the normalization of relations between Japan and North Korea based upon the principles of the Pyongyang Declaration and the Stockholm Agreement; and

Ceasing moves to change Article 9, the peace clause in its constitution.

These are among the hundreds of organizations who have signed on:

Japan:

- Citizens Association against Constitutional Revision
- Femin Women's Democratic Club
- Japan-Korea People's Solidarity Network
- Kyoto/Kinki Association against the

U.S. X-band Radar Base

Network of Religious Persons Making Peace

Nonviolent Peaceforce Japan

Peace Boat

Veterans for Peace Japan

South Korea

Federation of Korean Trade Unions

Korean Alliance of Progressive Movements

Korean Confederation of Trade Unions

Korean Peasants League

Korean Street Vendors Confederation

Korean Women's Alliance

Korean Women Peasants Alliance

Korean Youth Solidarity

National Alliance of Squatters and Evictees

United States

Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security

International Forum on Globalization

Peace Action

Task Force to Stop THAAD in Korea and Militarism in Asia and the Pacific

United for Peace and Justice

Veterans for Peace National

Western States Legal Foundation

Women Cross DMZ

U.S. WARMONGERING IN ASIA

Anti-War Protests Greet Trump in Korea

On November 7 and 8, President Donald Trump visited the Republic of Korea (ROK) for the third U.S.-ROK Summit as part of an 11-day Asian tour which included visits to Japan, China, Vietnam and the Philippines. Trump's visit to south Korea was opposed by more than 200 organizations, which demanded peace on the Korean peninsula.

On November 4, the groups held a "No Trump, No War People's Rally" at the U.S. embassy in Seoul to launch their protests. Despite their attempts, the Seoul police were unable to prevent the protesters from getting to the U.S. embassy. In their joint press conference the organizers pointed out: "Who can possibly welcome a foreign leader who talks about the possibility of a war on their land? We should take the path of peace, not war. We cannot help but protect peace on our land and our livelihood for ourselves."

The demonstrators demanded that the U.S. stop the aggressive military exercises that threaten the Korean Peninsula, cease pressuring and imposing sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and remove all terminal high altitude area defense (THAAD) missile installations from Korean soil. They also demanded that the U.S. stop forcing the ROK to purchase larger and larger amounts of U.S. weapons.

Many of the protests also called for the scrapping of the onerous U.S.-ROK Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), which has permitted the domination of the south Korean economy by U.S. monopolies at the expense of the livelihoods, and economic future of the people.

While the monopoly media in Canada and elsewhere sensationalized Trump's provocative and irresponsible comments against the DPRK during his visit, less mentioned was that Trump's visit to south

Korea was aimed primarily at strengthening the aggressive U.S.-south Korea military alliance. To make that point clear, U.S.-south Korea-Japan military drills involving three aircraft carriers — the USS Ronald Reagan, the USS Theodore Roosevelt and the USS Nimitz — were timed to coincide with Trump's visit. These war exercises continue with air and naval maneuvers near the Northern Limit Line, the U.S.-imposed maritime border on the West Sea dividing north and south Korea.

It is important to note that throughout all these aggressive military acts and crimes against the peace on the part of the U.S., the ROK and Japan, the DPRK has exercised restraint and soberly called for the U.S. and its allies to end these provocative acts while at the same time taking defensive measures against possible attacks.

One of the outcomes of the summit was that ROK President Moon committed to purchasing billions of dollars more of U.S. weapons -- including F-35A Joint Strike Fighters, KF-16 fighters, Patriot PAC-3 ballistic missile upgrades, Apache heavy attack helicopters, Global Hawk high-altitude drones and Aegis combat systems. Moon's pledge to buy more weapons goes beyond the commitment already made under the previous Park Geun-hye government to increase imports of U.S. weapons by \$215 billion between 2016 and 2020. President Moon has pledged to increase south Korea's defense spending by seven per cent annually to 2022. Next year alone the defense budget will be increased by almost U.S.\$40 billion.

Two members of south Korea's National Assembly refuse to applaud Trump's warmongering speech, November 8, 2017, while a mass demonstration takes place outside.

All this does not bode well for peace on the Korean peninsula. The strengthening of the U.S.-south Korea military alliance through increased war exercises aimed at regime change in the DPRK, and increased purchases of U.S. weapons, the strengthening of the U.S. military occupation of south Korea and the continuing imposition of U.S. military command in the event of war on the Korean peninsula, is a crime against the Korean people and a violation of their right to live in peace.

The U.S. imperialists have been a curse on the Korean people. Since the unilateral and forced division of Korea by the U.S. in 1945, the Korean people have not had a moment's peace. It is noteworthy that from the time of the division of Korea, the Korean people in the north and south have worked tirelessly for peace on the Korean Peninsula and the reunification of their nation. The reception given Donald Trump on his recent Korean visit shows the whole world that the Korean people, despite all the obstacles put in their way since 1945, through the U.S.-instigated Korean War to the present, have not for a moment given up their just struggle for peace, reunification and self-determination.

It is vital that the peace-loving U.S. people and peoples around the world do their duty and step up their actions against the U.S. war drums being beaten once again on the Korean Peninsula under the pretext that the DPRK is a threat to peace. By taking a stand for peace on the Korean Peninsula, the U.S. people will assist the Korean people in their just struggle to oust the U.S. imperialists from their country and achieve the peace and reunification they so ardently desire.

U.S. Troops Out of Korea!

Sign a Peace Treaty with the DPRK!

No to THAAD Missiles in South Korea! Hands Off the DPRK!

Visit our website: usmlo.org

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exacerbate, not resolve, war threats on the Korean peninsula.

In this light, we can no longer ignore what North Korea has demanded for decades: the normalization of its relations with the United States. The United States needs to change course by stopping its hostile policies, i.e. sanctions and shows of military force, and pursue a peace agreement that fundamentally resolves the nuclear issue and military tension.

2. What are your plans for Trump's upcoming visit to South Korea and beyond?

The South Korean public is highly critical of Trump—for denouncing Obama's policy of strategic patience as a failure but still continuing the same policy of sanctions and military pressure; openly making threats of war and dismissing the gravity of its consequences as something "over there"; demanding that South Korea pay for the cost of hosting the THAAD missile system and US troops; and demanding the renegotiation of the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement. The general mood here about Trump's upcoming visit is one of anger.

We are working with other progressive forces and peace organizations to organize coordinated and joint actions under the banner of "No Trump."

Beginning with a press conference today, we will carry out a series of actions until the last day of Trump's visit on November 8. Leading up to his visit, our aim is to generate an anti-Trump consensus among the broader public. To this end, we will hang large banners that say, "War-threatening, weapons salesman Trump unwelcome," "No war No Trump," "No THAAD, no war threats, no sanctions" all across the country, post pamphlets at every bus station, hold simultaneous one-person relay protests across the country, and get organizations representing various sectors of the progressive movement to release statements denouncing Trump. On Saturday, November 4, we will hold a mass demonstration, then during his visit on November 7 and 8, we will organize joint actions outside the Blue House, at Gwanghwamun Plaza and outside the

National Assembly.

Throughout this year, we have been organizing to demand an end to sanctions and the US-ROK war games that only intensify military tensions, and the realization of a Peace Treaty. If there are no talks between the United States and North Korea in the coming months, then we believe tensions will further escalate before Key Resolve Foal Eagle, the next massive US-ROK joint war games, scheduled for March 2018. In February 2018, South Korea hosts the Winter Olympics. It is the desire of the Moon Jae-in government to use the Olympics as an opportunity for symbolic North-South reconciliation. A flare-up of tensions before the mass war games will frustrate this plan. So we plan to intensify our call for an end to the military exercises and the pursuit of a Peace Treaty. To this end, we are planning a mass peace mobilization on Feb 3 before the Olympics and the Key Resolve exercises, then a series of actions across the country until late March to denounce the military exercises.

3. How can the peace movements of South Korea, Japan and the United States build/strengthen solidarity?

We should, of course, strengthen solidarity among all who desire peace, but it needs to be based on shared goals and a shared sense of why we need to work together.

In our view, the US-led trilateral alliance with Japan and South Korea is a war alliance that is gaining strength at a rapid pace and a serious threat to the right of the people of all three countries and the broader region of Asia to live in peace. Therefore, building a US-Japan-South Korea counter-alliance for peace is an urgent task.

It needs to be the type of alliance where opposing US hegemony in Asia and war threats on the Korean peninsula are not something one does out of solidarity



with the people of another country "over there," but a joint action by the pro-peace forces of all three countries based on a consensus that we all have a shared stake in this fight.

The pro-peace forces of the United States, Japan and South Korea raising a unified voice for peace is, in and of itself, a meaningful step. What about issuing a joint statement by the pro-peace forces of the three countries on US policy on North Korea—the main focus of Trump's upcoming visit to Asia? (see statement issued, p. 1)

Also, next year will mark sixty-five years since the signing of the Armistice. How about a joint campaign to end the Korean War and for a Peace Treaty, and holding coordinated actions in all three countries, including an international gathering in South Korea, on/around July 27, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice? I hope we can discuss these ideas today and beyond.

For sustained pro-peace/anti-war solidarity among the three countries, we should consider ways to continue regular online discussion so that we may share with each other assessments of the developing situation and ideas for joint action. I believe this is important, as joint action will be much more powerful if based on shared understanding. Organizations that fight against U.S. bases in Japan, Okinawa and South Korea come together on a regular basis and hold annual symposiums; their way of solidarity-building could serve as a model.

U.S. People's Treaty with North Korea

Veterans for Peace

Alarmed by the threat of a nuclear war between the U.S. and North Korea, Veterans For Peace, joined by other U.S. peace groups have come together to send an open message to Washington and Pyongyang that we are strongly opposed to any resumption of the horrific Korean War. What we want is a peace treaty to finally end the lingering Korean War!

Inspired by the Vietnam-era People's Peace Treaty, we have initiated a People's Peace Treaty with North Korea, to raise awareness about the past U.S. policy toward North Korea, and to send a clear message that we, the people of the U.S., do not want another war with North Korea. This is not an actual treaty, but rather a declaration of peace from the people of the United States.

Help us collect as many signatures as possible by the end of 2017, and to publicize the People's Peace Treaty in conjunction with nationally coordinated peace actions on Armistice Day, November 11.

Please add your voice for peace by signing the People's Peace Treaty with North Korea.

http://org.salsalabs.com/o/826/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=22497

People's Peace Treaty with North Korea

A Message of Peace from the People of the United States

Deeply concerned with the increasing danger of the current military tensions and threats between the Governments of the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, North Korea), which may re-ignite the horrendous fighting in the Korean War by design, mistake or accident,

Recalling that the United States currently possesses about 6,800 nuclear weapons, and has threatened the use of nuclear weapons against North Korea in the past, including the most recent threat made by the U.S. President in his terrify-



ing speech to the United Nations (“totally destroy North Korea”),

Regretting that the U.S. Government has so far refused to negotiate a peace treaty to replace the temporary Korean War Armistice Agreement of 1953, although such a peace treaty has been proposed by the DPRK many times from 1974 on,

Convinced that ending the Korean War officially is an urgent, essential step for the establishment of enduring peace and mutual respect between the U.S. and DPRK, as well as for the North Korean people's full enjoyment of their basic human rights to life, peace and development – ending their long sufferings from the harsh economic sanctions imposed on them by the U.S. Government since 1950,

NOW, THEREFORE, as a Concerned Person of the United States of America (or on behalf of a civil society organization), I hereby sign this People's Peace Treaty with North Korea, dated November 11, 2017, Armistice Day (also Veterans Day in the U.S.), and

1) Declare to the world that the Korean War is over as far as I am concerned, and that I will live in “permanent peace and friendship” with the North Korean people (as promised in the 1882 U.S.-Korea Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation that opened the diplomatic

relations between the U.S. and Korea for the first time);

2) Express my deep apology to the North Korean people for the U.S. Government's long, cruel and unjust hostility against them, including the near total destruction of North Korea due to the heavy U.S. bombings during the Korean War;

3) Urge Washington and Pyongyang to immediately stop their preemptive (or preventive) conventional/nuclear attack threats against each other and to sign the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

4) Call upon the U.S. Government to stop its large-scale, joint war drills with the armed forces of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Japan, and commence a gradual withdrawal of the U.S. troops and weapons from South Korea;

5) Call upon the U.S. Government to officially end the lingering and costly Korean War by concluding a peace treaty with the DPRK without further delay, to lift all sanctions against the country, and to join the 164 nations that have normal diplomatic relations with the DPRK;

6) Pledge that I will do my best to end the Korean War, and to reach out to the North Korean people – in order to foster greater understanding, reconciliation and friendship.

Joint Statement on President Trump's Visit to Japan and South Korea

International Association of Democratic Lawyers, National Lawyers Guild, November 7, 2017

On the occasion of the visit of US president Trump to Japan and South Korea, we demand an end to the US- DPRK escalation in military threats. On September 19, 2017, in his first appearance before the United Nations, President Donald Trump threatened to totally destroy North Korea, showing absolute contempt and disregard for all the reasons the peoples of the world united in 1945 to establish the United Nations. In the preamble of the Charter, the peoples of the United Nations state:

“WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

In furtherance of these purposes “All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.” And “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity

or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.”

The only exception to the use of force is in self-defense in response to an armed attack from another country, and only until the Security Council can act to restore international peace and security.

With respect to Korea, the United States has never complied with the terms of the 1953 armistice. The Armistice called for the parties to meet to conclude a formal peace treaty. This has never happened. The armistice called for the removal of foreign troops from the peninsula. The Chinese troops left in the 1950's.

The United States still has 28,500 troops in South Korea and South Korea has built the world's largest US military base on Jeju Island. In fact, contrary to the initial promises that the base would not be used as a strategic outpost by the US military, US naval vessels often enter ports at the Gangjeong Naval Base. The armistice called for no new weapons being introduced into either country. The United States put nuclear weapons in South Korea and although they were later removed, the United States has been selling billions of dollars of arms to South Korea each year. The United States over opposition of peace and other progressive activists in South Korea has promoted the installation of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense or THAAD system in South Korea using as cover the current war of words.

There needs to be a permanent peace treaty on the peninsula.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), the Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association (JALISA), the US Military Issues Committee of Lawyers for a Democratic Society (MINBYUN) and the Confederation of Lawyers of Asia and the Pacific (COLAP), support the development of a peace treaty between North and South

Korea as a main way to promote peace and stability in the region.

Furthermore, we demand of President Trump of the U.S., President Moon Jae-in of South Korea, Prime Minister Abe of Japan, as follows:

1. Stop acting recklessly with continuing threats of war.

2. Do not use the military bases in South Korea and Japan to threaten North Korea to heighten the crisis on the Korean peninsula.

3. President Moon Jae-in and Prime Minister Abe Shinzo should not allow the deployment of strategic assets such as U.S. nuclear carriers, strategic bombers, and nuclear submarines, including the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) deployment

4. In addition, the U.S.-ROK joint military exercises that deploy a U.S. strategic weapon in accordance with a pre-emptive nuclear strike threatening North Korea must be stopped immediately

5. Moon Jae-in should act as a mediator to promote dialogue and negotiations that will permanently end the military confrontation between North Korea and the United States. In the process, it will be necessary to revive the July 4 South-North Joint Statement, the June 15 South-North Joint Statement, and the October 4 South-North Declaration, and end the worn-out confrontation in accordance with that spirit and achieve the improvement of inter-Korean relations.

6. Abe Shinzo should give up the strategy to deter North Korea with the U.S. and be a fair mediator to promote dialogue with the spirit of Article 9 in the Japanese peace constitution. [Article 9 forbids Japan from having troops abroad and engaging in aggression — BF Ed. Note]

We call on the international community to raise its voice against these provocations and drills with mighty U.S. military power generated by the US military bases in Asia, the Pacific and in the world.

PHILIPPINES

Demonstrators Confront Trump with Anti-Imperialist Protests

Ruth Lumibao, *Bulatlat.com*

Numerous organizations conducted several rallies on November 12, in time for the arrival in the Philippines of U.S. President Donald Trump and other state leaders attending the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit which started November 13.

In Manila, protesters led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) confronted several battalions of anti-riot police even as they took side streets in an attempt to get near the U.S. embassy. In one area, a group of protesters led by the youth clashed with policemen who attempted to disperse them with a water cannon. At least 20 were hurt. The demonstrators proceeded to hold their program near Plaza Ferguson, a few meters away from the U.S. embassy.

“Our country would be better off without Trump’s visit because aside from pushing and supporting more military actions in the Philippines, like more airstrikes especially in Mindanao, he is also engaged in rabid saber-rattling in the Korean Peninsula that would have terrible effects in the Philippines if war breaks out,” Bayan Muna Representative Carlos Zarate said in a statement.

Other participants also condemned neoliberal policies and a plan to increase rice importation in the Philippines. Speakers warned against the liberalization of the economy, which will lead to a greater number of irregular and contractual workers with low wages. Heightened military intervention and aid also result in greater human rights violations and more intensive counterinsurgency programs.

As one brought out, “The neoliberal pillars of ASEAN, such as deregulation and privatization are historically proven to throw Filipino poor into a cycle of poverty and misery, and at present with U.S. President Trump’s attendance, the world is being pushed to the brink of a nuclear war via his aggressive threats against North Korea.”

Simultaneous with the ASEAN summit gala, about 30 members of various youth

organizations conducted a rally in front of the Mall of Asia (MOA) globe in Pasay City.

JP Rosos, spokesperson of the League of Filipino Students (LFS), and stressed how world leaders, especially the Philippine government have the gall to spend billions on the ASEAN summit and the gala while Filipino citizens hardly have any access to basic social services.

In Mendiola bridge near the Presidential Palace, another group held a “homeless dinner” at the camp of demolished residents of the Manggahan Pasig Floodway, in contrast to what they called “lavish” ASEAN gala dinner.

A protest was also held in Angeles, Pampanga before Trump’s arrival in the Clark International Airport. Central Luzon is one of the regions that will be primarily affected by the liberalization of trade in the Philippines, given that it is the “rice capital” of the Philippines, formerly the principal export product of the Philippines.

In a statement, BAYAN – Central Luzon cited how neoliberal policies will result in the conversion of agricultural and productive lands into mega-cities and expressways for commercial and private use. Lands in Pampanga and Clark will also be converted into military bases to be utilized by the armed forces of the United States.

“We believe, and we have proof, that the worsening widespread hunger and poverty experienced by our toiling masses is brought by neoliberal policies of imperialist countries, led and controlled by the imperialist United States,” Roman Polintan, chairperson of BAYAN-Central



Luzon said.

Women Say ‘No’ to Trump, Neoliberal Policies

Previously, on November 9 Filipino women showed that Trump is not welcome in the Philippines. Gabriela, a women’s organization, led the rally against neoliberal policies being pushed by the United States. Carrying banners exhorting women to take a stand against neoliberal globalization, militarism and war, protesters marched to the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Anti-riot police blocked the mostly women marchers along UN avenue, blocks away from the embassy along Roxas Boulevard. Members of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) from Burma, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia joined their Filipino counterpart in the protest.

Joms Salvador, Gabriela secretary general said Asian women and their families are bearing the brunt of decades of implementation of liberalization of local economies and aggressive buyouts of state enterprises by global corporations. They suffer the social costs of landlessness, job insecurity, poverty and militarism, she said. [...]

Similar protests were held by activists in South Korea and Japan where Trump had earlier visited as part of his 12-day Asian trip.

ACTIONS WORLDWIDE SAY NO TRUMP, NO WAR

