

21 August 2015

RRC Doc No. 2015-45

To: Her Excellency, Madame President PARK Geun Hye

Attn: Mister HAN Min Gu, Minister of Defence, ROK

Subject: Request to Stop Loudspeaker Propaganda Toward DPRK

May the grace and mercy of the God of Peace be upon you, Madame President.

The National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) has constantly strived to be an agent of peace, and has been cooperating closely with the churches around the world for the establishment of peace on the Korean peninsula. As we closely monitor the recent developments which began from the land mine explosions on the DMZ and have recently escalated to the exchange of artillery fire on the Western front we are compelled to express our deep concern and anxiety in the trend of events thus far.

As we experience once again that violence only leads to further violence, and that such violence can never ensure true and lasting peace we recall the lesson of Jesus' teaching "whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also." (Mathew 5:39)

The NCCCK, therefore, requests that Madame President pro-actively accept without reservation the message of the DPRK in a recent statement which states "we are interested in opening up channels of communication which would allow the improvement of relations and a settling of the current situation of crisis". We request that you utilize this occasion as an opportunity to reverse the current state of affairs. Specifically, we request that the ROK government stop the loudspeaker propaganda directed toward the DPRK, and also refrain from any further actions leading to potential military clashes for the sake of the safety of the Korean people as well as to safeguard the safety of members of the military. We respectfully request that you seek to resolve this situation of crisis through dialogue.

On behalf of the National Council of Churches in Korea

HWANG Yong Dae, President

KIM Young Ju, General Secretary