



Forgotten Faces of North Korea

A Photo Exhibit to Build Peace and Understanding

**Available for display at your university, library, gallery or
Community Center**



Forgotten Faces of North Korea (DPRK) serves as a reminder. A nation is not simply its weapons or its marching soldiers, but is filled with men, women and children seeking to better themselves, to love, and find joy in their daily activities. When a nation is demonized by the politicians and the media, the unspeakable horrors of war become possible. It's helpful to remind us of the human faces behind the rhetoric.



We do not intend to demonstrate support for one side or another, but to be a voice for peace and dialogue. Some may say that we have not portrayed a "balanced" portrayal by not revealing the painful side of the nation's underbelly and perpetual military defense activities. There are enough of those types of images and projections in the media about the DPRK. However, it is never simply black and white. The current standoff and its impact on all parties, is a product of the conduct of the United States, and both Koreas, who have lived on the brink of war for nearly sixty years.



We must learn to put ourselves in the shoes of those with which we disagree. The recent South Korea Truth Commission hearings have confirmed that the Korean War was brutal and barbaric toward the civilian populations. With decades of threats, yearly nuclear and non-nuclear military exercises by the U.S. along the DMZ and the failure to ever sign a peace treaty ending the war, or normalize relations, in order to rebuild trust it becomes necessary to reach across borders and engage in meaningful listening.

The United States spends tens of billions of dollars a year in its continual military presence of South Korea with over 26,000 troops and several bases. There has been no national

debate in the United States on our continued presence in Korea, nor a discussion on how to move to peaceful co-existence. The time is now. Both the North and South of Korea have



Reunification Ministers whose full-time job is to work on peace and reunification. Several joint summits have laid the foundation for peace. Since 1994 there has been very concrete federation-based proposals on the table that have often been disrupted by saber rattling and name calling from those who profit from a state of war. A declaration for the development of North-South relations and peace and prosperity came out of the Korea's most recent Joint Summit in 2007. As of 2008, rather than operating as enemies, South and North Korea are engaging in over \$880 million in annual bilateral trade.

Hundreds of South Korean companies are doing business in North Korea and annually tens of thousands of South Korean tourists have visited the North.

The Korean Peace Project seeks:

1. **Normalization of relationships** between the United States and DPRK (North Korea) similar to those maintaining between the DPRK and over 156 other countries. Recognize the existence of the nation and have regular lines of communication through an embassy and ambassador.
2. **Enter a peace treaty** to end the Korean War. The US and UN Forces never entered into a peace treaty to end the Korean War and the South never signed the armistice agreement that halted the shooting.
3. **Support for the reunification efforts** of both the South and North and to guarantee the autonomy of both sides to reach their own Korean agreement.
4. **End the provocative "war games"** conducted by the South and the United States along the DMZ.
5. **Support a denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.**
6. **Return of the 26,000 U.S. troops** from South Korea and closing of US bases in Korea.
7. **Restoration of the sovereign jurisdiction** of South Korea to try any crimes committed by US soldiers off base on Korean soil.
8. **Convene a full government supported Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, including and with the support of the U.S., to expand listening and healing opportunities and help assure that the factors that contributed to the Korean War not occur again.

PLEASE WRITE TO CONGRESS TODAY TO ENCOURAGE AN END TO THE KOREAN WAR!



The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), often dubbed "the most dangerous place on earth," is visited by tourists from both sides. International proposals discuss the possibility of the ecologically diverse bio-zone of the DMZ becoming a peace park.

As human beings there are more things that bring us together than drive us apart. Hopefully these photos help us remember. Seeing people less as an "axis of evil" and more as members of the human community, can make war obsolete and peace possible. By replacing demonizing with dialogue we help create an atmosphere where the divided sides of Korea can work on peaceful coexistence or reunification.

A peaceful North and South Korea, Japan and China, can dramatically alter the potential for world peace. By taking concrete steps forward and believing that peace is possible, we can make a difference. As Gandhi said there is no way to peace, "Peace is the Way."

Photos by Eric Sirotkin

From peacemaking trips to the DPRK with the *National Lawyers Guild Korean Peace Project*. For further information or to set up an exhibit visit www.ubuntuworks.com