

*Overseas Appeal for the 55th International Antiwar Assembly in Japan*

# Stop a nuclear Korean war!

## Oppose US, Chinese and Russian rulers bent on a nuclear arms race and warmongering!

**The Executive Committee for the 55th International Antiwar Assembly**

- Zengakuren [All-Japan Federation of Students' Self-Governing Associations]

- Antiwar Youth Committee

- Japan Revolutionary Communist League (Revolutionary Marxist Faction)

We call on people all over the world! East Asia is now on the brink of a nuclear war, a war that may plunge the whole region into an inferno that has never been experienced since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where hundreds of thousands of people were massacred in the closing days of the Second World War. US and Japanese forces are ready for attacking the DPRK, pressing the Kim regime to give up developing nuclear missiles, while the Kim regime is repeating missile launches, reiterating that it 'will reply to the enemy's attack with nuclear weapons'.

In Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Middle East, people are being indiscriminately murdered by aerial bombings at this very moment. The rulers of the US, China and Russia are vying with each other in strengthening their nuclear capabilities.

Comrades all over the world! Don't let those rulers go on with warmongering and a nuclear arms race! Now is the time to unite across borders and stand up in a fight! On August 6th, the day of Hiroshima, we are holding the annual International Antiwar Assemblies in Tokyo and six other cities in Japan. We ardently hope you send a message of solidarity to the assemblies.

### **Down with Trump and Kim laying their finger on the button to launch nuclear missiles!**

Numerous US warships, attended by Japanese war vessels, are cruising around the Korean Peninsula. Nuclear submarines, fully loaded with cruise missiles, are navigating underwater, while gigantic B-1B strategic bombers are flying around. US and South Korean special forces are prepared to carry out a 'Kim Jong Un-beheading operation'.

The Donald Trump-led US administration is irritated at the growing possibility of the Kim regime succeeding in the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) tipped with nuclear warheads and capable of hitting the US mainland. Arrogantly rejecting any deal, this administration is brandishing the sword of a pre-emptive attack to press the Kim regime to give up all the projects for developing nuclear weapons and missiles.

The Kim regime on the other side is accelerating its nuclear development all the more, driven by a fear that, without nuclear armament, his autocracy will be forced to collapse (as in the case of Saddam Hussein or Muhammad al-Gadhafi). 'Nuclear weapons are more precious than our lives,' is the phrase that it reiterates.

Faced with the threat of a pre-emptive attack, the DPRK government is desperately shouting, '(If the enemy targets our leadership, it will see) the South reduced to ashes, the Japanese Archipelago sunk to boot, and the US mainland rained down nuclear hail.' Kim is laying his finger on the nuclear button, targeting the people in South Korea and Japan! Trump on the other hand had the nerve to say that 'there is a chance that we could end up having a major conflict with North Korea.' His words suggest that he would never let Kim possess ICBMs and that he would 'not care a damn' how many Korean and Japanese casualties occur in the war. This is the true feeling of the man who barks around 'America first'! At present, Trump is politically driven into a tight corner, as he himself has become the target of the investigation into the 'Russia-gate' scandal. For diverting attention from the scandal, he has an impulse to launch a military attack



'Stop a nuclear Korean war! Down with the Abe government!'  
Zengakuren and Antiwar Youths marching. (Jun. 18th, Tokyo)

against North Korea.

Stop a nuclear Korean war about to break out! The only way to stop it is for US, Japanese, and North and South Korean people to fight in unity to topple down their rulers who are dashing towards war.

We are determined to overthrow the Abe government of Japan ready to step in full participation in the war. It must be remembered that Japanese imperialism in the past placed the Korean Peninsula under its colonial rule and trampled underfoot other Asian countries. From these crimes of Japanese imperialism — as well as a political deal between US imperialism and the Stalinist USSR — arose a divided Korea. (North Korea today is the faded shadow of what used to be a Stalinist bureaucratic state.) Today, however, the Abe government is intent on burning the Korean Peninsula again in the fires of war in alliance with US imperialism, while arrogantly justifying the colonial rule and numerous crimes that Japanese imperialism perpetrated in the past. We, the Japanese working class and people, will never allow this. We call on the people of the US to also rise in a fight to topple the war-crazy Trump administration!

We fight in solidarity with the people of South Korea who are fighting to block the deployment of the US THAAD interceptor missile system. Korean people in the North and the South! Now is the time to break the division of the nation and advance for the unification of Korea with the own hands of workers and people!

### **Denounce the genocidal war on Muslim people in the name of ‘war on terror’!**

Trump has started another warmongering act in the Middle East. By providing Saudi Arabia with US-made weapons in massive quantities, he has instigated this Islamic kingdom to war with Iran, which he sees as ‘America’s enemy’ and a ‘threat to Israel’. New Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman whom Trump backs up is notorious as a war maker.

Trump has also started a new operation, in cahoots with Zionist Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to eradicate Hamas, a Palestinian resistance organization holding the banner of anti-American imperialism / anti-Zionism. He urged Mahmoud Abbas, the treacherous President of the Palestinian National Authority, to cut food, medical and fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip, which Hamas keeps governing. This was followed by aerial bombings by Israeli troops. Trump is plunging the people of Gaza into famine, disease and the fear of air raid!

In Iraq, US forces fiercely bombed Mosul, the last base of the Islamic State (IS), burning down the city together with its residents who had been held hostage as ‘human shields’. Their aim was to achieve more in the anti-IS operation than Shiite militias mobilized from Iran to support the Iraqi army.

In Syria, too, US forces carried out indiscriminate aerial bombings on the IS-alleged Capital of Ar-Raqqah to encourage the US-backed Kurdish militias to march on the city, vying with the government forces of Bashar Assad backed by the Russian forces and Iranian Shiite militias. In anticipation of the fall of Ar-Raqqah, the Putin-led government of Russia is preparing to concentrate resources on annihilating rebel forces (including US-backed elements) with the aim of consolidating the rule by the Assad regime as its only ally in the Middle East. Irritated by this, the Trump administration dared mobilize US forces to shoot down a Syrian warplane near Ar-Raqqah. The danger is growing that US and Russian troops will clash head-on.

In Afghanistan, this administration used the ‘Mother of All Bombs’, a weapon of mass destruction, to kill Islamic rebels instantaneously. It is planning to send 4000 additional soldiers.

Comrades all over the world! Trump has launched warmongering acts to remove every element that he regards as a threat to America’s interests, paying no attention to appearances. He backs Saudi Arabia just because this Sunnite monarchy is antagonistic to the Shiite republic of Iran. He backs Kurdish forces as long as he thinks he can use them as his tools for wiping out the IS. In the name of ‘war on terror’, he is promoting America’s state egoism, an imperialist intervention. By so doing, Trump is adding fuel to the flames of antagonisms and conflicts between different religions, sects, ethnic groups and nations in the Middle East and the Islamic world. The same blame lies with Putin.

Comrade all over the world! Oppose the genocidal war on Muslim people perpetrated by US and European governments and the Russian government! Exactly this is the root cause for huge numbers of people coming into Europe to seek refuge. And that is why part of infuriate Muslims are emerging as ‘IS fighters’ one after another and committing themselves to jihadist attacks (agitated by IS leaders who do not discriminate between rulers and the ruled toiling masses). Workers and people in the US and European countries! Keep this in your mind and fight in opposition to chauvinistic nationalism against Muslims and immigrants. Workers and people in the Middle East! Rise up in a fight in unity under the banner of ‘anti-US imperialism / anti-Zionism’ going beyond the difference in religion, sect, ethnicity and nationality!

## **Oppose the nuclear capability race between the US and China / Russia!**

The US, Chinese and Russian rulers have intensified their rivalries especially since Trump took the reins of power under the slogan ‘Make America great again.’ Xi Jinping-led China is building its military bases in the South China Sea with the aim of seizing command of the western Pacific Ocean from US imperialism, while Trump-led US imperialism, in order to prevent it, is repeating provocative military actions in the name of ‘Freedom of Navigation’. In Eastern Europe, the standoff between the US-led Nato forces and the Russian forces is reaching a hair-trigger situation over the issue of missile defence systems and ‘Spearhead Forces’ deployed by the former against the latter.

In order to win the intensifying rivalries, US, Chinese and Russian rulers are bent on competitively strengthening their respective nuclear capabilities.

The Trump-led US administration has identified China as ‘the main enemy’ and is intent on militarily overwhelming it. For that purpose, Trump has started a massive military build-up to ‘reconstruct the world’s strongest force’ by increasing the military budget by 10% (54 billion dollars). When he yells ‘America First’ and that ‘We are not a world policeman’, this means that he will abandon rhetorical covers such as ‘the champion of freedom and democracy’ that his predecessors used, and will unreservedly push America’s own interests to the utmost, and that, for that purpose, he will arm America with ‘the world’s strongest’ nuclear armaments and brandish them to threaten the rest of the world.

In the face of this move, the Xi Jinping government of China is also accelerating its military build-up. According to the state strategy of becoming ‘a superpower in the 21st century’ for the ‘great revival of the Chinese nation’, this government is frantic to catch up with the overwhelming military capability of US imperialism. In particular, it is reinforcing its naval forces (e.g. by building a domestic aircraft carrier) with the aim of seizing command of the western Pacific from the US. It is at the same time repressing by force rebellions of workers and peasants suffering hardships of life.

The Putin-led Russian government is also building up nuclear capabilities out of its ambition ‘to revive Russia as a great power’, while strengthening its ties with China.

All the power holders of the US, China and Russia are struggling against each other, each unreservedly showing its state egoism under nationalistic slogans, such as ‘Make America great again’, ‘For a great revival of the Chinese nation’ and ‘For reviving Russia as a great power’. Comrades all over the world, be aware of an impending crisis! The nuclear capability race intensifying between the US and China / Russia may cause a Third World War and a nuclear annihilation of humanity, unless we stop it.

## **Let us promote antiwar struggles and fight to overthrow the governments engaging in wars! Overcome the ‘defence of the homeland’ tendency!**

Against Trump’s chauvinist agitation targeting immigrants and Muslims, workers and people in the United States and Europe are rising up in protest actions. Governments of European countries are also distancing themselves from Trump, expressing their open disgust with him. Among all these, only the Shinzo Abe-led Japanese government is servile to the Trump administration based on the US-Japan new military alliance, with an ambition to build Japan into a military power capable of waging a war together with US imperialism.

This government is not only preparing to join the US in a war on North Korea but also sharpening its fangs to exterminate people’s antiwar struggles by fully using the repressive ‘conspiracy law’ which it rammed through the Diet. Furthermore, Abe has recently placed the revision of the Constitution of Japan on the agenda with the aim of consolidating the constitutional status of the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) as Japan’s armed forces that wage a war of aggression in reality. The core of the plan he announced lies in the effective nullification of Article 9, which stipulates that Japan forever renounces war and will never maintain any war potential. A grandson of a Second World War criminal, Shinzo Abe, who calls himself a ‘right-wing militarist’, has shown his true colours as a neo-fascist.

We are fighting with all our strength to overthrow this government led by Abe. However, not a single voice of protest against war is raised by the leadership of the Japanese Trade



‘Block the US base construction!’ (Apr. 29th, Okinawa)

Union Confederation (JTUC), the biggest national centre of trade unions in Japan. Those leaders have gone so far as to demand that the government ‘should take a resolute attitude towards North Korea’. The JTUC leadership is not an exception. The central leadership of the Japanese Communist Party is reiterating, ‘In the event that Japan’s sovereignty is violated, using the SDF and the US-Japan Security Treaty is natural.’ Obviously this self-styled communist party has adopted a position of approving a war on North Korea in the name of ‘defending the sovereignty’!

We have been striving resolutely to overcome the degenerate leaderships of the peace movement and the labour movement in Japan that have fallen into a nationalist tendency to emphasize the ‘defence of the homeland’. Based on proletarian internationalism, which has long been trashed by the JCP, we have been calling on Japanese workers and toiling people to ‘stop a nuclear Korean war’ and ‘topple the Abe government bent on war’. By so doing, we have been leading the struggle against the conspiracy bill in the van of workers and people who besieged the Diet Building to block its passage, as well as the struggle against the construction of a new US base in Okinawa.

Comrades all over the world! Today, the world is in danger of a Third World War due to the warmongering and the nuclear arms race of those rulers in the West and the East. Now is the time for the toiling people all over the world to unite and fight. Let us stop a nuclear Korean war! Let us oppose the nuclear armament race between the US and China / Russia!

Comrades all over the world! The true power that can eradicate the imminent danger of war does not lie in the ‘diplomatic efforts’ of state power holders, which is no more than a ‘deal’ for pursuing the interests of their own states. No illusion must be cherished about the ‘reason’ of the war-addict Trump and other rulers. The only power to root out the crisis of war lies in the unity of the working classes and other toiling masses across national borders, the unity of those who are exploited, ruled, mobilized to war and victimized.

Notwithstanding this, the very leaderships of labour movements, as well as most of the self-styled left themselves, have fallen into nationalism. Almost all the ‘communist’ parties in the world, including the self-described Japanese Communist Party, have fallen into a position of ‘defending the homeland’. Because of their degeneration, part of the working class are even being misled by chauvinistic anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant propaganda pumped out by the ruling class. This is truly a critical state of affairs!

The historical origin of this humiliating situation lies precisely in that the Mikhail Gorbachev leadership of the former Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) threw away all the thoughts of Marx and Lenin in the name of ‘de-ideologization’, regarding them as relics of a bygone century, thus dismantling the Soviet Union with their own hands.

But today, when the storm of nationalism is raging, the significance of Marx’s thought — as we see in ‘The working people have no country’ and ‘Workers of all countries, unite!’ — is increasing more than ever before.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Amid the First World War, Lenin condemned the leaders of the Second International for falling into a position of ‘defending the fatherlands’, and called on the people of all countries: ‘Reject the massacre of your brothers and sisters in other countries “for defending the fatherland”!’ ‘Overthrow your government at home that has brought on the war!’ This proletarian internationalism of Lenin based on Marx’s thought became a leading idea of the Russian Revolution. It was however trampled down after Lenin’s death by the successive leaders of the CPSU starting from Stalin, who subordinated working people’s struggles of the world to the defence of the Soviet Union based on his doctrine of ‘socialism in one country’, and was finally buried by the Gorbachev leadership. Now is the time to revive this spirit of proletarian internationalism!

Comrades all over the world! Let us overcome the degeneration of the official labour and peace movement leaderships yielding to a storm of nationalism! Let us rise up together across national borders and fight to stop the wars and overthrow the rulers hell-bent on warmongering and a nuclear arms race!

(June 30th, 2017)

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### **We welcome your message of solidarity!**

The central meeting of the Assembly will be held in Tokyo, and regional meetings in Sapporo, Kanazawa, Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka and Okinawa, on the same day, Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. (Right: the last year’s meeting in Tokyo.)

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