



January 29, 2015

To: President Park Geun-hye

Cc: Ryoo Kihl-jae, Minister, Ministry of Unification

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Korean liberation, through different projects and programs the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK) is consolidating all its efforts towards peace and reconciliation in the Korean peninsula.

We confess that it is impossible to open a new chapter of history for reconciliation without healing the pain and suffering of the separated families. It is in this context that the NCKK has constantly demanded the governments in South and North to hold meetings of the separated families on a regular basis. Especially we ask the South Korean government to take a bold step to resolve the present deadlock so that the separated families can meet each other and celebrate Seolnal (New Year's Festival) in joy and hope.

Since last Christmas the NCKK has been leading a humanitarian campaign to support the starving North Korean sisters and brothers in the firm belief that exchange and cooperation between South and North is the foundation for ending the division and opening the era of reunification. As caring for people in need is our expression of the love for Christ, the NCKK has urged the South Korean government to lift the 5.24 Measures (economic sanctions) against North Korea.

The 5.24 Measures have been a great obstacle to humanitarian support and the encounter of the separated families, and so the NCKK demands our government to immediately lift the 5.24 Measures and pave the way for reconciliation and co-existence.

Rev. Dr. Kim Young-Ju
General Secretary
National Council of Churches in Korea