

Nobel Peace Summit Report

Gwangju, South Korea

June 15-17, 2006

International Peace Bureau

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ipb

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International Peace Bureau representatives **Jonathan Granoff** and **Alyn Ware** joined a landmark **Summit of Nobel Peace Laureate** individuals and organizations held in **Gwangju, South Korea from June 15-17**. The Summit, commemorating the **6th anniversary of the South-North Joint Declaration that opened up the way for peace on the Korean Peninsula**, provided significant political impetus towards reviving the peace process which has stalled following a more aggressive stance by the US as well as North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT.

The Summit was attended by numerous Nobel Peace Laureates and Laureate organizations. A full list is appended to the Gwangju Declaration which is attached. It was a great honor for IPB to have its representatives appointed as core members of the very small drafting and text negotiating committee. The interventions included in the text at the behest of IPB leadership were all well received by the other Summit participants. This is indicative of support for the IPB agenda and its potential for wider political influence.

The Summit Declaration, calling on both North Korea and the United States to take goodwill steps to revive the peace process, was widely reported in media in South Korea and the United States. Below are links to some of these reports. The Declaration is providing substantial support to former President Kim Dae Jung, who initiated the 2000 South-North Declaration, in preparation for his peace mission to North Korea in late June 2006. The statement calls on North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons policy and accept international inspections. It calls on the US to end financial and economic sanctions on the DPRK and offer security guarantees. It states the principle that nuclear weapons must be universally eliminated in a pointed fashion: "To pursue a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula or Middle East or South Asia, without credible commitment to universal nuclear disarmament is akin to a parent trying to persuade his teenagers not to smoke while puffing on a cigar." Further it notes specific steps for global nuclear disarmament that must be taken by all nuclear weapon States. Thus it combines the principle of elimination with the practical steps to move there.

Additionally the Declaration calls for increased engagement in the peace process by women, even specifically mentioning [1325](#) (UN Security Council Resolution Oct 2000) by name, utilizing reduced military expenditures to meet human needs while promoting a culture of peace, and, in that regard, further suggests turning the DMZ into a Peace Park. As IPB leadership has consistently emphasized it called for strengthening international cooperation and multilateralism based on the rule of law and the condemnation of the institution of war "as obsolete as apartheid, slavery and colonization." IPB can utilize the Declaration to advance its highly practical and principled agenda to the widest possible audience.

Tensions between Japan/United States and North Korea flared up immediately following the Summit as a result of US allegations that North Korea was planning a test launch of a Taep'odong-2 ballistic missile which has a potential range of 15,000 km bringing it into range of Alaska and the west coast of the United States. Japan and the United States have threatened escalated actions against North Korea if the launch proceeds. However, South Korea has been more restrained stating that the test launch is probably part of a satellite launch program rather than a ballistic missile program. Such restraint likely resulted from growing domestic support for peace and possibly also the extensive publicity given to the peace calls from the Summit of Nobel Laureates.

IPB played a key role in the Summit. Jonathan Granoff gave a major presentation to one of the main plenaries and also presented a self-written poem honouring Gwangju at the high-

level dinner hosted by Mikhail Gorbachev and Kim Dae Jung. The poem highlights Gwangju as the birthplace of modern Korean democracy following a massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1980. The Permanent Representative of South Korea to the United Nations, Ambassador Y. J. Choi, had the poem translated into Korean prior to the events so that its presentation was coordinated with a multimedia display in Korean with music. It was very well received by the City Representatives and hosts. Feedback from the other Laureate organizations and Peace Laureates has indicated exceptional satisfaction with IPB's contribution to the process and outcome of the Summit.

Jonathan Granoff also presented an additional statement, adopted by the Summit, calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Laureate who was prevented from attending the conference because of her continuing house arrest by the military junta controlling Burma.

After the Summit, the IPB delegation went to Seoul and, through the extraordinary networking of Alyn Ware who also wears the hat of International Coordinator of the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament, met with leaders of different political parties concerned with peace, security and nuclear arms issues. The delegation also met with NGO leaders and in each instance presented the Gwangju Declaration as well as the WMD Commission report and briefing materials of the Middle Powers Initiative which is Chaired by IPB Vice President Senator Douglas Roche, O.C. and which focuses on efforts to obtain the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Pictures with IPB representative in press:

Nobel Laureates Call for Korea's Peaceful Reunification, Chosun, June 16

<http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200606/200606160035.html>

Nobel winners call on US to ease up on North Korea, Boston News, June 17

http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2006/06/17/nobel_winners_call_on_us_to_ease_up_on_north_korea/

Nobel winners call on US to ease up on North Korea, Reuters, June 17, 2006

http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyid=2006-06-17T125438Z_01_SEO340687_RTRUKOC_0_US-KOREA-NORTH-PEACE.xml&src=rss

IPB representative advocates for justice in Special Statement in Solidarity with Aung San Suu Ky, <http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-06-17-voa8.cfm>

Sampling of News Coverage:

Nobel Winners:

- Ease Up On North Korea: Gorbachev, Others Say U.S. And North Korea Must Normalize Relations -CBS News, June 17, 2006,

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/06/17/world/main1726392.shtml>

- Leaders Call for Peace on Korean Peninsula: Nobel Peace Laureates Gather to Commemorate June 2000 Inter-Korean Summit, By Lee Jin-woo, Staff Reporter Korea Times, June 17

<http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/nation/200606/kt2006061418084911950.htm>

- Nobel Peace laureates urge US to lift sanctions on North Korea, The Star, June 17

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2006/6/17/apworld/20060617143538&sec=apworld>

- Nobel Laureates Urge Give and Take Between US, North Korea, By Kurt Achin, Voice of America, June 17,

<http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2006-06/2006-06-17-voa5.cfm>

- Nobel Peace laureates urge U.S. to lift economic sanctions on North Korea, By KWANG-TAE KIM Associated Press Writer, [http://news.findlaw.com/ap/p/56/06-17-](http://news.findlaw.com/ap/p/56/06-17-2006/c929001802860a54.html)

[2006/c929001802860a54.html](http://news.findlaw.com/ap/p/56/06-17-2006/c929001802860a54.html)

- Nobel winners call on US to ease up on North Korea, Reuters, June 17

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1651092/posts>