

Urgent Statement of the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK)

Condemning the United States' Military Invasion of Venezuela

"A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping." (Jeremiah 31:15)

The National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK) strongly condemns the military invasion of Venezuela by the United States. At this very moment, we remember the lives and dignity of the Venezuelan people who are suffering fear and hardship due to the use of force and external coercion, and we extend our solidarity to them.

The United States has announced that it has detained the sitting head of state of Venezuela and intends to subject him to its own judicial process. It has further declared its intention to effectively administer and govern Venezuela until a political transition is completed. These actions constitute a grave violation of Venezuela's sovereignty and undermine the international order of peace and coexistence that the global community has sought to uphold for decades. As a result, everyday life in Venezuela has been transformed into a site of military operations, and civilians are bearing an ever-growing burden of fear and suffering.

This situation is not an issue for Venezuela alone. We are witnessing a world in which tensions escalate and violent conflicts are repeatedly fueled by the interests and power of dominant states, in Palestine, in Ukraine, and across Northeast Asia and other regions. When invasion is tolerated in one place, it is repeated elsewhere, pushing our world toward deeper instability.

War and the use of force never bring peace. Recurrent violence leaves profound wounds not only on people living in conflict zones, but also on societies far beyond them, generating fear, helplessness, and lasting inner trauma. This is a shared crisis confronting the global community today.

As part of the ecumenical community committed to justice and peace, the NCKK calls on the international community to turn away from invasion and domination and to return to the path of dialogue and cooperation, respect for sovereignty, and the protection of

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civilians. We stand with those in Venezuela and beyond who are raising their voices and taking action to defend sovereignty, dignity, and democratic self-determination. The future and governance of any nation must be determined by its own people.

The NCCCK affirms that it will continue to work in prayer and in action together with churches in North America and around the world, as well as with civil society in Korea, to reject violence and aggression and to uphold peace. In solidarity with ecumenical companions who have long prayed and worked for peace on the Korean Peninsula, which remains under an armistice, we commit ourselves to continued accompaniment and action for peace in Venezuela and in all regions affected by war, conflict, and injustice.

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