

Urgent Statement on the Military Friction between North Korea and South Korea

24 November, 2010

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According to recent reports, North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) bombarded Yeonpyeong Island within the territory of South Korea near the Northern Limit Line (NLL), a disputed maritime demarcation line in the West Sea, with some 170 shells, driving 2 soldiers and 2 civilians to death and injuring more than 10 people. South Korea responded to this by firing some 80 shells. The situation provoked anxiety among people about the escalation of military confrontation between North Korea and South Korea under suspension.

We would like to appeal to the world the following points as one of the peace museums which attach importance to facing the past faithfully, looking straight at realities, and making sincere efforts for a more peaceful world.

1. North Korea's conduct that escalates military tension should never be admitted. Governmental and non-governmental organizations in Japan and abroad are expected to take prompt and concrete actions for preventing the situation from becoming worse.
2. Governmental and non-governmental organizations are expected never to take inflammatory or provocative actions in this explosive situation, and should strictly restrain themselves from stirring up hostilities.
3. We hope Japanese Government will make active endeavors for creating international environment in which Japan can positively contribute to peace and safety in northeast Asia through the efforts for improving relationship with North Korea and South Korea.

We cordially encourage peace museums throughout the world to take possible actions to mitigate military tensions that endanger world peace. Examples of such action are: (1) issuing statements or sending messages requiring fair and impartial fact-finding and requesting people not to fall into incendiary behaviors, (2) informing people of the latest news about what happened and what is happening, or introducing peace-oriented activities of individuals and groups throughout the globe, (3) creating occasions for exchanging views and opinions. We will continue to make efforts to put our ideas into action for improving this critical situation.