

We support Koreans' struggle against THAAD, looking for peace, not war

The United States is pushing for a deployment of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) in South Korea (Sungju, Kyongbuk Province), insisting that it will block North Korean nuclear missiles. However, THAAD does not help to prevent North Korea from launching missiles. Missile defense networks on the Korean Peninsula are useless without any military utility.

The reason why the US to deploy the THAAD in Korea is to constantly detect trends of strategic assets, such as intercontinental ballistic missiles and medium-range missiles of China, Far East Russia, and North Korea, and provide the information to the United States and Japan. This allows the United States and Japan to secure a viable means of implementing preemptive strike.

Currently, the United States is struggling to survive in many of the world's fronts, including Eastern Europe, Syria, Arabia and Africa. As a result of the bursting of the global hegemony, Asian countries have been shifting their foreign military strategy to return to the center of East Asia. The Korean peninsula has now become the forefront of US global hegemony strategy, and thus THAAD is now being deployed in the Korean peninsula. The United States failed to install THAAD in Europe, which caused trouble in the plan of MD(Missile Defense) design. This made the US rush into pushing for deployment of THAAD in Korea through the government of Park

Geun-hye who got impeached last March.

If THAAD is deployed in Korean peninsula, South Korea will be incorporated into the Northeast Asian missile defense network which is lead by the US and Japan. Also, Japan will become military alliance of Korea in the process, thus completing the Korea-US-Japan Triangular Alliance. As a result, Northeast Asia will be confronted with nuclear confrontation and infinite military competition between South Korea-US-Japan versus North Korea-China-Russia. In fact, when the deployment of THAAD was decided in South Korea, China and Russia strongly opposed to the decision, and started to prepare countermeasure, by declaring that they would also establish missile unit targeting THAAD base.

It is obvious that the war is waiting at the end of the confrontation between the two blocks and the vicious cycle of military competition. The war on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia is likely to become a nuclear war and extend into the world war.

For the United States to have the right to deploy the THAAD in Korea and to give Korea duty of providing extensive site and cost burden, it is necessary to sign a treaty between two countries. However, there is no treaty signed by two about the deployment of THAAD. In addition, the THAAD deployment had not got any agreement of the local residents and the National Assembly. Even so, park of THAAD is already deployed and operating without implementing any impact assessment about electromagnetic impact on residents and the environment. In the end, the residents of

Sungju and Gimcheon, who are fighting against the THAAD deployment every day even though they are in the busy farming season, are being subjected to the in vivo experiment of the THAAD's electromagnetic wave which is not tested for safety. The residents from Sungju and Gimcheon, the deployment site, and Korean people are claiming that it is invalid, because agreement made between the US-ROK Armed Forces under Park Geun-hye regime is illegal and groundless.

There are people living here too!

Stop THAAD operation and base construction!

Abandon the illegal deployment of THAAD in Korea!

US forces leave the land with THAAD!

These are the demands of Koreans fighting against THAAD deployment.

The struggle of the residents of Sungju and Gimcheon, who have been fighting fiercely since the last year is a very noble, as they light candles and fight against THAAD, in order to defend themselves and their communities, to realize equal Korea-US relations equal and Korea's democracy, to prevent competition and confrontation of nuclear arms in Northeast Asia, and to realize peace.

Therefore, we proactively support the struggle of the Korean people for the withdrawal of the THAAD in Korea, and declare as follows.

- We oppose the deployment of THAAD in Korea, which harms sovereignty and peace and calls for war.
- We support and give solidarity to the struggle of the Korean people for the withdrawal of THAAD in Korea.
- We support all efforts to establish a permanent peace system on the Korean Peninsula through the conclusion of the Korean Peninsula Peace Agreement.
- We urge the world to actively push for nuclear and arms reduction.

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From Basque Country, Europe.

Participants of La Via Campesina 7th International Conference.