

Appeal of Korean Methodist Church Bishops for Peace in Myanmar

## Bring Our Hearts Together for Myanmar

Weep with those who weep! (Rome 12:15)

The Chair of Bishop's Council, the representative of the Korean Methodist Church, and the bishops of all Annual conference appeal to methodist churches and 1.3 million followers nationwide, and to the Korean Church and all the Christians, with sorrow over the Myanmar crisis that took place on February 1st. Please pray for Myanmar and bring our hearts together.

Churches around the world, including the National Council of Churches in Myanmar, are announcing statements for Myanmar, praying together, and hardening solidarity. Many people are bleeding and falling down just because they demand freedom, democracy, and peace. Amnesty International, a global human rights organization, announced that the military was killing the people with war weapons. Moreover, the United Nations Security Council also resolved to ban the supply of weapons to Myanmar and issued a statement calling on the military to stop repression and control actions. The international community warns of the current situation and calls for peace. People participating in the demonstration are seeking liberal democracy and peace rather than their own safety, but the military and police are oppressing them, instead of trying to break up the crowds. The leaders of the Korean Methodist Church express severe concern over the military's actions of suppressing unarmed, non-violent civil

demonstrations with assault, shooting, arson, and detention, and the resulting bloodshed. We appeal for prayer and solidarity to Korean churches, including Methodist churches, and churches around the world.

**Plead with the Korean Church and All Christians in Korea.**

Please pray for an immediate end to the sacrifices and oppression in Myanmar. We are celebrating Lent waiting for the resurrection of Jesus, who broke down the obstruction by the cross. I sincerely plead that you pray for the people of Myanmar who are in pain and for the peace of Jesus Christ, who overcame the power of death, to come to Myanmar heartfully. Seven families, out of the 13 missionary families dispatched by the Korean Methodist Church, are working in places where people are demonstrating. Please pray for the safety of all the missionaries dispatched by the Korean Church, including the Methodist Church.

**Plead with the Korean government.**

On February 26, the Korean National Assembly adopted a "Resolution to Condemn Myanmar's Military Coup and Demand Democracy Recovery and the Release of Detainees". We welcome the South Korean government's ban on the exports of riot gear such as tear gas in honor of this resolution. Furthermore, we appeal to the South Korean government to actively take practical measures for the establishment of peace along with the international community. In addition, we request the South Korean government, a member of the UN Human Rights Council, to monitor the human rights situation in Myanmar and actively play its role. Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus, during His public life, called the era as a generation of evil without faith, which always sought signs, (Luke 11:29, Matthew 12:39), and a generation who deserves judgment due to its misdeed (Luke 11: 30-32, Matthew 12:41-42). He said that it was a generation that did not dance when playing the flute and did not cry when moaning, as an analogy. He referred to a generation, which could not sympathize and was blocked by something. Crying for others is an expression of feelings of compassion, sympathy, and empathy. It is an emotional reaction that comes from the mindset to consider other's sadness as own sadness and share it by being deeply involved in other's life. This is what is needed for Christians. The people of Myanmar weep bitterly for being gloomy, creepy, and torn. Please weep together for all the distressed in Myanmar, pray for peace, and participate in fundraising. Please participate in the movement so that peace and liberal democracy can resurrect in Myanmar in the season of resurrection.

**Please participate in prayer and solidarity as follows:**

- ① Pray that the merciless repression of the police and military in Myanmar will stop immediately;
- ② Pray that attempts to seize supremacy in the international community by taking advantage of Myanmar's difficulties will disappear;
- ③ Please pray for the peace and stability of Myanmar through settling liberal democracy;
- ④ Pray for the safety of all missionaries dispatched to Myanmar; and
- ⑤ Please participate in fundraising and organizations for Myanmar.

March 15, 2021

Chul Lee, Chair of Bishop's Council, Korean Methodist Church

Gwangho Lee, Bishop of Seoul Annual conference

Jungsuk Kim, Bishop of South Seoul Annual conference

Yunsu Jung, Bishop of Central Region Annual conference

Gunsu Ha, Bishop of Gyeonggi Annual conference

Jongho Choi, Bishop of Central Annual conference

Myunghwan Yang, Bishop of Eastern Annual conference

Junggyun Ahn, Bishop of Chungbuk Annual conference

Panjung Kang, Bishop of Southern Diocese

Myunggwon Yoo, Bishop of Chungcheong Diocese

Byungwon Hwang, Bishop of Samnam Diocese

Yongho Park, Bishop of Honame Special Diocese

Sungho Lim, Bishop of American Autonomy Diocese