

Statement on the U.S. Government's Declaration to Attack Afghanistan

September 17, 2001

1. People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) expresses extreme anger and apprehension upon the horrible attack, deaths and injuries took place in New York and Washington, D.C. on September 11. We wish to extend our sincere condolences and encouragement to the families of those who have been killed or injured.

Nothing can justify violence on innocent civilians, and it obviously is a crime that cannot be forgiven. We believe that the terrorists responsible for this terrible act must be found and punished according to due process. It is only in this way that the price of their crime can be exacted and the punishment will prevent recurrences in the future.

2. At the same time, we are deeply concerned with the reaction of the government of the United States of America. The U.S. government has pointed towards Osama Bin Laden as the one who is responsible orchestrating this act of terror, and has declared that they are planning to attack Afghanistan where he is assumed to be hiding. However, starting a war in the name of revenge is going far beyond fair and adequate punishment against the terrorists and those who hide them.

The shock and anger of the people of the United States who are suffering through this act of terror against civilians today is not enough reason for killing other innocent civilians through a retaliatory war. This will only cause other reprisals.

3. The terrorists may be the radical Islamic fundamentalists, such as Osama Bin Laden, as the U.S. government claims. However, the few extremists should not be mistaken with the innocent Afghanistan people and the entire Islamic world. Starting a war against specific countries is different from exacting punishment from terrorists in response to their crimes.

The current problem needs to be solved by first identifying the criminals, arresting them with international cooperation and then prosecuting them in the proper court. Whereas this may require time and patience, this is indeed what fits the order and reason of a civilized world and especially those of United States, who currently as the world's sole superpower, has been emphasizing the importance of human rights and peace.

The U.S. has to stop its preparations for war. The moment it starts a war, the U.S. will no longer receive the sympathy and support as a victim of this tragedy. It will, instead, be turned into a criminal who is responsible for the mass murder of innocent civilians.

4. Through this disaster, the U.S. must use this incident to reflect on why this has happened. Based on their status as the sole superpower, the United States has increased worldwide anxiety by promoting its MD policies and withdrawing from its commitment to be part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, etc. To uproot terrorism and remove the very soil that nurtures it, earnest effort to bring peace and international cooperation is called upon. That is the only way the citizens of the United States can be safely protected.

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

Seoul, Korea