2nd Global Prayer Rally Calls for Peace on the Korean Peninsula

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Washington, DC, Jan. 12, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- 2nd Global Prayer Rally Calls for Peace on the Korean Peninsula: 'The Future Favors Faith'

Former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence joined Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to headline the second virtual Prayer Rally for Peace on the Korean Peninsula: One Million Prayers for Peace where Mr. Pence declared, "Faith holds the hope for peace for the people of the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the world... The future favors faith."

Mr. Pence, a devout Christian, delivered a keynote address during the online interfaith event - part of the ongoing Rally of Hope series sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). The prayer rally streamed live from Seoul on January 9 (KST) to 194 nations around the world. Mr. Pence recalled that throughout his travels as vice president, he saw "firsthand that truly great nations embrace the principles of freedom - beginning with religious liberty, freedom of speech, democracy, and free enterprise."

"Our societies share a common foundation in the values we hold dear," said Mr. Pence. "It's this belief in religious liberty, and the strength we draw from there, that gives me my greatest confidence and hope. It's faith that gives us the courage and conviction to stand for what's good and right and true - for people everywhere. And as the Bible says, 'Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." Mr. Pence thanked Dr. Moon for hosting the prayer rally and for "the shining example you've set for the world" as she faithfully continues the work she began with her late husband.

Dr. Moon and the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon have worked tirelessly toward bringing about a more peaceful world and reunifying their homeland. In 1992, they met North Korea leader Kim Il Sung for unprecedented peace talks during a weeklong visit to Pyongyang. Afterward, North Korea signed a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and supported the reunification of families separated by the Korean War.

In August 2020, Dr. Moon launched the Rally of Hope during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, a one-of-a-kind virtual series joining together global peacemakers, Nobel Prize laureates, and world leaders including former Republic of Korea Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun; Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen; former United Nations Secretary-General and Think Tank 2022 Chairman Ban Ki-moon; and former U.S. President Donald Trump, who met North Korea leader Kim Jong Un at the Demilitarized Zone in 2019.

In his remarks, Mr. Pence recalled his meeting with a North Korean defector that left him "profoundly encouraged and inspired" as he heard "her passion and love for freedom and democracy." He outlined strong families, education, equal treatment under the law, and "the recognition of the dignity and worth of every human life, born and unborn" as the "foundation of true national greatness." Proudly noting his father's military service in the Korean War, Mr. Pence said these values have "united the people of Korea and the United States for nearly 70 years."

Mr. Pence condemned the oppression of faith practitioners and called for the end of religious persecution in North Korea and China while urging free nations to "work together openly and in good faith" to build new frameworks for peace. "Free nations must call upon China to respect religious liberty, democratic

principles, freedom of navigation, and to do their part to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," he said. Noting that peace follows strength, Mr. Pence stated "a renewed and unwavering commitment to our common defense and our shared values" is the "surest pathway to a final and fully verified denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and to its peaceful reunification - and now, more than ever, we need to have faith... We know nothing is impossible with God."

In her keynote remarks, Dr. Moon said God's providence was manifested through the emergence of various religions, but the ultimate goal of religion is to connect humanity with God - and Korea plays a central role. "In particular, the Korean Peninsula, which has the task of becoming the homeland of the providence, should become the heavenly unified Korea and lead the providence to realize a heavenly unified world," said Dr. Moon.

"There is a limit to what can be done with human efforts alone," she said. "The time has come for the people of this nation to embrace heaven's providence... This is how Korea can truly become a beacon of freedom, peace, unity, and happiness - a nation that truly attends our Heavenly Parent (God) and leads the charge to realize the heavenly unified world. Your prayers, your heartfelt calls to heaven, will move people around the world."

Dr. Moon further urged people to fulfill their personal responsibility of creating peace and unity in their own lives, their families, and their communities. "Let us multiply the blessings of heaven this year," she said. "Let us become the vanguard of heaven and become the eternal blessed families of heaven. As long as heaven is with us, without fail, we will be victorious. Let us usher in a dynamic and hopeful year and realize this hope in substance."

The event featured a peace ceremony, traditional Korean music and entertainment, as well as messages from a multi-faith range of other religious leaders, including, Rev. Jonathan Falwell, senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church; Hon. Young-hwan Kim, vice president of the Christian Council of Korea; Prophet Samuel Radebe, founder of The Revelation Church of God; Dr. Young-ho Yun, international director general of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification; Dr. Young-gil Choi, member of the Supreme Islamic Council of Korea; Ven. Taishu Nara, Shinto priest and president of the Japanese Civilization Institute; Ven. Maitipe Wimalasara, president of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace; H.H Swami Hari Chaitanya Puri Ji Maharaj, Hindu monk, saint and spiritual leader; Ven. Dae-woo, senior monk of the Nejan Temple and Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, and more.

Pastor Paula White-Cain, spiritual advisor to former U.S. President Donald Trump, delivered the welcoming address at the first prayer rally held Dec. 5, 2021, which featured many other religious and spiritual luminaries. The next prayer rally is scheduled for Feb. 13 in Korea as part of UPF's World Summit 2022.

More information can be found at <u>RallyofHope,us</u> and <u>upf,org</u>. An article from The Washington Times on the Jan. 9 prayer rally is <u>here</u>

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Attachment

2nd Prayer Rally Flyer

PRAYER RALLY

for Peace on the Korean Peninsula

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2022: 7:30 PM EST



Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon Co-Founder, Universal Peace Federation



Hon, Mike Pence Rev. Jonathan Falwell States of America (2017-2021)



Vice-President, United Senior Pastor, Thomas Road Baptist Church



Hon. Young-hwan Vice-President, Christian Council of Korea



Dr. Yong-ho Yun Director General, Family Federation for World Peace



Dr. Young-Gil Choi Member, Supreme Islamic Council of Korea



Prophet Samuel Radebe Founder, The Revelation Church of God



Ven. Taishu Nara Shinto Priest, President of Japan Civilization Institute, Japan



Ven. Maltipe Wimalasara President, Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace



H.H. Swami Hari Chaitanya Puri Ji Maharaj ji Hindu Monk, Saint & Spiritual Leader



Rev. Ki-seong Lee Cheonshimwon, Family Federation for World President, FFWPU for a Peace



Rev. Jin-tae Ju Joint Regional Heavenly Korea

Monseigneur Nicolas Patriarch, Eastern Orthodox Church

Ven. Dac-woo Senior Monk, Neian Temple, Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism

Hon. Young-jin Won Grand Priest. Daejongyo

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Pence calls on Washington to confront Chinese aggression on world stage





In this file photo, former Vice President Mike Pence speaks at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, Va., Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky) **FILE** more >



By Guy Taylor - The Washington Times - Monday, January 10, 2022

Former Vice President Mike Pence says the U.S. and its allies must do more to confront Beijing's growing authoritarianism on the international stage, warning that "appeasement has never worked a single time in human history, and it will not work now."

"Appeasing China will only embolden other international bullies, like Russia," Mr. Pence said over the weekend, calling on the free world to seize on the upcoming Olympics in Beijing as to speak out about the Chinese communist government's human rights abuses and religious persecutions.

"Freedom-loving nations must speak truth to power in Beijing," the former vice president said in prepared remarks to a virtual rally. "China will no doubt use the backdrop of the international games to put up its best front — but a few weeks of good behavior cannot mask the regime's true authoritarian nature."

Mr. Pence made the remarks at an interfaith prayer rally sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and The Washington Times Foundation with the goal of promoting peace efforts on the divided Korean peninsula.

The Biden administration has said it will stage a diplomatic boycott of the Olympics, a move being joined by Canada, the U.K. and Australia, all of whom will allow athletes to compete, but won't send official government delegations to the February Games.

Mr. Pence suggested the U.S. and its allies be vigilant about the prospect of Chinese geopolitical aggression following the Games. "We know that once the Olympic Games are over, China will resume its malevolent behavior against Hong Kong, Taiwan, and any country it deems an obstacle to its goals," he said.

The "One Million Prayers for Peace" rally was hosted by UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the widow of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon and leader of the Unification movement that grew from the Unification Church. Rev. Moon, an ardent anticommunist, founded the church in 1954 — a year after the war between North and South Korea was frozen by a U.S.-backed armistice.

Mrs. Moon and her late husband devoted their lives to the reunification of the Korean Peninsula and to the promotion of world peace. They founded The Washington Times in 1982.

This weekend's virtual event was attended by the Rev. Jonathan Falwell, along with a multi-faith range of other religious leaders, including the Prophet Samuel Radebe, founder of the Revelation Church of God, and the Hindu spiritual leader H.H. Swami Hari Chaitanya Puri Ji Maharaj Ji, among others.

Mr. Pence, a devout Christian, emphasized the threat posed to religious freedom by authoritarian governments such as those in China and North Korea.

"I know I speak on behalf of millions of Americans when I say how proud we are to stand ... in defense of religious liberty," the former vice president said in his prepared remarks. "We believe that every human being must have the freedom to live, to work, and to worship according to their own conscience."

"With one voice, we condemn the repression Christians, Jews, Muslims and other religious minorities taking place at this very hour in China and North Korea," he said. "We pray for an end to the persecution, and we call on world leaders to work together to bring justice for all who are, at this very hour, being persecuted for their faith."

He asserted that under the former Trump administration, the "alliance between America and freedom-loving nations across the Asia-Pacific [region] grew stronger than ever before."

With regard to North Korea, Mr. Pence said the former administration "proved that

peace follows strength," a reference to historic summits between former President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that followed Mr. Trump's maximum pressure campaign against Pyongyang.

Mr. Pence noted "nuclear testing in North Korea stopped" in the wake of the 2018 Singapore summit between the two.

"But weakness arouses evil," the former vice president said. "With North Korea once again working to expand its nuclear capabilities, I fervently hope that the Biden administration displays the American strength the world needs across the region, even while continuing to build on our progress toward peace."

More broadly, Mr. Pence warned that "freedom-loving nations of the world cannot allow China and Russia to trample the liberty of our friends and allies – we must pray and ensure that our leaders send an unambiguous message that such aggression will not be tolerated."

"China continues to demand that the world look the other way on human rights, trade abuses, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and aggressive military maneuvers in the South China Sea," he said. "The free nations of the world must call upon China to respect religion liberty, democratic principles, freedom of navigation, and to do their part to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

Mr. Pence highlighted the case of Jimmy Lai, the 73-year-old Hong Kong entrepreneur, activist and pro-democracy newspaper publisher currently jailed as part of Beijing's increasing crackdown on what had prior to recent years been a flourishing democracy in the semi-autonomous city-state.

Mr. Pence called on "America and her allies" to "pray for and stand with the people of Hong Kong," and be clear that "we will stand with the people" of Taiwan and will continue to support the island democracy "in maintaining sufficient self-defense capability."

"The free world cannot stand idle in the face of China's aggressive military maneuvers or Taiwan could soon face the same fate as Hong Kong," he said, adding that "as the coronavirus pandemic demonstrated, we know that the authoritarian predisposition for secrecy, deception and control can inflict immeasurable harm on humanity."

New evidence "strongly suggests the coronavirus leaked out of a Chinese lab," Mr. Pence said. "After more than 5 million deaths worldwide, China must be held accountable for its actions."

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(?)

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Scott C Bailey > Jan 11

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