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Glenn D. Paige (1928–2017)

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Óscar Arias (Costa Rica)
Nobel Peace Laureate (1987)

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Grammy-winning singer and activist

Federico Mayor Zaragoza (Spain)
Former Director-General, UNESCO

Neelakanta Radhakrishnan (India)
Founder, Council of Gandhian Studies

Bernard Lafayette, Jr. (USA)
Activist leader, Civil Rights Movement

Ilya Prigogine, in memoriam (Russia)
Nobel Chemistry Laureate (1977)

Robert Muller, in memoriam
(Belgium)
Co-Founder, UN University for Peace

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Christina Kemmer (Hawaii)

Maorong Jiang (China/USA)

DIRECTOR

Joám Evans Pin (Galiza, Spain)

UN REPRESENTATIVES

Christophe Barbey (Geneva)
+41 79 524 35 74 / cb@apred.ch
Winnie Wang (New York)

CONTACTS

www.nonkilling.org
info@nonkilling.org
3653 Tantalus Drive
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96822-5033 United States

Human Rights Council
Item 6.
UPR of the Republic of Korea.
Geneva, 15th of March 2018

Dear Human Beings,
Mister (Vice-)President,
Excellency's,
Dear Korean delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear webcasters,

Good afternoon,

The Center for Global Nonkilling recalls that our founder, late Glenn Page, was a Korean War veteran and that the surge for a Nonkilling world originates in his realization, therein and thereafter of the value of each and all life.

Regarding the Korean war, we also recall that the armistice agreement of 1953 contains a duty to call for a peace conference within three months. 65 years later, we are still waiting for it. However, we hope the present talks will be constructive and inclusive, as building a strong peace requires the full participation of civil society, including youth and women.

Conscientious objectors are human rights defenders, defenders of peace. We regret the fact that the Republic of Korea has noted the recommendations made. We consider that the executive and the legislative do not need to wait for a constitutional ruling to grant them a status and an alternative service. And more than not that this status, based on the rights to refuse to kill and on the freedom of conscience should never be impeded by strategic or geopolitical considerations.

Further, we recall that the rights to life and equality before the law require due identity and that this starts with inclusive birth registration, a right that can only be guarantee by the country in which the birth takes place.

We would therefore be happy to see the Republic of Korea change its policy regarding this issue.

Mister (Vice-) President, dear Friends, thank you for the progresses made towards a peaceful and happy life for each and all. Thank you for your attention.