

To Our Korean Friends

Professor Sattar Kassem

29/8/2007

Millions of Arabs everywhere in the Arab world have been closely watching the latest developments in Afghanistan, and they have been feeling sorry for the painful kidnapping of the Korean citizens. We the Arabs feel the warmth of our friendship to all Koreans, and we always feel happy for their achievements, and would like to see them re-united in one solid progressive state. Millions of Arabs have been waiting the happy moment of releasing the kidnapped.

However, I think that so many of Korean Hankoreh readers remember the advice forwarded concerning Korean participation in the wars against the Arabs and the Moslems. I wrote that these are ugly and filthy wars, the US will never win, and other nations like the Korean don't need to be war tools or to put themselves in a state of animosity to the Arabs and the Moslems. I believe that I said that the Arabs seek the friendship of the Koreans, and the Koreans don't need to spoil this desire.

It is unfortunate that your government never consulted experts from the area, and listened only to President Bush who has been spreading wars and bloodshed in many parts of the world. It is unfortunate too that your government has been extending an ear to some Arab regimes which are labeled as puppets of the US and so much hated in the Arab world. Some Arab regimes such as the Saudi and the Egyptian could not send troops to either Afghanistan or Iraq because of the possible internal outrage, and they sought to convince some non-Arab states to take part. Excuse me, your government lacked the wit and the intelligence.

You sent troops to Iraq with the knowledge that these troops aren't going to make the US win the war, and your government knew before hand that the Korean troops were sent just for the purpose of giving the impression that the war on Iraq was international. The same thing is true for Afghanistan. For the satisfaction of the US, the Korean government has sacrificed its soldiers and interests, and this is the worst thing any government would do on the international realm. Korea lost few of its soldiers and jeopardized its interests.

The US is interested in dominating over the world, and it doesn't threaten the sovereignty of the Arabs only, but also that of the Koreans. In their globalization endeavor, they are giving no respect to cultures or civilizations or nations, and they don't hesitate to use other nations, exploit their wealth and undermine their national interests; and, I believe, that all nations should be aware and act according to the logic of cooperation rather than that of subordination.

The Korean withdrawal from Afghanistan has been decided under pressure, and after the killing of two Koreans. Korea has been humiliated, and left itself without choices. And I am sure that the US tried to exert pressure on the Korean government to prevent negotiations with Taliban, and sacrifice the rest of the kidnapped Koreans. The US has been describing responsiveness to the demands of resistance movements as shameful and encouraging for those who are described as terrorists.

Anyhow, Korea did not need any of that, and I hope that the Korean government and its Korean supporters have learned a lesson.