

Speech on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the invincible Korean People's Army

The Korean People's Army was founded in its current form on 8 February 1948, 75 years ago. It existed even before that, its earlier predecessor being the Korean People's Revolutionary Army founded in 1932. Its history is full of victories and so the army can rightfully be called with the epithet „invincible“. As such it serves as either fear or envy of many in the world as does the DPRK as a whole.

I would like to send greetings and congratulations to this mighty force from my small country of Croatia. If only we here could brag of an army such as yours. Most Koreans don't know anything about Croatia so forgive me for giving some context. In the short 90 years in which the Korean revolutionary force has persistently fought off foreign imperialism, Croatia has been a battlefield of many armies, many of them calling themselves armies of the people with questionable right to do so. When the Korean people was fighting the Japanese monarchy occupying their land, we were faced with the Serbian monarchy doing the same to ours. We were freed of it... but only to be thrown under fascist madness. Then we freed ourselves from that as well and even had a socialist revolution of our own, but not as an independent country, but a state within a federative and socialist Yugoslavia. Socialism didn't even last five decades and we found ourselves at war with Serbia. We have won this war, but found ourselves tangled in a web of US imperialism, global capitalism and liberal institutions, with a regime modeled on those of the West.

Meanwhile Korea was determined in its fight against Japanese imperialism, against reactionary traitors within their own nation and against capitalism in all its forms. It was victorious against the Japanese and victorious against the southern regime and it will remain victorious against American imperialism, all its puppets and capitalism in all its forms. Its longevity is the testament of its strength. While so many armies have come and gone in my country, the Korean People's Army shines like a beacon of hope. Its independence is a sign of its consistency. While the southern regime relies on American presence to defend it, alliance with the USSR or the PRC has never made Korea into a puppet and foreign troops have quickly moved out of the country, this says a lot about the value of socialism and about the strength of the People's Army. We can only dream of the independence Juche Korea has. The role of KPA in turning this dream into a reality can not be exaggerated. And while Croatian soldiers get little to no respect from the public today, revealing the distrust of people in the state, the KPA is respected beyond measure and constantly earns this respect by producing quality men the country can be proud of, by helping in the construction of socialism and by helping people in their everyday lives, like how in the recent pandemic they served as emergency medical staff.

All of this, would of course not be possible without the Army's awe inspiring leadership. The supreme commanders Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un have shown immense wisdom in leading it. They consistently led it to serve the people and Juche ideology. May they serve as role models to all nations and especially my own which has not produced men of their calibre in recent memory.

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