

Official Statement of the Korean Red Cross Society



The Aid Class of 1919.



July 1st, 1919.

We, the legally elected representatives of the members of the Red Cross Society of Korea, hereby declare that we have this day reconstituted the Korean Red Cross Society, and we further declare that henceforth the agreement of amalgamation of the Korean and Japanese Red Cross Societies is null and void, and all relations hitherto existing between the two bodies are hereby dissolved.

In taking this step a few words of explanation are necessary.

The original agreement of amalgamation was forced upon the Korean Red Cross Society by the Japanese by fraud and threats. It was consummated illegally and its motive was immoral.

The Japanese Red Cross Society has enrolled the Korean members by force and compelled contributions from them by threats of violence.

The Japanese Red Cross Society has failed to perform its fundamental duties toward the Korean people since the amalgamation of the two organizations. There have been many occasions when the Korean people sorely needed



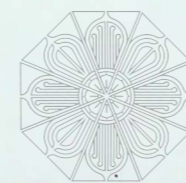
relief, but the Japanese Society has consistently failed to show any consideration for the Korean sufferers.

Over 15,000 Korean Lives Destroyed

Our Red Cross Society was organized long before this infamous amalgamation. It always had the true conception of the spirit of humanity and self-sacrifice. Its aim has been to play an important part in the world wide movement for the relief of human suffering, for the development of the Red Cross spirit among mankind, to prevent unnecessary wars, and to alleviate the sufferings ensuing from all calamities. But when our national sovereignty was filched away and our country was annexed to Japan in 1910, our organization likewise followed the fate of the nation and was forced to amalgamate with the Japanese Society. But our experience of the last decade has conclusively demonstrated the fact that the Japanese Red Cross has not been, and never will be able to fulfill its mission in Korea.

According to all authentic statistics and official records, both Korean and foreign, over 15,000 Korean lives have been ruthlessly sacrificed during

the "Pacification Period," dating from the time of the annexation in 1910, to January 1st, 1919. Since the Declaration of Independence on March 1st, 1919, over 10,000 lives have been destroyed, and nearly 30,000 men, women and children have been arrested. Most of these prisoners have received physical injuries at the hands of the Japanese, and their lives are slowly ebbing away in the overcrowded prison cells. As if that is not enough punishment for our patriotic people, the Japanese are constantly inflicting all forms of torture upon them, so that they may die quicker to make room for the constantly increasing number of new prisoners. This horrible condition is known to the Japanese Red Cross Society, but so far no assistance of any kind has been rendered to these suffering people. It has not only been neglectful in its duty to our people, but it is also ungrateful, for so far over 10,000,000 yen (\$ 5,000,000) of our people's money has been paid into the treasury of the Japanese Red Cross Society for membership fees alone. Yet at this time, when these people are so urgently in need of relief and so deserving of human treatment, the Japanese Society looks on with indifference. Therefore, we consider the Japanese Red Cross Society a moral failure.



Struggle is in Self-defence

However, our aim is not to find fault with the Japanese Society, nor do we cherish a feeling of animosity toward it. We have now reorganized our own Red Cross Society and we must devote our time and energy to perform our sacred duties to our people and the world in general. Our first purpose is to undertake the work which the Japanese failed to perform in Korea, and at the same time we must combat the base impulse of those people whose motto is to rob, kill, and destroy their neighbors for greed and self-aggrandizement. We also must not overlook the other cause of suffering, such as epidemic diseases which usually spread through ignorance of the rules of sanitation, and living in unhygienic environments.

We are not discouraged nor think it strange that the sky over us is still black, that chaos, disorder, and misery still run riot throughout our beloved land. We believe these to be the receding clouds of political oppression, race hatred and religious intolerance. In fact, even now there is beginning to emerge from the shadow a new spirit, and a new intelligence which stands for the promotion of everlasting truth that *Humanity's welfare is*

Humanity's first consideration, and that service and sacrifice run in ever-widening circles as the range of mutual understanding grows. We must, therefore, courageously and cheerfully advance without fear or sadness toward the bright sunshine of human progress.

The struggle our people are so heroically waging since the first of March is not born of a feeling of anger but in self-defence. Without thoughts of hatred, without arms with which to injure others, without motive of selfish interests, without fear of death, torture, and destruction of property, we are determined to continue our struggle. We do this not only for our political independence and religious freedom, but also for the ultimate benefit of 400,000,000 Chinese, and 50,000,000 Japanese. In the victory of our cause lies the emancipation of these people who are now the abject slaves of their heathen militarist rulers.

While the Peace Conference and the League of Nations are forming to reduce the causes of future wars, let us push on with the Red Cross in our hearts and on our banners. This will do far more to check the base impulses of man and keep alive the consciousness of human kinship.



The Representatives of the Members of the Korean Red Cross Society.

Ahn Chang Ho	Chang Kun Sang	Chung Kun Mo	Yi Kwang Soo
Paik Choon	Kang Tai Tong	Chung Chai Myun	Shim Chong Yul
Kim Tai Yun	Kim Han	Kim Koo	Han Chin Kyo
Kim Soon Ai	Oh Eui Sun	Choi Ill	Yi Won Ik
Oh Chung Eun	Soh Pyeng Ho	Kim Won Kyung	Kim Po Yun
Yi Yung Yul	Kang Hyun Suk	Yi Kyung Wha	Lim Chai Ho
You Ki Choon	Kim Woon Kyung	Yi Pong Soon	Ko Ill Chung
You Pai Woong	Kim Duk	Han Woon Young	Lee Choon Sook
Ko Seung Kyun	Lim Pong Nai	Chung In Kwa	Oh Ik Pyo
Yi Kyu Kap	Shin Sang Wan	Paik Sung Youk	Kim Pyung Cho
Kim Si Yung	Pak Nam Sup	Hyun Soon	Yun Po Sun
Yi Sin Sill	You Heung Sik	Ahn Chung Kun	Son Chung Do
Whang Chin Nam	Ok Sung Pin	Kim Chang Seuh	Kim Seung
Cho Wan Kwo	Lim Duk San	Choi Kun Woo	Moon Suk Chin
Kim Po Kwang	Ryung Hun	Song Chung Wook	Chin Dai Kuen
Kim Seung Kyum	Kim Chul	Won Sei Hoon	Kim Kap
Kim Hong Suh	Yi Hi Kyung	Reyi Pyeng Eun	Kang Dai Hyun
Yi Ki Ryoung	Son Doo Whan	Min Chei Ho	Kim Sung Kun
Lyuh Woon Hyung	Kim Si Hyuk	Kim Chang Sai	Paik Nan Ku
Yi Duk Chong	Yi Wha Sook	Rey You Pill	

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Vice-President.....	Ahn Chung Kun
General Manager.....	P. H. Soh
Secretary.....	T. Y. Kim
Treasurer.....	P. C. Kim
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Delegate to the League of Red Cross Societies	K. Y. Lee

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