



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
LOS ANGELES

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Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Korean American Coalition (KAC) and Council of Korean Americans (CKA) for organizing this event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1992 SAIGU in Los Angeles.

The 1992 SAIGU or Los Angeles uprising, triggered by the verdicts of Rodney King case, caused more than 60 people lost their lives and 2,000 businesses damaged. Particularly, more than a half of damaged businesses were managed by Korean Americans. This shocked not only Korean Americans but also Koreans in their homeland who had thought Los Angeles as the symbol of American dream.

On May 2nd, however, approximately 30,000 people participated in the “Peace March” for harmony and healing and in support of beleaguered merchants in Koreatown. The healing process already began at that time. Instead of expressing anger against one another, the people of Koreatown chose to understand neighbors and live together.

We all need to continue our efforts to moving forward: overcoming painful memories, enhancing mutual understanding and living in harmony. Today, pandemic revives the racism in the form of Asian hate crimes and discrimination against minorities. The continuous communications among communities can help seeking ways together to overcome the crisis instead of blaming each other. As Nelson Mandela said, “To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

The average period of a generation is generally considered to be about 30 years. It has been 30 years since the SAIGU occurred and children of that time grew up as a young men and women. I hope today's event will guide us to pave the way for the next 30 years, to turn over to our next generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Youngwan Kim'.

Youngwan Kim

Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles

