|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Statement | **Secretary General:**  **Lawyer Woo In Sik****Phone : 02-599-4434****Web : www.hanbyun.or.kr** |
|  **President Moon Should Fire His Special Assistant Moon Chung-in Immediately and Clarify Moon Chung-in’s Overseas Statement**On June 16, Moon Chung-in, the president’s special assistant and an honorary professor at Yonsei University, attended a seminar in the US. At the meeting, he said that the South Korea would have a discussion with US on how to reduce the ROK-US military exercise, and downsizing the size of strategy defense asset in Korean peninsula in exchange for North Korean government halting the North Korean nuclear weapon and missile programs, alleging as if the idea was president Moon suggestion. And at the meeting with Washington correspondent, he said that “people are saying that if the THAAD issue is not reserve between US and Korea the ROK-US alliance shall be broken” but if that is true how can we say that the ROK and US alliance is true alliance. He further said that if the THAAD issue represent the foundation of the ROK-US alliance I cannot agree to that and he also said that it will take about a year to go through environmental impact evaluation process. He also added his opinion is as a scholar and not as an special assistant to the president Moon. The North Korean government has tried to stop the ROK-US military exercise every year, and therefore, reducing the US military power translates to renouncing the security of South Korea while the threat of North Korea increases. Also, the South Korean and the US government made a decision to have the THAAD, which is one of the best protection systems in the current regime for missile attacks, after quite a long discussion. Because of the North Korea's inexorable nuclear weapon and missile test, South Korea has been placed in the most dangerous situation since the Korean War began. Many questions have been raised by individuals on environmental impacts; does North Korea care about the environment when they attack the South Korea? Will they attack less vulnerable places? No way.It is time to have stronger ROK-US alliance than ever, and we are only left with ten days to have the Korea-US summit conference. On June 12th, the US defense secretary Mattis warned that North Korea, who is trying to keep developing the nuclear weapon and missiles, is the number one threat to the US than Russia. The US is bearing all the expenditure on THAAD and the opinion of Moon Chung-in, who is the president's special assistant for the foreign and unification security, can be a significant threat to the security of South Korea. President Moon should immediately fire the unqualified assistant Moon Chung-in and clarify how in the world assistant Moon Chung-in made such a statement suggesting reduction of ROK-US military exercise.  **2017. 6. 19.****Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea (LHUK)** **Permanent Representative Kim Tae Hun** |