

Dear President Park

On behalf of my organisation (-----), I am writing to express my concern about recent events in Korea.

I am aware that the International Transport Workers' Federation and Public Services International recently joined a mission to Korea, the purpose of which was to express solidarity for the currently on-going public sector strike in opposition to the implementation of the government's performance-related pay and termination system at public institutions, and observe peaceful demonstrations.

Through this mission we have learned that the performance-related pay and termination system is being implemented in an unlawful manner, without agreement with workers and the unions that represent them. I also learned that the government continues to refuse to meet with public sector unions to discuss the issue and exchange views on the proper direction for public sector reform. Indeed, I am quite disappointed that a request made by PSI and ITF for a meeting with the Minister of Employment and Labour while the delegation was in South Korea was rejected.

Furthermore, I was shocked to find that the Korean government is treating the Korean Railway Workers' Union's strike as illegal and that charges have been pressed against 9 union officers, while 145 officers have been suspended from their job positions in preparation for further disciplinary actions. This is despite court rulings about the illegality of such actions - and despite repeated recommendations by the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association.

I echo the calls made by the ITF while in South Korea for an end to these acts of repression. I have just learned that on 10th October police swarmed into the strike event organised by KPTU Trucksol at Busan New Port on the pretext that the union was holding an 'illegal rally'. Several activists were injured and several more arrested. These attacks must end.

While in South Korea the ITF and PSI also visited KCTU President Han Sang-gyun and KPTU Vice President Cho Sung-deok in jail. I am dismayed to see that trade union leaders are being imprisoned for legitimate trade union activities and add my voice to the growing international community demanding their release.

Mrs President, as noted by the UN Special Rapporteur in a recent freedom of

association report, these attacks on workers and their representative bodies violate the right to peaceful assembly.

I call on you to ensure that these violations cease immediately, and that all related charges against trade unionists are dropped.

I look forward to receiving your comments,

Yours sincerely,

Name/Union