



JeonGyoJo-The Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union (KTU)

Yeongdeungpo-dong 5-ga 2ndHyunDaePlaza14-9 Seoul Korea

Phone: +82-2-2670-9300 Fax: +82-2-2670-9305

Email: hshwang@ktu.or.kr Website: <http://english.eduhope.net>

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Dear participants in the OECD PGB meeting,

On behalf of the 60,000 Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union (KTU, an affiliate of Education International) members, I really want to express my sincere gratitude to you for your efforts to achieve quality education for all and to bring a good model of education through OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). I also appreciate your dedication for an education for the better world.

I regret to inform you of this news. The Park Geun-hye administration in Korea deprived the KTU, the biggest teachers' union, of its legal status on October 24th, 2013.

In 1996, the Republic of Korea joined the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), pledging internationally that it would guarantee the freedom of association and union activities for teachers and government employees. It was the international commitment that the Republic of Korea made when joining the OECD.

The ILO, Education International, OECD-TUAC, and even the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) have repeatedly intervened with the Korean government concerning allegations of serious infringement of trade union rights in the Republic of Korea, in particular the threat of cancellation of the registration of the KTU and the need to amend the Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act (TULRAA) with regard to the provisions prohibiting dismissed and unemployed workers from keeping their membership and making non-union members ineligible to stand for trade union office.

The NHRCK issued an urgent statement on 22nd of October, saying that deregistration of the KTU would be a serious violation of human rights. Over 20 teachers' organizations among OECD countries have sent a letter of protest to the Government regarding this matter.

Although the provisions of TULRAA have been repeatedly criticized by domestic and international organizations, the Government has not taken any action to rectify this issue. Instead, it deprived the KTU of a legal status, using the provisions which are so desperately in need of revision. The number of the dismissed teachers who work for the KTU is nine. Korean teachers want to be respected by the government.

With best regards,

KimJeonghun

President, the Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union (KTU, or JeonGyoJo)