



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

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Dear colleagues,

On behalf of all the Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union (KTU) members, an affiliate of Education International (EI), I really want to express my sincere gratitude to you for your efforts to achieve quality education for all, to protect teachers' rights, and to improve the working conditions of teachers.

I regret to share this news. The Park Geun-hye administration in Korea issued an ultimatum to the KTU on September 23rd regarding the cancellation of the registration of the KTU. It said that if the KTU does not amend its by-laws to ban dismissed teachers from maintaining their union membership by October 23rd, the KTU will be delegalized.

In the beginning of March, 2013, as requested by EI and ITUC, the International Labor Organization (ILO) urgently 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 ILO Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) has repeatedly criticized these exclusions, urging the government to repeal the provisions which are not in accordance with international standards. Three years ago, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) had also recommended that the Ministry of Employment and Labor correct the relevant provisions of the TULRAA and its Enforcement Act. In 1996, the Republic of Korea joined the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), promising 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. However, the government has not taken any action to rectify this issue. Instead, it is trying to cancel the registration of the KTU, which has endeavored to bring quality education for all students in Korea for 24 years. The ILO issued a 2nd intervention on the 1st of October.

The KTU strongly believes that the government is turning back the clock on human and trade union rights, and is using the provisions, which are so desperately in need of revision, to cancel the union registration of the KTU. The national congress of the KTU announced its all-out struggle against these brutal attacks on the 28th of September. We need your solidarity for this struggle. The KTU requests you to send a protest letter to the government for the KTU members who are in a desperate fight against the government, **as soon as possible.**

Contacts: Presidential Office Fax number +82-2-770-4737, email address president@president.go.kr

Ministry of Employment and Labor Fax number +82-2-504-6708, email address interco209@moel.go.kr
(Please send a copy of a protest letter to Hyunsu Hwang (gildongne@gmail.com), International Secretary, KTU)

For more information: http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/news_details/2712

With best regards,

KimJeonghun

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