



**ITUC INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION CSI CONFÉDÉRATION
SYNDICALE INTERNATIONALE
CSI CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL INTERNACIONAL IGB INTERNATIONALER
GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND**

SHARAN BURROW

PRESIDENT
PRÉSIDENTE
PRÄSIDENTIN
PRESIDENTA

GUY RYDER

GENERAL SECRETARY
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
GENERALSEKRETÄR
SECRETARIO GENERAL

Mr. Roh Moo-hyun
President of the Republic
Blue House,
Seoul
Republic of Korea

By fax: +82 2770 1690

HTUR/JS

30 November 2007

Arrest and detention of the MTU leadership and KGEU trade unionists

Dear President,

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 305 trade union organisations, with a total membership of 168 million workers in 153 countries and territories, including Korea, is concerned about the arrest and detention of the President of the Migrants' Trade Union (MTU), **Mr. Kajiman**, Vice President **Mr. Raju** and General Secretary **Mr. Masum** on 27 November, and the arrest and continued detention of **Park Moon Gyu**, Head of Dongan-gu(ward) Local of KGEU Anyang City Chapter and **Lee Ho Seong**, Policy Director of KGEU Anyang City Chapter.

The ITUC has been informed that the MTU leadership were arrested in the wake of an intensified crackdown on undocumented migrants, in order to stifle the union that defends the interest of all migrant workers, including undocumented workers. All three leaders were rounded up and arrested in the morning on 27 November.

Mr. Kajiman was arrested by 10 immigration officers in front of his home at about 9.20 am, just as he left to attend a protest in front of Seoul Immigration Office. His shoulder was hurt in the process. Mr. Masum was on his way to the same protest, when about 10 immigration officers come up from behind him on the street and arrested him. Mr. Raju was arrested in front of the factory where he works. The officers immediately tried to handcuff him, and upon his request they showed him a detention order issued against him.

All three leaders were sent to a detention center in Cheongju, Northern Choongjeong Province, south of the capital Seoul, where they are still detained.

The ITUC has also been informed about the arrest of 15 KGEU members in Anyang, Gyeonggi-do (province). During a sit-in at the Dongan-gu office building on 21 November, riot police arrested 12 members of the KGEU, including Park Gwanf Won,



**ITUC INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION CSI CONFÉDÉRATION
SYNDICALE INTERNATIONALE
CSI CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL INTERNACIONAL IGB INTERNATIONALER
GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND**

Chair of the KGEU Anyang Chapter. Two hours later the President of the KGEU Son Young Tae, along with two other KGEU members had a meeting with the Head Officer of the Dongan-gu (ward) of Anyang City. During the meeting riot police stormed the room and arrested them.

All of them were held for about 30 hours and released late in evening on 22 November. Three were brought before court to have their detention prolonged. On 23 November the Court decided that only Park Moon Gyu, and Lee Ho Seong had to remain detained. They are now charged under the Penal Code for "Obstruction of Performance of Official Duties" and for breaching the "Prohibition of Collective Action" under the Public Officials Act, which is in breach of the principles of Freedom of Association established by the International Labour Organization. Furthermore, the KGEU informs us that despite their decision to accept the legalisation process requested by the government (which was a sign of goodwill from the union, not a necessary requirement under international jurisprudence), the union still suffers a great deal of repression.

The ITUC would like to emphasize that migrant workers, like other workers in South Korea, have the right to organise and be treated with dignity and respect. The arrest and detention of trade union leaders and activists are contrary to Korea's obligations under international law, including and especially, those deriving from its membership of the International Labour Organisation. They also contravene the commitments made to the OECD and the ILO by Korea when it joined these world bodies, commitments that have long remained unfulfilled.

I strongly urge you to release the President, the Vice-President and the General Secretary of the MTU and the two KGEU activists. Furthermore, I urge you to drop all charges against the two KGEU activists.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary