

January 28, 2013

President-elect Park Guenhye

KOREA

Email: foreign@president.go.kr

president@president.go.kr

crm@mopas.go.kr

kgeu.inter@gmail.com

Recognize the KGEU and reinstate dismissed employees

President-elect Park Guenhye,

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees' 627,000 members, we call upon the South Korean government to immediately stop attacking workers' and trade union rights. We support the Korean Government Employees' Union (KGEU) and its leader, Kim Jungnam, in their call for the protection of trade union rights, the right to freedom of association and the reinstatement of 137 trade union members who were dismissed because of their affiliation to the KGEU.

We understand that over the last several years, hundreds of KGEU and KPTU members have been unfairly dismissed from their jobs in retaliation for legitimate union activities. Over 300 of these workers have yet to be reinstated. Among them most recently are KGEU President Kim Jungnam and General Secretary Gwak Gyu-woon.

Kim Jungnam launched a hunger strike in the streets of Seoul outside the offices of the Presidential transition committee on January 15, 2013. The main demands of the KGEU are for the normalization of labour relations in the government sector and need for improvement of working conditions, freedom of association and trade union rights. We remind the government of Korea of its obligation under international law deriving from its membership of the ILO to respect core labour standards, including the right to freedom of association.

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We call upon President-elect Park Guenhye to commit to the basic human and labour rights that public workers are entitled to, recognize the KGEU, and reinstate the dismissed workers. This would be a signal of hope that will pave the way for a renewed dialogue and normalization of labour relations in the public sector in Korea.

Sincerely,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer

c.c.: D. Ivanochko; P. Beattie; M. Butler; K. Cameron; Rights@world-psi.org

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