



IMF IMB Fiom
Fitim Fism

INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION
INTERNATIONALER METALLGEWERKSCHAFTSBUND
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISATIONS DE TRAVAILLEURS DE LA METALLURGIE
INTERNATIONELLA METALLFEDERATIONEN
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES DE LAS INDUSTRIAS METALURGICAS
FEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI SINDACATI METALMECCANICI

54 bis, route des Acacias
Case postale 1516
CH-1227 Geneva
Switzerland

Telephone: ++ 41 22 308 50 50
Telefax: ++ 41 22 308 50 55
E-mail: info@imfmetal.org
Website: <http://www.imfmetal.org>

President: Jürgen Peters
General Secretary: Marcello Malentacchi

MM/kp

September 23, 2008

Mr. Lee Myung-bak
President of the Republic
Blue House,
Seoul
Republic of Korea
By fax: +82 2770 1690

Re: Arrest and harassment of trade unionists in Korea

Dear Mr. President,

The International Metalworkers' Federation, which represents the interests of 25 million metalworkers from more than 200 trade unions in 100 countries around the world, protests the arrest of Jung Gab-deuk, president of the Korean Metal Workers' Union (KMWU) and Kim Tae-gon, Hyundai Motor Branch First Vice-President.

The IMF has been informed that arrest warrants were issued on 24 July 2008 against Lee Suk-haeng (President of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, KCTU), Jin Young-ok (KCTU First Vice-president), Lee Yong-shik (KCTU General Secretary), Jung Gab-deuk (KMWU President), Nam Taek-gyu (KMWU First Vice-president) and all six of the top elected officers of the Hyundai Motor Branch, specifically; Yoon Hae-mo, Kim Tae-gon, Kim Jong-il, Jung Chang-bong, Joo In-koo, and Jo Chang-min.

I have also been made aware that around 70 KMWU leaders at the national, regional and local level are being targeted for investigation. Since the issuance of the arrest warrants, the headquarters of the KMWU and KCTU have been surrounded, and those who enter the building are being searched.

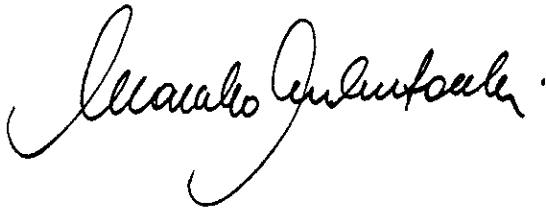
This is in clear violation of internationally recognized labour standards including the right to freedom of association. Trade union repression against labour leaders exercising legitimate trade union activities, including detention and legal persecution by the Korean government have repeatedly been condemned by the Committee of Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organisation.

The IMF is urging your government to order the immediate release of Jung Gab-deuk and Kim Tae-gon and that all charges against them and all other trade unionists, including KCTU First Vice-President Jin Young-ok, be dropped. I strongly urge you to ensure that the arrest warrants against all other labour leaders be withdrawn and that all surveillance of the KCTU and KMWU headquarters and the houses of trade union leaders be brought to an end immediately.

The IMF will be calling on its affiliates worldwide to protest against the detention of Jung Gab-deuk and Kim Tae-gon and the arrest warrants issued against other Korean labour leaders.

I trust that you will pay prompt attention to this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcello Malentacchi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'M'.

Marcello Malentacchi
General Secretary