



TAIWAN CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Taiwan Confederation of Trade Unions

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Mr. Lee Myung-bak

President of the Republic

Blue House, Seoul

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3 August, 2009

RE: Police violence against striking workers

Dear President,

On behalf of the Taiwan Confederation of Trade Unions (TCTU), which represents over 260,000 workers of its some 600 affiliated unions in Taiwan, we are extremely concerned with the escalating violence by riot police against the striking workers of the Ssangyong Motor Pyeongtaek plant.

Since July 16, management at the plant has blocked all food from entering the factory. On July 19, it began to disallow medical doctors and nurses from entering the compound. At 10:00 am on July 22, riot police entered the factory compound with court officials and creditors who tried to deliver a forced eviction order. The police surrounded the paint factory where 800 workers are sitting in on the 68th day of their strike.

Over 3,000 riot police and around 30 vehicles including water cannons, ladder trucks and helicopters have been mobilized for this operation.

After news came in that police had started to advance into the compound, it was learned that the wife of the KMWU Ssangyong Motors Branch policy director had committed suicide. She was the 28-year old mother of an 8 months old baby and of a four-year old child. She suffered stress and anxiety from receiving subpoenas and a warrant for her husband's arrest.

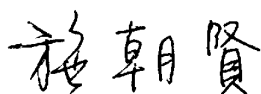
Sir, accounts and pictures taken yesterday, and sent by our Korean sister unions, give a clear picture of the unacceptable level of unrestrained brutality exercised by the riot police.

We are deeply concerned about the blockade on water, food, access to medicine and medical treatment for the workers as well as the constant battery with chemical substances including teargas concentrate dropped from helicopters. These represent violations against basic human dignity.

Violence and repression on this scale cannot lead to constructive industrial relations. I urge you, as a matter of urgency and before further blood will shed, to end the brutal attack against the Ssangyong Motors Branch workers, withdraw all pending arrest warrants and release all imprisoned union leaders related to this strike.

I strongly urge your government to immediately begin negotiations with the Korean Metal Workers' Union to promote a peaceful resolution through dialogue.

Yours sincerely,



Shih,Chao-Hsien
President
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