



Her Excellency
President Park Geun-hye
Korea

Via e-mail: president@president.go.kr

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Contact Name: rights@world-psi.org

Dear President Park Geun-hye,

I am writing to you once again on behalf of Public Services International (PSI) to express our serious concern over the acts of repression against the Korean Railway Workers' Union (KRWU) and in particular the announcement on 27 February of severe disciplinary measures against 404 officers of the union.

PSI has been informed that the railway employer Korail has announced disciplinary measures against 404 KRWU officers who played leading roles in the 23-day strike action against rail privatisation that was organised by the union in December 2013. Of these, 130 have been expelled (dismissal with dock in severance pay) or dismissed and 251 have been suspended. 23 have had their pay docked. Those who face disciplinary actions include 144 central and divisional officers and 260 branch officers.

In addition, PSI understands that Korail has labelled workers who participated in the recent 24-hour strike on 25 February 2014 as 'absent without leave' and have cut their pay for that day. Korail has already pressed charges against 138 officers thought to have been leaders in this strike and are planning additional penalties against 118.

Furthermore, whilst the four main leaders of the union who were imprisoned following the December strike action were released on bail earlier this month, we understand that they are still facing criminal charges and that their trial is due to start on 24 March.

The union's industrial action in December 2013 followed all requirements by international law for a legal strike and fully respected Korea's minimum service requirement. PSI and its affiliates worldwide therefore condemn these acts against the KRWU, which we believe undermine freedom of association and violate basic union rights.

Your Excellency, on behalf of millions of public sector workers and their trade unions worldwide, we are seeking your urgent intervention to withdraw all disciplinary actions brought against union members for their strike activities, to reinstate those workers who have been dismissed, and to immediately drop the charges against the four KRWU leaders.

The KRWU receives our full support and solidarity in its fight to defend those rights. Furthermore, we fully support the demand of the KRWU to stop privatization of KORAIL.

Despite campaign promises to strengthen basic pension benefits for the elderly and not to pursue the privatization of public services, your government is now weakening the national pension system and seeking to privatize not only transport but also health, education, water,

energy and other essential public services. At the same time, public sector unions who stand up for quality public services are being attacked.

Please be assured that PSI and our affiliates worldwide are closely monitoring developments, and are ready to support the KRWU.

Yours sincerely,



Rosa Pavanelli
PSI General Secretary

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Korean Railway Workers' Union (KRWU)

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)