

**MICHAEL SOMMER**  
PRESIDENT  
PRÉSIDENT  
PRÄSIDENT  
PRESIDENTE

**SHARAN BURROW**  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
SECÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE  
GENERALSEKRETÄRIN  
SECRETARIA GENERAL

Honorable PARK, Geun-hye  
President of the Republic of Korea  
The Blue House  
Seoul, Korea

Via e-mail: [president@president.go.kr](mailto:president@president.go.kr)

HTUR/JV

28 February 2014

## **Korail Strike**

Dear President Park Geun-hye,

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) 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.

The ITUC 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. Another 23 have had their pay docked. Those who face disciplinary actions include 144 central and divisional officers and 260 branch officers.

In addition, the ITUC understands that the Korail have 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. The Korail has already pressed charges against 138 officers thought to have been leaders in this strike and are planning additional penalties against 118.

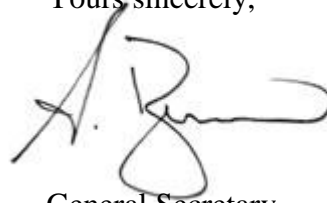
Furthermore, whilst the four main leaders of the union who were imprisoned following the December strike action were released on bail earlier this month, we understand that they are still facing criminal charges and that their trial is due to start on 24 March.

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. The ITUC 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 175 million workers 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. Please be assured that the ITUC and our affiliates worldwide are closely monitoring developments, and are ready to support the KRWU.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B.', written over a light blue horizontal line.

General Secretary

cc: CEO & President Cho Yeonhye  
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International Transport Workers Federation (ITF)