



KILUSANG MAYO UNO

(May First Movement Labor Center)
TAGAPAMANDILA NG TUNAY NA UNYONISMO

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KMU is a founding member of the International League of Peoples' Struggle

3 December 2007

To: **The Ministry of Justice, Minister Jung Seong-Jin**
By fax: **+82-2-503-3532, +82-2-500-9128**

Copy to: Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) fax +82-2-2635, email inter@kctu.org

Greetings of Peace, Justice and Human Rights!

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU, or May 1st Workers' Movement) is the biggest and most militant trade union center here in the Philippines. We advocate the rights of all workers – regardless of race, color or creed – for just wages, greater job security and democratic rights.

Word has reached us here in the Philippines that your government has been cracking down on undocumented migrant workers in general and the Migrants Trade Union (MTU) in particular. In the process, your state security forces have unjustly arrested and detained 3 of their top leaders, Kasjiman (President), Masum (General Secretary) and Raju (Vice President), an act that we believe to be highly political in the light of their prominent role as advocates for migrant workers' rights and welfare in South Korea.

Your government has been pursuing an ambiguous policy of attracting and curtailing migrant labor, and this is a contradiction that cannot have a middle ground. It is apparent from the state of your economy that you have great need for more internationally outsourced labor, and yet you persist in applying a dual standard for local and outsourced labor. This is inconsistent with international labor standards as stipulated in the UDHR and the ILO conventions.

We further find it ironic that in a supposedly democratic country like South Korea, Gestapo-like tactics are being resorted to by your security forces to round up migrant workers and their leaders, totally without proper consideration to due process and human decency. This severely prejudices their human and labor rights and puts the government of South Korea in a bad light in the eyes of the international community.

In this regard, the KMU condemns in the strongest possible manner the ongoing crackdown on migrant labor and the arrest of MTU leaders. We demand for the immediate release of Masum, Kasjiman and Raju, and a decisive policy shift by your government for full respect of international labor standards especially those pertaining to migrant workers. We demand that they be given the same rights as local labor in all spheres of economic life.

The KMU will be closely watching this case and will be launching collective political actions for its positive resolution in coordination with MTU, KCTU and other overseas trade union centers, until the 3 detained MTU leaders are released and given justice.

For the National Council,

ELMER LABOG
Chairperson