



19 December 2022

To:

Yoon Seok-yeol,  
President of the Republic of Korea  
[president@president.go.kr](mailto:president@president.go.kr)

Kim Doeup  
Chair of the Legislation & Judiciary Committee in the National Assembly  
[Idok3525@naver.com](mailto:Idok3525@naver.com)

Won Hee-ryong  
Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport  
c/o Kim Su-sang, Transport and Logistics Director  
[kss@korea.kr](mailto:kss@korea.kr)

**Public Services International (PSI) and its affiliates call on the Yoon Seok-yeol government to stop violent repression of transport workers and Korea.**

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of 30 million public service workers and 700 trade unions in 154 countries represented by Public Services International (PSI), I write to raise serious concerns regarding labour rights violations experienced by members of our affiliate, the Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union (KPTU).

We have been informed that an ongoing dispute regarding the implementation of a "Safe Rates" system and an effective minimum wage that had been agreed between the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MoLIT) and KPTU-TruckSol led to a labour strike starting on 24 November.

In response to the strike the government invoked unprecedented national emergency and anti-strike provisions, refused to engage in social dialogue with the union and ignored urgent communication from the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In doing so the government denied workers fundamental labour rights and has violated international labour laws.

This case sets a dangerous precedent for all workers in Korea. The government's illegitimate use of emergency powers, willingness to engage the military and use the Fair Trade Commission to issue return to work orders to break a legitimate strike is a threat to all workers delivering public services in Korea and damages Korea's reputation internationally.

While the workers have voted to end their strike, we appeal to the government to engage with the union to ensure all workers enjoy the rights they are entitled to, include fair wages, a safe working environment and the right to collectively bargain and take strike action. PSI will continue to work in solidarity with the KPTU, their members and all public services workers in Korea.

Yours sincerely,

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