



NORDIC IN

Oslo and Stockholm, 10 March 2006

H.E. Mr Roh Moo-hyun
President of Korea
Blue House, Seoul
Republic of Korea
E-mail president@cwd.go.kr / president@president.gakr

ARREST OF JEON JAE HWAN

Dear Mr President,

We have been informed by the International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) that Jeon Jae Hwan, president of the Korean Metal Workers' Federation (KMWF) was arrested by police on February 25 at a tollgate in Incheon where he lives. The reason was that he participated in a protest rally on 17-18 December 2005 against the proposed bill on non-regular workers. The unions argue that the law, if adopted, would increase the number of working poor and deepen the social divide between the rich and the poor.

Expressing disagreement with government policies is a basic freedom and a democratic right. We are amazed that the government and authorities of an OECD country like yours time and again attack its citizens attempting to express their views peacefully. Is this the image of Korea that you want to spread around the world?

We know that you, Mr President, were among the leaders of the Democratization Struggles of the 1980's and have declared a philosophy where "the people stand at the centre of power". On behalf of Nordic IN's 23 affiliated unions representing 1.2 million workers in the five Scandinavian countries, we therefore urge you to use your influence to get Brother Jeon Jae Hwan immediately released from the prison and to continue work on making the freedom of expression a reality in Korea.

Yours Sincerely,

Nordic IN

Kjell Bjørndalen
President

Jyrki Raina
General Secretary

cc *Korean Metal Workers' Federation*
Mr Marcello Malentacchi, General Secretary, IMF
Mr Jung Young-jo, Ambassador of Korea in Sweden, fax 660 2818
Nordic IN's affiliated unions