

Resolution No.8

REPUBLIC OF KOREA VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS

The 3rd ITUC-AP General Council Meeting in Cebu, Philippines, on 10-12 November 2009:

EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERNS

at the oppression of trade union movement by the Government of Korea and the deterioration of workers rights in the country, especially over the two pending issues of wage payment to full-time union officials and union pluralism at enterprise level;

NOTES

that the government of Korea has pushed ahead with the enforcement of the Trade Unions and Labour Relations Act (TULRAA) which bans employers from paying wages of full-time officials and tried to forcefully implement a single bargaining channel in case union pluralism is allowed at enterprise level, denying the fundamental workers' rights enshrined in the National Constitution;

STRONGLY BELIEVES

that wage payment to full-time union officials is not a matter of government's interference or coerced legislation but should be left to the discretion of free and voluntary collective bargaining between labour and management;

EMPHASIZES

that the Government's attempt to enforce a single bargaining channel will definitely deprive a large number of small and medium-sized unions of their right to collective bargaining;

DEPLORES

that the government of Korea has continued to suppress trade union movement under the pretext of "advancement of Industrial relations" completely ignoring all the recommendations from international organizations including the ILO and the ITUC;

HIGHLIGHTS

that heavy restrictions on the rights of collective bargaining and collective action of public employees and excessive government interference in union's affairs are a clear violation of fundamental workers rights;

EXTENDS

full support to the Korean workers' struggles led by FKTU and KCTU;

CALLS UPON

the Government of Korea,

- to repeal the provision in the TULRAA on the ban of wage payment to full-time union officials without any further delay
- to immediately stop the attempts to enforce single bargaining channel and guarantee voluntary collective bargaining in case union pluralism is allowed at enterprise level

- to guarantee basic labour rights of government employees and stop oppression of the union
- to stop illegitimate interference in industrial relations in the public sector including the denial of collective bargaining agreements

- to participate in the dialogue and negotiations in a sincere manner on the pending issues including union pluralism and wage payment of full-time union officials
- to immediately stop the attempts to downgrade conditions and unilateral lay offs.