



Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)

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Standing Members

Bangladesh

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK);
Refugee and Migratory
Movements Research Unit
(RMMRU);
Welfare Association of
Repatriated Bangladeshi
Employees (WARBE)

India

Center for Education and
Communication (CEC);
Migrant Forum India (MFI)

Nepal

All Nepal's Women
Association (ANWA);
Women Rehabilitation Center
(WOREC)

Sri Lanka

Action Network for Migrant
Workers (ACTFORM);
Migrant Services Centre
(MSC);
Women and Media Collective
(WMC)

Burma

Federation of Trade Unions –
Burma (FTUB)

Indonesia

Center for Indonesian Migrant
Workers (CIMW); Jarnas
Pekabumi; KOPBUMI;
Migrant Care;
Solidaritas Perempuan;
Serikat Buruh Migran
Indonesia (SBMI)

Malaysia

Charles Hector & Co.;
Tenaganita

Philippines

Batis Center for Women;
Center for Migrants Advocacy
(CMA-Phils); Kapisanan ng
mga
Kamag-anakan ng Migranteng
Mangagawang Pilipino
(KAKAMMPI);
Kanlungan Center Foundation,
Inc. (KCFI); Unlad Kabayan
Migrants Services Foundation,
Inc.

Singapore

St. Francis Workers Centre
(SFWC)

Hong Kong

Asian Migrant Centre (AMC);
Coalition for Migrants Rights
(CMR);
Indonesian Migrant Workers
Union (IMWU)

Japan

Solidarity for Migrants – Japan
(SMJ)

Korea

Joint Committee for Migrant
Workers in Korea (JCMK)

Taiwan

Hope Workers Center (HWC)

To the Government of the Republic of South Korea, Through its Diplomatic Office in Kathmandu, Nepal

We, the Migrant Forum in Asia, a regional network of non-government organizations (NGOs), grassroots associations and trade unions of migrant workers, and individual advocates of the human and labour rights, and welfare of migrant workers, having just convened a regional workshop on 'Migration, Detention and Deportation', here in Kathmandu, Nepal from 9-12 December 2007, having listened to and deliberated on the said theme in various country contexts, express grave concern on the current situation of migrant workers in the region who are currently facing targeted crackdowns, and arbitrary and unilateral decisions on deportations in several host countries.

We, the members of the Migrant Forum in Asia, and partners and participants of the workshop are shocked by the recent arrest of President Kajiman, Vice President Raju and General Secretary Masum of the Seoul-Gyeonggi-Incheon Migrants' Trade Union (MTU) in Korea on 27 November 2007.

The arrest of these leaders, two of whom are Nepal nationals, is an obvious act of direct labor repression against the MTU.

MTU is a trade union by and for migrant workers in South Korea founded in 2005, and is an affiliate of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU). Since its founding, MTU has been at the forefront of a just campaign to win the human and labor rights of migrant workers in South Korea and call attention to the problems with the South Korean government's policy towards migrant workers. The arrest of these leaders is an act of repression against their activities, which include challenging the policy of arbitrary crackdown and detention of undocumented migrant workers, and the grave human rights abuses that arise from it.

In solidarity with the MTU and their struggle we resolve not to remain silent in the midst of gross human and labour rights violations that occur in targeted crackdowns on undocumented migrant workers, which undermine the human dignity of persons and give rise to undesirable situations that threaten the peace and stability of society and the world of work in which migrant workers labour to secure a living wage to support themselves and their families in their countries of origin.

The policy of targeted crackdowns on undocumented migrant workers undertaken by the South Korean government in its attempt to put and end to the activities of the MTU is a gross violation of their labour rights as confirmed by the decision of the Korean High Court on February 2007.

We, therefore call on the South Korean government to meet the following demands.

1. Free President Kajiman, Vice President Raju and General Secretary Masum immediately!
2. Stop the Repression against the targeted crackdown and repression against the Migrants Trade Union!
3. No human being is illegal. Stop the crackdown and deportation of migrants in South Korea!

William Gois
Regional Coordinator

Ellene Sana
Chair, Executive Committee

12 December 2007