

Statement : Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea

The Crisis of Democracy is the Crisis of Migrants.



Member of MFA
Joint Committee with Migrants in KOREA
외국인이주·노동운동협의회

We condemn the government's joint crackdown on undocumented migrants!

The Ministry of Justice has announced that it will conduct a concentrated joint crackdown on undocumented migrants in collaboration with relevant ministries until June, marking the third year of its "Five-Year Plan to Reduce Illegal Stay." Although it has been three years since the Ministry of Justice established this plan, the government's policy towards undocumented migrants has consistently been one of crackdown and deportation even before this. In the process, migrant workers have lost their lives and suffered injuries across the country, yet they have had to remain silent. The government has claimed that it has no choice but to crack down on and deport undocumented migrant workers in order to address the increase in foreign crime and violent crime. Such claims mislead the public into viewing undocumented migrants as serious criminals.

We want to ask: What are the results of the consistent joint crackdowns the government claim have been carried out for the sake of strict law enforcement and the establishment of residency order? Has the consistent implementation of illegal stay reduction policies actually led to a decrease in the number of undocumented migrants? Have citizens' satisfaction levels increased, and has their quality of life improved? Absolutely not. The number of undocumented migrants has steadily increased, and citizens are suffering.



Even before the joint crackdown is implemented, undocumented migrant workers are living in this country of anxiety, as if walking on thin ice. Day and night, without exception on weekends, crackdowns have become routine in areas densely populated by migrants, and anti-foreigner groups are acting as vigilantes, threatening undocumented migrants. Riding on this wave, far-right political forces are inciting discrimination and hatred, causing migrant workers to cry out in despair. Businesses that have employed undocumented migrants due to labor shortages are crying out that they will go bankrupt because of the crackdowns.

We express our deep concern and clear opposition to the government-led joint crackdown on undocumented migrants. The government's joint crackdown will pose a serious challenge not only to the fundamental values of democracy but also to the human rights of migrants. Recently, a horrific incident occurred during a crackdown where a foreign asylum seeker suffered a severe injury, and several fatalities have also been reported. The concentrated joint crackdown led by the Ministry of Justice is foreseeing the occurrence of such dangerous and inhumane incidents. Such tragedies must never be repeated.

We clearly state that such actions are absolutely unacceptable. The concentrated crackdown on undocumented migrants is a dangerous act that undermines human rights and democracy, and we strongly demand its immediate cessation. The Republic of Korea, as a democratic nation that respects the human rights and dignity of all people, must not exclude or discriminate against migrants.

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Joint Committee with Migrants Korea (JCMK)

