

Philip J. Jennings
General Secretary
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Nyon 09.11.2016,

To President Park Geun-hye, South Korea

Dear President Park Geun-hye,

I have received no reply from your office to my letter dated 21.10.2016, respectfully demanding the release of KCTU President Han Sang-gyun and more than 20 other union leaders, wrongfully imprisoned for exercising their constitutional right to protest.

I note that you have apologized for what you describe as “the heartbreaking scandal” surrounding your aide, Choi Soon-sil. May I suggest that in your next apology you include the 20 or more imprisoned union leaders who are facing long prison sentences for simply taking to the streets to protest at anti-union legislation. At the time of writing many thousands of your citizens are similarly on the streets to protest against you and your leadership. I doubt you are in a position to imprison all of them.

It would be a move in the direction of a return to democratic rule in Korea if you were to release the jailed union leaders, including President Han forthwith.

A reminder that this is an urgent matter, not least, because Brother Han is due to receive the prestigious *Freedom from Fear* award in Geneva on 16 November. UNI Global Union’s *Freedom from Fear* awards are highly regarded both by the labour movement and the broader international community. The awards attract a lot of media coverage both in the country of the recipient and the wider international community and it would be highly embarrassing for your country if President Han is not available to receive his award in person.

Therefore, I, with the full backing of the international labour movement, would urge you to immediately review President Han’s case and those of the other trade union leaders wrongly imprisoned.

Please ensure that President Han is able to attend the *Freedom from Fear* awards ceremony in Geneva on 16 November. I respectfully await an early response to this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip J. Jennings'.

Philip J. Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union