H.E. Moon Jae-in

President of the Republic of Korea

Blue House

H.E. Chung Sye-kyun

Speaker of the National Assembly

Seoul, Korea

Via : Im Jong-seok, Presidential Chief of Staff; Cho Kuk, Secretary of Civil Affairs

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Honourable President Moon and the Speaker Chung,

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we would like to extend congratulations to the commitments of your government to restore labour rights and dignity for the working people in Korea.

We take note of the positive steps you have taken to redress the human rights abuses of the previous government including compliance of the administration with human rights standards, and the review of the policies of the police on demonstrations. These measures are in line with the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and should continue with the release of Han Sang-gyun, President of KCTU.

Han Sang-gyun’s detention violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the only remedy, as recommended by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, is his immediate release.

We also hope that without hesitation you adopt the following changes to bring Korea into compliance with international labour norms:

* Dropping of damages claims and provisional seizure against workers for their trade union activity beginning with dropping government damages claims and provisional seizure.
* Ratification of all ILO core conventions, including but not limited to ILO Convention 87 (Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize) and ILO Convention 98 (Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining), with revision of the Korean Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act (TULRAA) for guarantee of fundamental trade union rights
* Reversal of the accumulated abuses of the LEE Myung-Bak, PARK Geun-hye regimes (jeokpae cheongsan), and enactment of the Chaebol reform bill, Ban on union busting bill and Special Act to Develop Korea’s Manufacturing Base.
* Engage with trade unions’ national centers to guarantee the effective implementation of ILO conventions.

We join the call of the international trade union and human rights organisations to urge you to make the above reforms including by pardoning Han Sang-gyun without further delay.

Yours sincerely,