



*Au service des personnes
en mouvement avec son temps*

Montréal, 15th October 2013

H.E. Park Geun-hye
President of South Korea
1 Cheongwadae-ro, Jongno-gu
Seoul
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

By email : president@president.go.kr
 interco209@moel.go.kr

Dear President,

On behalf of the members of the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (Québec, Canada) I am writing to express our serious concern over reports that your government is planning to deregister the Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union (KTU, or JeongGyoJo). We see this as a flagrant violation of international labor standards, and we strongly urge your government to instead give its full support to the right of teachers to freely associate and belong to unions of their choosing – commitments that the Republic of Korea made upon joining the OECD in 1996.

It is very disappointing that the relevant provisions not allowing dismissed workers to keep union membership have been repeatedly criticized by international and domestic organizations, and your Government is using the provisions, which are so desperately in need of revision, to threaten to cancel the union registration of the KTU, a union that has made an effort for education reform and social justice in Korea since 1989. Attempting to abolish this union is not in accordance with international standards and would reflect poorly on the Republic of Korea on an international level.

The next steps that you take will be important ones for public education, civil society and the social dialogue in Korea. We ask you to immediately withdraw any threat of deregistration of the KTU, and we urge you to show the international community that Korea supports its educators, and will not deny their fundamental right to form, join, and freely operate their democratic trade unions.

The president,

Louise Chabot