

Transportation Communications Union/IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Robert A. Scardelletti
National President



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November 28th, 2016

Park Geun-hye
President, Republic of Korea
Cheongwadae
Sejong-ro No. 1, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110-820, Republic of Korea

Dear President Park,

On behalf of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU/IAM), an American labor union and an International Transport Workers' Federation affiliate, I write to express my support of the Korean unions' general strike on November 30th, as well as their demand that you resign immediately.

The right to assemble and freely organize is protected by the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Bill of Human Rights. More recently, the Republic of Korea reaffirmed its commitment to the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work when it adopted the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement. These principles include the freedom of association and collective bargaining, among others. It is therefore disturbing to see your government engaging in anti-labor tactics that contradict the statutes and codes of these groups or treaties/agreements with which Korea has committed.

Your administration has engaged in tactics that the rest of the developed world deems unthinkable: incarcerating trade union leaders for simply conducting trade union activities, raiding trade union offices to intimidate trade unionists, as well as your administration's long-sought goal of undermining Korean labor law to disadvantage workers' voices in your country. Most recently, your government has



been implicated in a scandal to funnel bribes from large Korean corporations to your ally, Choi Soon-sil, in exchange for supporting these anti-labor policies.

Again, the actions carried out by you and your government are in *direct violation* of the many norms, codes, and statutes of the many international organizations and agreements with which Korea is committed.

Our members understand that the right to freely organize is tantamount to personal freedom and liberty – something we respect and uphold in America as a cornerstone of a functioning, vibrant, and fair society. Unfortunately, the time for reconciliation by your administration has long passed, and that is why your resignation is demanded. In the meantime, we offer our unwavering support of the general strike on November 30th as testament to the collective power of men and women across the globe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Scardelletti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "A".

Robert A. Scardelletti
National President