

OLME

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Teachers of the Secondary Education

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## **SOLIDARITY RESOLUTION TO THE S. KOREAN NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC WORKERS**

The E.B. of OLME expresses the solidarity and the support of Greek teachers to the Civil servants of S. Korea and in their effort to acquire a strong and independent trade-union, as well as our solidarity to their struggle for better wages and working conditions.

We condemn the meddling of the government to the trade-unions as well as the invasion in their offices.

For the E.B. of OLME

The President

The General Secretary

Ο Πρόεδρος  
  
Δημήτριος Πελιάς

Για το Δ.Σ. της ΟΛΜΕ  


Ο Γεν. Γραμματέας  
  
Νίκος Παπαγιάννης

For ages, Korean public servants worked as slaves to the ruling regime without basic labor rights. But very recently, 100,000 public workers got together to form a trade union not to serve the regime but to serve the people.

Despite the brutal repression and meddling of the government, they voted to join the KCTU and officially formed the National Public Workers' Union through a delegate conference.

In response, the Lee Myung-bak (LMB) government raided the office of the National Public Workers' Union on December 1, 2009. This is just a couple of hours before the union was reported to file the application for the registration of the union. The only reason for the raid was to find an excuse to deny the application. The LMB government stated that it "searched the office on a charge of committing illegal acts by the National Public Workers Union for participating in the National Workers' Rally and distributing leaflets." However, the National Workers' Rally which was held on November 18 was an annual and the biggest labor event in South Korea. So what they are saying is that it is illegal for public workers to participate in a workers' rally and distribute leaflets.

The right of association for public workers is guaranteed by the constitution. Even recently the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights advised the LMB government to guarantee the right of association for public workers.

In November, the LMB government passed an ordinance for public workers that makes illegal for public workers to oppose the government policies. Considering the fact that government policies have direct effect on public workers' wage, welfare and working condition, this is nothing but an attempt to ban public workers' union activities.

Progressive political parties, trade unions, and social organizations in South Korea have formed a coalition to defend and give solidarity to public workers and teachers.

The coalition is planning to build a resistance against the brutal repression on public workers and teachers. The first concrete step would be to organize a national public workers' rally on December 12, 2009, in protest of the rejection of the application for the union registration and the dismissal of the newly elected chairperson of the union.

We appeal to international progressive parties, trade unions, and social and civic organizations for solidarity.

**The Joint Action Committee to End the Repression against Public Workers and Teachers**

December 3, 2009