Free Han Sang Kyun

On 13 February 2010 Han Sang Kyun, Chairman of Ssangyong Motor Company Union was sentenced to four years in prison for leading a strike against mass sackings. We are campaigning for his release. Send your solidarity letter before Han's final appeal hearing on 9 August 2010.

Ssangyong Strike
South Korea

Workers at the Ssangyong car company were subjected to mass sackings and they occupied the Ssangyong factory in Pyeongtaek in protest.

The company and South Korean government responded with violent police attacks against the strikers and solidarity supporters including the use of chemical agents. They blockaded the workers and denied them food, water and medical aid.

The KCTU conducted a general strike in support of the Ssangyong unionists. The KMWU organised a major solidarity rally attended by 10,000 unionists who marched to the Pyeongtaek factory to support the occupation.

The International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) organised an international solidarity campaign sending protest messages to the South Korean government and support for the KMWU.

On 6 August agreement was reached between Ssangyong Motors management and the KMWU Ssangyong Motors Branch.

The 77-day sit-in strike ended after repeated extremely violent police and company security guard attacks. Many unionists are in hospital. Many are in jail and more are facing charges. The Korean Metal Workers Union, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, the International Metalworkers Federation and the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union are asking all unionists for continued solidarity.

aawl.org.au 11 August 2009

Free Han Sang Kyun

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Motion for your union

Workers are in no way responsible for the capitalist crisis. Companies do not have the right to use mass sackings to deal with their economic crisis, to save their profits while impoverishing workers. Unionists must be able to resist and take industrial action, including strikes, sit-down strikes, picket lines and solidarity action. **Our union demands that Han Sang Kyun be released immediately.**

Send this motion to the Korean government:
http://english.president.go.kr/common/email.php

Send copies to:
Korean Metal Workers Union: inter@metal.nodong.org
Australian Manufacturing Workers Union: amwuvic@amwu.asn.au
International Metalworkers' Federation: info@imfmetal.org
Australia Asia Worker Links: solidarity@aawl.org.au

Ssangyong Solidarity Rally Melbourne 2009

Ssangyong Solidarity Rally Seoul 2009

Solidarity letter

Send this solidarity letter to:
The President, Korean Metal Workers Union inter@metal.nodong.org

Dear comrades

We are aware that comrade Han Sang Kyun, Chairman of the Ssangyong Motor Company Union was sentenced in February 2010 and is still in jail, because of his union activity during the Ssangyong dispute in 2009.

Before his arrest Han Sang Kyun, who was born in 1961, was living with his wife and two school-aged children.

Comrade Han led a 77 day strike and occupation at the Ssangyong vehicle manufacturing plant in protest against mass sackings. The company and South Korean government responded with violent police attacks against the strikers and solidarity supporters.

They blockaded the workers and denied them food, water and medical aid. The strike ended in August 2009.

We need to defend the right of all workers and genuine unions to organise and take industrial action. The occupation at Ssangyong was conducted in response to the harsh policy of sackings to save company profits at the expense of workers' jobs.

We strongly protest comrade Han's continued detention, and we demand that he be freed immediately. We echo your call on the Court of Appeals to find Hang Sang Kyun and his 21 other comrades *not guilty*, and rule in favour of their immediate release. Please let Han Sang Kyun know about our support and solidarity for him, his family and all the members of your union.