

# **Help MTU have its demands met! Prevent more MTU leaders from being arrested**

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Lee Changgeun

International Director

Korean Confederation of Trade Unions

Tel.: +82-2-2670-9234 Fax: +82-2-2635-1134

E-mail: [inter.kctu.org](mailto:inter.kctu.org) Web-site : <http://kctu.org>

2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. Daeyoung Bld., 139 Youngdeungpo-2-ga, Youngdeungpo-ku, Seoul  
150-032 Korea

On Monday, December 5, 2005, migrant workers from the Migrants' Trade Union began occupying the offices of Korea's National Human Rights Commission in protest of a recent decision to uphold the unlawful detention of MTU's president, Anwar Hossain. MTU members and some of their supporters entered the building about about 10am, demanding to speak with the Chief of the KNHRC. They held a rally in his office for about 12 hours, until the Chief agreed to speak with them. In this meeting, MTU members demanded that the KNHRC change their ruling and recommend that the Korean government grant the full release of Anwar Hossain. This meeting was fruitless and went long into the night. Since there was no agreement, MTU has decided that they will stay in the KNHRC indefinitely.

Currently, 10 MTU leaders are occupying the KNHRC offices, and many supporters are there with them. On Tuesday night, they held a small rally in the main office of the KNHRC, with about 50 supporters inside the office with them. The MTU leaders are in an extremely precarious situation. It is possible that without your support, the KNHRC could hand them over to Immigration officials at any time. Please take a moment to send a letter to the chief of Korea's National Human Rights Commission, Cho Young-hwang: [cyh.humanrights.go.kr](mailto:cyh.humanrights.go.kr)

## **Sample letter:**

Dear Mr. Cho,

It has come to my attention that Anwar Hossian, President of the Seoul-Gyeonggi-Incheon Migrants' Trade Union is still in detention at the Cheonju Detention Center just south of Seoul. While in detention, his health has been steadily deteriorating and he has been denied association with people he can communicate with. This isolation is making his mental health suffer in addition to his physical health, and is a form of torture. Furthermore, you found through your own investigation that his arrest was actually illegal because an arrest warrant was not issued within the legal time frame set forth by Korean immigration law.

Mr. Hossain is not a criminal and it is not just treat him like one. I implore you to release Mr. Hossain immediately, pending the outcome of his lawsuit. To do otherwise is clearly politically motivated and an obvious ploy meant to thwart the Migrant' Trade Union organizing efforts.

Yours sincerely,