



October 12, 2016

President Park Geun-hye
Office of the President,
1 Cheongwadae-ro,
Jongno-gu, Seoul 03048, Republic of Korea

Re: Representative Lee Seok-ki Insurrection Conspiracy Case

Dear President Park:

Greetings to you from The United Church of Canada, the largest Protestant denomination in Canada.

It was our privilege in September 2016 to welcome to Canada representatives of the “Korean Committee to Save the Victims of Representative Lee Seok-ki Insurrection Conspiracy Case”. On behalf of The United Church of Canada, I am writing to express concern about this case.

We have become aware that in the fall of 2013, National Assembly Representative Lee Seok-ki and six other defendants – all members of the opposition Unified Progressive Party (UPP) – were arrested and charged on charges of insurrection conspiracy, conspiring to overthrow your government. Although the Supreme Court of Korea found the defendants not guilty of the charge of sedition conspiracy, it convicted Rep. Lee and colleagues on a charge of insurrection conspiracy based on remarks he made to political supporters and for which he has been sentenced to nine years in prison.

We write with concern that this case impedes your government’s efforts to promote democracy and full human rights in Korea, peaceful freedom of expression, and ultimately reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula.

The United Church of Canada has been in long partnership with churches and other bodies in the Republic of Korea. The courageous faith of Korean Christians seeking peace with justice has deepened our church’s own understanding of justice-seeking, expressed in active and peaceful involvement in society. We seek to support and amplify their efforts and those of many others in the Republic of Korea to bring a just resolution to the Representative Lee Seok-ki case.

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The United Church of Canada holds a strong commitment to democratic rights and freedoms, which include the right of citizens to engage in constructive critique of their own governments. The United Church of Canada stands in solidarity with groups and individuals exercising this right in non-violent, peaceful ways.

We urge you to stand firmly for democracy and reconciliation and grant amnesty to Lee Seok-ki and colleagues.

My prayers are with you as exercise leadership on behalf of your nation. May God bless and guide you.

With deep respect,



The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell
Moderator/Moderatrice
The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada

Cc Chung Sye Kyun, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Yang Sung-tae, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea
Kim Hyun Woong, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Korea

Lee Jung Hyun, Saenuri Party Chairman
Choo Miae, The Minjoo Party of Korea, Delegate
Park Jiewon, Interim Chief, The People's Party
Sim, Sang Jung, Leader, Justice Party

Rev Kim Young Ju, General Secretary, The National Council of Churches in Korea
Rev Lee Jae Cheon, General Secretary, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

Mr Han Dong-Geun,
Korean Committee to Save the Victims of Representative Lee Seok-ki
Insurrection Conspiracy Case

Hon. H.E. Eric Walsh,
Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of Korea

Ms Janice Fitchett
Senior Policy Adviser (Korea), Northeast Asia and Oceania Division, Global
Affairs Canada