



# Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union

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Subject: Statement of Solidarity for the French Railway Workers' Strike on March 31

Recipient:

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Dear SUD Rail comrades,

On behalf of the 160,000 members of the Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union (KPTU), and particularly the 20,000 members of the affiliated Korean Railway Workers' Union, we send you this message of solidarity and wishes for success in your national strike, planned for 31 March.

We understand that you are going on strike in response to the government's recent announced a proposal for the SNCF collective agreement, which lowers the social protections. At the same time, you are protesting the government's attempt to pass regressive labour reforms, which would weaken workers' ability to bargain at the industrial level, make it possible for employers to waive company agreements if they claimed economic hardship, make redundancies easier, cut overtime pay and lengthen working time. These are all attacks on French railway workers and the French working class as a whole that cannot be tolerated. We fully support your strike and protest action.

Sadly, situation in France is astoundingly similar to the situation we are currently facing in South Korea. Like the French government, the South Korean government is pursuing regressive labour reforms that would making firing easier, cut wages and overtime pay, extend Korea workers' already extremely long work hours, and increase precarity. As part of the process the government has announced guidelines that make it easier for employers to change workplace rules and is forcing public institutions, like the Korea Railroad Corporation (Korail) to introduce performance-based pay and bases for firing 'low-performing' workers.

Like you the KRWU and other KPTU affiliates in public institutions are preparing for strike action later in the year.

France is known as a country that respects workers' dignity. If the French government's attacks on

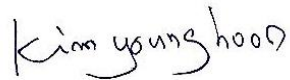
workers' rights, therefore, are allowed to go on, it will surely give strength to the Korean government's labour reform initiative and others like it being pursued around the world. The success of your struggle is, therefore, extremely important, not only to French workers, but to workers in Korea and around the world.

The KPTU and KRWU send you heartfelt solidarity and promise to stand at your side. Let us continue to support each other in the fight ahead!

In solidarity,

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jo Sangsu'.

Sangsu Jo  
President  
Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union (KPTU)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kim Younghoon'.

Younghoon Kim  
President  
Korean Railway Workers' Union (KRWU)