

# ASIAN WORKERS NEWS

NO. 200 아시안 워커스 뉴스

DECEMBER 11, 2005

## What Has Happened to Migrant Workers?

From AWN edition No.100 to No.199

### TUVs' Strike, None of Korean Union's Business?

Trainees, who worked for a local corporation with wages less than half of their Korean co-workers and worked for two consecutive 12-hour shifts were on strike for a reasonable wage and abolition of unreasonable treatment. However, not only did the employer and The Ministry of Labor, which should operate for the protection of all workers, ignore the trainees, but also the trade union didn't take any measures and seemed unconcerned with the strikers' requests. It shows the level of respect for human rights in Korea. (AWN No. 109, July 29, 2001)

### Refugees Refused by Korean Government

How many refugees the Korean government has recognized so far? Surprisingly, the Korean government, as of 2001, has recognized only one refugee. As the government accepted an Ethiopian refugee in February, Korea has now been eliminated from the list of 'non-refugee recognized countries'. However, keep in mind that Korea is a member of UNHCR Executive Committee. (AWN No. 111, August 21, 2001)

### Smuggling Boat Dumps 25 Chinese

It was revealed that crew members of

a fishing boat, which anchored off Daegyeong Island, Yeosu City, in South Jeolla Province, dumped the bodies of 25 of 60 undocumented Chinese migrants into the sea after they had died from suffocation. The other 35 undocumented migrants successfully landed on Daegyeong Island, but the police soon captured them all. The Maritime Police has searched for the 25 bodies, but as of October 15, none of them have yet been found. (AWN No. 115, October 21, 2001)

### Are Migrants' Children Happy Now?

Do you think that every child is happy on Children's Day?

Some children who shunned from parents or societies were not happy on Children's Day. The children of migrant workers are one example. Most couples of migrant workers work 12 hours a day and day and night shifts, so they can't come be with their children even on Children's Day. Their children feel lonely whenever they see Korean children have a good time in amusement parks, mountains, holding hands with their parents. (AWN No. 153, May 18, 2003)

### Shall KCTU Hold MWs' Hands?

The Korean Confederation of Trade Union (KCTU) just moved its first step to share migrant workers' issue. On June 5, KCTU hosted "Campaign for Industrial Trainee System Abolishment & Win Labor Permit System" in front of the KFSB building at Yeoido in Seoul. 50 KCTU members participated in the campaign.

KCTU has insisted to adapt EPS to improve migrant workers condition but frankly it has neglected the issue and acted by saying this, "Even us, Koreans are in difficult situation to live. We have not solved irregular employee issues so how could we put an eye on migrants?". (AWN No. 155, June 15, 2003)

### EPS Passed Finally, But Unwelcomed

On July 31st, the 「Act on Foreign Workers' Employment, Etc.」 passed at the National Assembly. Its meaningful measure is that migrant workers are recognized as legal 'workers' Bilateral

agreement should be made compulsory between labor sending and receiving countries, and undocumented migrant workers legalized. However it still has many problems such as existence of Trainee system, prohibition of workplace transfer even under the EPS, and limited legalization. (AWN No. 159, August 10, 2003)

### Forced Crackdown & Deportation Drive MWs To Death

Sri-Lankan Mr. Tharaka committed suicide due to his undocumented status. Bangladeshi Biku, Russian Andrei, Uzbekistani Burhon and Caine also killed themselves later. After that, Korean-Chinese Kim Won-seop was frozen to death and Bangladeshi Jakaria died of a heart attack while hiding himself to avoid the immigration's crackdown. The government deportation policy has enacted tragedies. (AWN No. 165, November 23, 2003)

### Thai Workers Affected by N-Hexane Never Had Medical Checks-up

It has been discovered that female Thai workers in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi province have not had any medical checks-up, even though they have been suffering from the crippling disease multiple nervous disorder, after becoming affected by the organic solvent N-Hexane. The company they worked for ignored the obligatory medical check-up, which is required under industrial security and health law. These incidents have seen the (MOL) criticized because it has not investigated why this has happened or taken appropriate measures. (AWN No. 188, January 23, 2005)

### MWs Hoist the Flag of Their Trade Union

Migrants Trade Union sailed. On April 24, Equality Trade Union Migrant Branch held a general meeting and decided to disband the current union and declared a new start for the Seoul-Gyeonggi-Incheon Migrants' Trade Union (MTU). About 20 migrant workers participated in the general meeting that day. (AWN No. 193, May 29, 2005) **AWN**

#### EXCHANGE RATES

Date : December 5, 2005

US Dollar is ;

Country	Currency	Rate
Korea	Won	1,034
Philippines	Peso	53.86
Thailand	Bhat	41.00
Indonesia	Rupiah	9,860
Sri Lanka	Rupee	101.93
India	Rupee	46.00
Bangladesh	Taka	65.90
Pakistan	Rupee	59.80
Nepal	Rupee	74.25
Russia	Rouble	28.72
Burma	Kyat	1,180
Vietnam	Dong	15,905
China	Yuan	8.07
Nigeria	Naira	129.15
Ghana	Cedi	9,050

## Voice of FWR

# AWN, We Start Afresh Again with MWs Toward the 300th issue

By Kim Min-jung, Secretary general of FWR

AWN with MWs, now we start afresh again toward the 300th issue.

With publishing AWN 200th issue, various things experienced during AWN work are recalled in my mind.

AWN began to be published in March, 1997.

At that time, it could be realized due to Mr. Jeong Yun-sik who was the first editor of AWN and studied English by self-education, and Tess, from the Philippines, who was the proofreader and working at the English school as a migrant worker in Busan.

AWN has received excessive expectation and affection from readers so far because there has been no other English newspaper for migrant workers in Korea. Although we have poor English expressions, layout skills and insufficient copies due to financial problems, number of migrant workers have greeted freely to AWN which has included news and policy on migrant workers always.

I started work with AWN in its 108th edition in 2001. At first, I felt so hard due to my poor English skills and lack of experience about newspaper work. So I was cruel to myself sometimes. In additional, we were short of translators, and so

English translation work always caused trouble with approaching deadline. However, now the problem has been solved a little because many volunteer translators apply for the work recently.

You can see number the staff members' names on AWN's last page. While I'm a full-time FWR staff member, most of them are company employees or students. They are working as volunteers without any pay and honor, but they always implement their duty sincerely with pleasure. Therefore, I also examine myself as a human rights activist.

If I have a wish, I hope many migrant workers' names be put on the AWN list of staff members. If migrant workers make news directly and report their reality, AWN will be a more alive newspaper and more close to migrant workers. I really hope you not to hesitate to knock on AWN with your opinions and insistence even though you're not on AWN reporter status.

AWN staff members' effort and migrants readers' concern and affection have made AWN realize its 200th edition. I really appreciate all of them. Now, it's time to direct our steps energetically toward AWN 300th edition! **AWN**

## Day Breaking

# I Want to Be with MWs with my Song

Interviewee Yeon Young-suk / Interviewer Kang Mu-ji



Claiming to be a cultural laborer, popular singer Yeon Young-suk sometimes hears desperate calling of Oppa(brother) among crowds. A guitar on his shoulder, he has been singing at strike sites for eight years. Let's hear his brief messages.

**1. There are many songs relevant to migrant worker issues such as <Desperately>, <Korean Dream>, <Mr Lee, you..> and so on. Is there any special reason for it?**

I didn't meant to keep migrant workers particularly in my mind at first but I assume 5 years connection with them brought emotional sympathy. While singing, I realized many reaction differences between native laborers and migrant workers who have less preconception and dynamic in methods of expression. It was awkward at the beginning, perhaps it was language difference, but I soon felt comfortable singing as time goes by.

Often my friends ask me to write a song about migrant workers. Was it because of lack of agony, it was not an easy task. As we built close connection and as my emotion and agony kept growing, I could make the <Korean Dream>. It was like solving a difficult problem all of a sudden to me. <Korean Dream> is the only one I made particularly regarding migrant workers issue. The rest of songs, I have kept singing at strike sites.

**2. Is there any spark or motive when you were making <Desperately>?**

I used to have part-time jobs during the winter, when relatively performances go low in the season, when I needed money. Once I worked at one moulding factory and realized it

was more difficult than I imagined. I missed out on life and felt curious but I fell in deep sleep helplessly when I returned to the dorm.

One day, I felt tightness in the chest and held my guitar. It sounded unusual from most of my playing. I wrote <Bap, boiled rice>, <Desperately>, <Mr Lee, you..> at one sitting.

**3. You majored sculpture in college and changed to journalism and you are now a singing warrior. I assume it was not an easy choice, tell us more.**

It is going to be a long story. I feel ashamed whenever people ask me of my major. I formed an art team and did some art works after graduation but I was filled with social reformative duties other than interest in occupation. So there may be a slight problem to say that I am a writer in ordinary meaning.

Somehow, I could taste the frustration as it is that comes from the real life. This experience gave me a serious chance to look at myself deeply. Music consoled me only when I was in those times of probation. I worried about what to eat in the future and started to think I can sing and make beautiful life and earn as well. Well, here I am now. Of course, I feel I want to do music from time to time whenever I see people playing music.

**4. How do you want your music to be to the listeners?**

Music will influence differently to the person's different situation and condition although it is the same song and I would say it will be right to just listen as one likes but I wish, yes it is only my wish, my music contains deep echo that makes recalling his life and surroundings in his rapid everyday life. **▶Continued to page 5**

# Illegal Crackdown of Anwar from MTU ; NHRC Judges "It's lawful"

When the Immigration Office cracked down on an undocumented migrant worker, without a proper process, then the worker petitioned the National Human Rights Commission(NHRC) of Korea due to illegal controlling of the Immigration ; but the Commission judged that the handling of Immigration Office was lawful and the judgment is causing a dispute.

Anwar Hussein, Chairperson of Migrants Trade Union(MTU) in Seoul, is imprisoned in Cheongju Immigration Processing Center after getting caught during Immigration Office's investigation of undocumented migrants in Korea.

Three days after the imprisonment, Anwar petitioned NHRC saying 1) he was not presented an urgent protection order 2) the protection order was processed by an official at 9th level who is not qualified 3) the protection order was processed after 48 hours of the forced deportation 4) officials used violence against him. Due to these reasons, he stated to the NHRC that he is not legally imprisoned and asked that he be released. NHCR concluded that the protection order that Immigration processed was lawful after several meetings. NHRC advised Immigration Office in Seoul to stop the process of forced deportation due to the lawsuit against MTU.

## Chairperson of MTU in Seoul Imprisoned for 6 Months

The existing Immigration Control Law states that migrants should be issued a protection order from the Director of Immigration Processing Center, and even in an urgent situation, protection order should be issued within 48 hours. The Ministry of Justice issued Urgent Protection Order and processed it under the name of a public official at 9th level. On November 16, the protection order, issued by Immigration in Seoul after examination of forced deportation, was processed after 48 hours.



Photo from Hankyoreh

Lawyer Kwon Young-gook, Anwar's petition representative, criticized the NHRC's decision stating "if the protection order processed by unqualified official is lawful, then the confinement warrant issued by a court's staff, not by a judge is appropriate".

Lawyers for Democratic Society Labor Committee also commented regarding NHRC's inquiry as "protection order processed by unauthorized immigration management official is invalid, and even if a legal protection order is processed, the wrongdoing of protection based on the process by unauthorized official is not to be exempted.

One NHRC member said, "We have reserved our judgment about the validity of the protection order processed by an unqualified official since there are disagreements. Even if the protection order is not effective, the protection order issued after forced deportation is lawful so there is no need to release Anwar." [Hankoyreh, Nov 20, 2005]

# For Legislation on Protection for Korean-born MWs' Children



Korea is rapidly switching over to an aging society of low birthrate. Taking account that Korea is one of the lowest birthrate countries in the world, Korea's decrease in population heralds a shift to a new Korea. Korean women are raising an objection to social pressures into giving birth to more children. In fact, Korea will have been 10,000,000 workers lack of labor force by 2050. Korea would keep a fair rate in population with an inflow of 200,000 people each year.

As 20% of Korea's rural population gets married to a person of other nationalities, the nation is quickly moving to a multi-cultural society. However, Korea's laws and systems have been based on the assumption that Korea is composed of a single race. At this point, the existing law and present system centering on personal principle are causing unpredictable problems. Things are not what they used to be. Laws and systems abreast with the times must be established without delay.

1) Korea-born children are not undocumented stayers.

How can children be undocumented stayers? They have no experience in crossing the border into Korea and having their passports and visas. Then, are they born undocumented stayers? Children who are born in this country should have the right to live in the country. As migrant workers increase, the Korean system of nationality reaches its limitations.

The nationality system of the personal principal is the legal system in old days and is not appropriate to this period without borders. Children born within the country should be granted permanent residency and should be allowed to choose their nationality at the age of 18.

▶Continued to page 4

# Congratulations! 200th edition of AWN!

## From AWN Readers

I met AWN first when I came to the office of FWR a year ago. Since then, I have read many issues about migrant workers through AWN. Especially, it was helpful to keep in touch with the news about migrant workers in Korea. I wish that AWN be always essential newspaper for migrant workers.

- *Rai Suman, Nepal*

Because there are not many English-printed newspapers in Korea, it is not easy to get useful information for us migrant workers in Korea. Moreover, I can't meet newspapers for migrant workers except AWN. Therefore, AWN is a very important source of information for migrant workers. I know the laws about migrant workers, the news about migrant workers' situation, and the exchange rate through AWN. Thus, I bring AWN to my roommates whenever AWN is printed.

- *Bishwa, Nepal*

I think that AWN emphasizes peace and equality as FWR does. Such a newspaper truly takes a role to support migrant workers. Nevertheless, I want to point out some problems and suggest something. First, please increase pages of AWN and print more frequently. It's not easy to deal with many topics such as laws, situations of migrant workers, and so on properly in limited pages and occasional prints. Second, I want to point out the over briefness of 'counseling' articles. Just stories about laws can't contribute to solution of our problems. We want more rudimentary things like what MOL (Ministry of Labor) is, where it is, and what we should do first in MOL. Another problem is the ambiguous and inscrutable English expressions. Please help migrant workers to understand by using the easiest English. - *Yoyon, Indonesia*

Although I tend to read AWN superficially because I am not good at English, many friends of mine enjoy reading AWN.

► *From page 3*

2) Schoolchildren under age should not be allowed to be deported from the country.

Are migrant workers' children guilty enough to be a target of control and deportation? Migrant workers' schoolchildren are allowed to receive formal school education by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources even though they are undocumented stayers' children. On the other hand, foreign workers' children under age are a subject of deportation. Children at least under age should not be allowed to be deported forcefully. They should be given a way to stay in Korea legally by means of permanent residency. Children under age are not supposed to work. From a humane point of view, they should be allowed to study without fear.

3) Migrant workers' children should be given a way to stay in Korea legally.

Ha Yeong-kwang (age 6) was told by his father to go to with him to his father's country Sri Lanka. However, the six-year-old boy cried and said, "I don't know Sri Lanka. I was born in Korea. I have my friends here in Korea.

I'll stay in Korea. I'm not going to Sri Lanka." Yeong-kwang was born in Korea and is getting along with other Korean children in a child care center. He looks different in appearance, but thinks and behaves in the same

Many of them call me and ask again and again whenever they read about even slight changes of policies for us in AWN. I think AWN is a unique magazine for migrant workers in Korea. I want AWN to report many issues for migrant workers, and to let Koreans understand our conditions. Finally, I celebrate the 200th publication of AWN! - *Shagor, Bangladesh*

First of all, it's a great pleasure to congratulate AWN on its 200th edition. It's very great to know that you have come such a long way. AWN is very interesting and a special newspaper for all Asian laborers because it educates us about Korean rules, Labor Laws and current migrants' news and also about situation of Asian countries. This is a very big support for the laborers. I must congratulate the editor, proofreaders, translators and reporters on your difficult task so far. And I'd like to suggest that it will be better if you publish interesting news about daily incidents in Asian countries in your newspaper. I hope you get all the courage to continue this great program.

- *Guruge, Sri-Lanka*

I am very glad to be a regular reader for the last two years of AWN which is very informative and helpful for migrant workers. and its other importance is it's also in different languages. First, I would like to congratulate the editor and its staff on AWN's 200th edition. who have contributed to improving healthy labour climate in each publication. We hope that they continue to be concerned with rights and duties of workers. This newspaper has played a great and vital role in making life of migrant workers with the Korean culture and tradition. and has protected human rights from violation in the industrial environment. I'd like to express gratitude to all those concerned with the publishing. I hope it is established as a status of civil workers. so that its remarkable achievement becomes great as ever. - *L.B.Bist, Nepal* **AWN**

way with other Korean children. It is unreasonable for children to be regarded as illegal stayers for their parents are an undocumented stayers.

Now, we Koreans need to divert our thought that Korea-born children and migrant workers' children could be a subject of deportation and an undocumented stayer. We should let them stay in Korea legally by revising the laws on resident rights.

<Claims>

1) Korea-born children are not an undocumented stayer. Allow them permanent residency.

2) Migrant workers' children under age should go to school without fear. Allow them permanent residency.

<The future agenda>

1) We form a committee and drive forward legislation on protection of resident rights of Korea-born children and migrant workers' children.

2) We receive application for protection of legal stay in Korea from Korea-born children and migrant workers' children.

3) We drive a campaign to obtain signatures for legislation on protection of resident rights of Korea-born children and migrant workers' children.

*(Announced by Ansan Migrant Shelter and 92 social and civic groups)*

# Thank you for AWN Readers' Support

## From AWN Staff Members

**200th?! Already?!?** I can still remember the lone-page first issue of AWN... now, it's multi-paged and multi-language, too. We sure have gone a long way. We couldn't have reached this point if we didn't have the same strong desire in common, to inform migrant workers in Korea. Congratulations to us! And to all our readers, thank you for your continuous support.

- Tess Manangan, Proofreader and Writer

I have joined AWN work as a translator since 6 years ago. Wow, the time is so fast! For 6 years, I have finished my post graduate course, gotten a job, gotten married and given birth to two pretty babies...so many things have happened to me while being a member of AWN. Hope to be together until publishing AWN 300th edition.

- Kim Hoe-ran, Translator

It's already been 8 years AWN published since 1998. (I also very surprise about it!). AWN has made by volunteer staff members' effort with various stories on each issues so far. However, I hope AWN will be useful newspaper with delivering important message to migrant workers in Korea such as welcome rain. - Bae Ji-na, Translator

Expecting another double zero anniversary without any bad news, along with every reporter's good health.

- Sangwhan Shin, India correspondent

Hello from Australia, where industrial relations laws are being decimated in favour of employers. All the rights that workers & unions have fought so hard for over the past century, and which many take for granted these days, will be taken away by the Howard government. Paid holidays, paid sick leave, paid overtime and paid maternity leave, amongst others, will soon only be granted to those who can stand up for themselves & bargain hard with employers. So as a proud member of the AWN team, I say in this, the 200th edition of AWN, "The workers united will never be defeated!"

- Cassandra Beardsley, Proofreader and Writer

Congratulations on the 200th issue of AWN. I can't even imagine how many people toiled and got through hard times together until the 200th issue. I hope that someday AWN reports only hopeful stories.

- Kim Min-ju, Translator

Because I viscerally think that the main reason for many ambiguous English is, I felt sorry after reading Yoyon's suggestion, especially for the indication about awkward English expressions. I promise to do my best for migrant workers' lucid understanding of AWN. It is my privilege to provide useful information to migrant workers. It's been a year already since I started to translate AWN. Congratulations to the 200th edition of AWN! - Koo Won-hoe, Translator

I have joined AWN not for so long time, but I have realized migrant workers' situation in Korea more and more after I joined it as a translator. I will do my best more^\_^

- Lee So-min, Translator

Congratulation AWN 200th edition~!! I hope migrant workers get useful information from AWN and also hope to make a better future together!

- Kim Jung-yeop, Translator

As soon as I joined AWN work as a reporter, I could meet AWN migrants readers through 200th edition. I hope that this fortune continues until next year and I also hope I can communicate deeply with more Asian friends!

- Kang Mu-ji, Writer

I expect that many happy news will be published on AWN ahead instead of desperate news with ages.

- Park Soon-boon, Translator

I have learned more things doing AWN translation work than I've helped the newspaper. I will do my best ahead!

- Park Hae-in, Translator **AWN**

►From page 2

### 5. Do you have any migrant worker friend in your memory?

Samar, Bidhu, and Jahid. They all participated in migrant workers movement and were deported. Bidhu had strong leadership and responsibility with deep thought. Samar played a leader of Myeongdong Sit-in Rally and had warm and embracive power. He has been involved in migrant workers related works in Nepal after deportation. Jahid cried a lot after strike. After quarrelling with a Korean citizen, he was taken by the police and deported.

### 6. How are you getting along these days?

I am glad some places still need me. Mostly I do performance. The rest of my time, I practice and do something about music. I love to play games to run away from too many complicated thoughts. I barely did my work after finishing the third album and I started again lately.

### 7. Picture yourself after 10 years.

I used to urge myself with such imagination only a few years before. I don't give such thought lately. I tried to concentrate and fulfill the present and it is always difficult. I don't know where I would go for 10 years. I may start sculpture again or make animated movie, with light action,

which I'm eager to do once or maybe I would be seduced by one bad(?) girl and do social service. Who would know?

### 8. Do you believe you achieved your dream? If you don't, what your dream remaining behind?

It is odd. Am I too greedy? Or my dream continuously evolves by itself? I never felt I have finalized my dream not, even once.

For music, if I continue music, I am still insufficient with my music so I wish to write good music and do better playing than as I do now. One more. hold performance on a comfortable stage with close musicians frequently and possibly get wet after performance. Will it be possible?

### 9. Please make any comments to our subscribers, mostly migrant workers.

Let's be healthy. Health is the super power to maintain your life in a far away country. Eat well.

Korean society may still be a rather stubborn country to live with but don't forget to remember that you are a very important member of this society and needed. Work with pride and get self-esteem to fight.

Stop Crackdown!! Achieve Labor Right!! **AWN**

# Aliens in a Romantic Country

By Dee Sa  
France Correspondent

Around 14 months have passed since I came to France. The mother country of the Worldcup soccer team emblazoning a design of rooster on their chests, a romantic country changing the Eiffel tower to a code of common sense from a code of tourism, a stage for an icon of the French movies, Brigitte Bardot, who does not try to understand cultural differences between South Korea and her country by putting a fur coat of wild life protectionism on the naked body of racial discrimination, a host injecting a shot of romanticism making people buy extremely expensive wine and cuisine on a special day compared unfavourably to South Koreans of South Korea. One year later, the appetite on romanticism is finally about to drop off the end of my tongue.



In this romantic country, recently there is an unexpected incident bringing an alert on security to other countries. It is quoted by South Korean Media as saying 'French Riot'. When I first saw the words, I could not realize what they mean. I could have not made sure that it is because of whether my zealot to French language or a state of dementia caused by the dramatically reduced intake of rice.

Maybe it would be because of the wide-ranging gap between the exaggeration of South Korean and other countries' media especially the U.S media and the reality of the French society that I feel virtually in France. The trend of the media in the world confusing a reality with a fiction makes me do not figure the words out I finally made a conclusion.

To describe France, media used to use the words Freedom, Equality and Philanthropy. Recently, the pompous U.S media are not shy to say that the U.S capitalism prevail France equipped with socialistic social structure and system. The U.S media's confidential and cross-grained punch seems to come from considering the prevalence as the second round after the first one on the Iraq war. The U.S media also pointed out that the riot in France is a telling sign of addressing the issue of equality for a 'real' equality. It is right. But it is not a hidden card for criticising just France but a longstanding problem all countries around the world should address.

Countries tend to have a politically unique headache. In France, a representative right wing headache of France Nicolas Sarkozy poured oil into the flame, and it became bigger and bigger by the silence of the left wing headaches. The brother of a boy who passed away and Muslims have suggested that raise their voices to protest against France, and people in the outskirts of the cities where African people gather to live have gotten anger at the remark - "Some trashes...".

France fights dampers of social disparities, smaller windows to have a chance, higher joblessness and higher migration rate. Ironically it has a leading soccer team consisted of players from colonies like Algerian Zinedine Zidane, Thierry Henry from Martinique. Though showing perfect harmony in its soccer team, getting a momentum from the multiracial



structure, could the country get a success in creating its 'own' harmony? Does the cause of the socialistic structure of France put a line to stay migrant workers and strangers at bay, does not it?

As usual I listen to radio by MP3 on my way to school. I could listen to the news 20 days after the riot occurred that burned cars have been reduced to normal level and no police have been wounded. During the riot, as much as 3,000 cars have been burned out and hundreds of people have been arrested. Are more than 100 cars normal? Well I have seen car-burning incidents twice at the parking lot of my dormitory. It happened in a way to break windows to put a bottle grenade into cars. It could be considered as a heavy crime in South Korea so it makes me stunned.

I heard lament news about the riot from my acquaintances that Asian as well as French who were socially deprived were attacked by the deprived. Sarkozy who is Hungarian Italian looked down on Magrebin and African people, which could be seen as a newly emerged conservative behavior. However, the chronic racial discrimination is not new and not the aftermath of the riot. It is a longstanding trouble, and it could be more than 'more than one hundred'.

Foreigners accounting for France population over 5,000,000 and the higher unemployment rate caused by the ruin of the labour-intensive industry. But the most serious problem is depriving fundamentally a chance to be hired and to be well-educated from what so called aliens. France president Jacques Chirac who had not easily open his mouth on the riot was pressed by public opinion to announce a policy for creating jobs only several days after the incident happened. However, there seems to be no one who thinks the policy could address the issue in France. Its appearance seems to be for inclusiveness of the multi-culture, but its mind seems to be for racial discrimination. The discordance makes people putting their foot on the land of France feel concerned.

Due to the internet, I could do surfing around South Korea only for a year and four months. Watching news about APEC on the computer screen, I was more disappointed about the news than the riot of France. Watching the host city of Busan pandering to powerful guests home and abroad and driving the poor out from the streets, I raise a question - 'Why does South Korea not welcome 300,000 migrant workers on South Korea like it?'.

South Korea is pouring its money into creating an attractive image for foreigners like the romantic image of France. The image would be changed into drops of tears of migrant workers who had moved into South Korea for another romantic chance to live better off. It is difficult for the aliens to live romantically in the romantic country, and it appears to be more difficult for us to see South Korea as the real romantic country. If it is, there is no aliens on this land.

**AWN**

## 2005 Census Carry Out but Many Difficulties with MWS

According to the Korea National Statistics Office and the Ministry of Justice on Nov. 11, foreigners in Korea numbered 150,000 as of 2 000. As influx of migrant workers has increased for the last five years, registered foreigners in September were 471,000.

As of the end of September, undocumented migrant people were estimated as 187,900 (at the age of 16~60), a considerable number of those live in industrial areas such as Ansan, Siheung, Yangju and Namdong-gu, Incheon.

Though undocumented migrant people who have stayed in Korea over three months were also subjects of research, they refused to answer it because they were reluctant to expose their identities.

In Ansan adjacent to Banwol Industrial Complex, where 30,000 migrant workers live, 83.2% of questionnaires were collected. However, only 67.3% were recovered in Wongok-dong where many migrant workers live.

Commissioner Oh met researchers in Wongok-dong, heard their difficulties in taking census in this area and discussed measures including securing interpreters.

In Namdong Industrial Complex in Incheon where 10,000 migrant workers in 2,900 business places are employed, a number of researchers increased from 12 to 16. However, some business owners also avoided opening migrant workers' list.

Accordingly, municipalities persuaded business owners that there would be no disadvantage in answering questionnaires, the result was not satisfying.

A person related to Sihwa Industrial Complex in Siheung said, "Last weekend staff of the Ministry of Justice came to the complex and cracked down on undocumented migrant people. Ahead of APEC, a stronger crackdown is expected, so they are more reluctant to take the census."

The census department of the Statistics Office revealed that they asked the Ministry of Justice to reduce crackdown during the period of census but there was difficulty because of their different points of view.

*<Yonhap News> November 11, 2005*

## Restaurant Owner, Donated 1,000 Heads of Cabbage Kimchi

A person made kimchi from a thousand heads of cabbage and donated them to migrant workers for their long and lonely winter in Korea.

Im Yong-kil, 63, owner of Yangpun Bibimbap Restaurant, who provided Yangpun Bibimbap to needy people for six years, gave the kimchi to migrant workers in Migrant Worker's House in Garibong-dong, Guro-gu on November 26 and 27.

Forty members of Yangpunsok Saranghoe, a volunteer's group and staff of Chohung Bank, a sponsor, participated in this event.

Lim has provided 300 portions of Yangpun Bibimbap, steamed rice with mixed vegetables in a brass bowl, to migrant workers in the House twice a month for the last five years.

For six years he has provided lonely neighbors and senior citizens with Yangpun Bibimbap in welfare centers and migrant worker's house.

A person at the House thanked him for giving them Kimchik and his voluntary activities so far.

*<Yonhap News> November 26, 2005*

## Leukemia-Hit Son Saved His Life in Korea

A leukemia-hit son of a woman migrant worker from Uzbekistan was cured by a Korean medical team.

Kim Luba, 36, taught Korean language in Uzbekistan. After failing a marriage, she came to Korea. She taught Korean language to people from CIS and worked in a pub at night.

While being busy with her daily life, she heard that her son, Cho, Alexandro, 14, had leukemia and he only could live for two months.

"I brought him to Korea. Medical technology in Uzbekistan far lags behind that in Korea."

Since they came to Korea, they looked around for every medical support center. They heard about a medical support system for migrant workers in the 'Jubilee Medical Insurance' and Alexandro could get medical treatment in Asan Hospital.

His treatment is so far so good, and he will be fully recovered if he finishes the fifth treatment well by next March. If leukemia does not hit him again, the probability of recovery is 70%. They will not need to live in desperation.

"My son had only two months to live, but he is still with me. I'm sincerely thankful for saving his life."

Migrant workers are our neighbors though their skin color is different from us. Humanitarian concerns and efforts to keep migrant workers health could save his life.

*<Pay News> November 28, 2005*



*The Solidarity for Palestine Peace open a rally for Palestine's human rights in front of Israel Embassy on December 6.*



*Ralliers show their Banner against APEC which expand that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer on November 17.*

# Korean Govt. Taming Bangladeshi Trainees



By Seon Kyong, FWR counselor

*This is translated from the Bangladesh article in Protom Alo (First Light), which is people's magazine, issued on November 20, 2005*

## The new conditions to send workers to Korea

The Korean government permitted Bangladeshis to get into Korea as trainees, on condition that Bangladeshi workers shouldn't make a labor union and protest against the policy of the Korean government. The Bangladesh embassy in Seoul was told that Bangladeshi trainees will not be accepted if the embassy can't prevent antigovernment activities.

In addition, a Bangladesh trainee should not spend over 182,000 Taka (Korean currency, approximately 3 million won) getting into Korea. If the requirement is not accepted, the Korean government will suspend import Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Recently, the Korean government requested 4 job-recruiting agencies in Bangladesh, "Orbital," "Roksyta," "Silver Line," and "Unique", to respectively send 50 trainees, in total 200 workers under the condition that each of the trainee should not spend over 3 million won including a flight ticket, insurance, medical check-up and Korean-learning tuition. The government addressed that if the companies take more than that, all of the 4 agencies will be registered on the black list. That is based on the document that the Korean government sent to the Labor Ministry of Bangladesh.

The Korean government gave an account that recruiting agencies in Bangladesh charge 800,000~1,200,000 Taka (about 8 million won~13 million won) per person. Because of the financial burden, Bangladesh trainees coming to Korea do not work at the contracted workplace but move to another to get a higher paycheck. The unreasonable expenses is aggravating the circumstances.

In fact, the more Bangladeshi undocumented workers Korea have, the more distressful the employer is, because they need to get registration and permission from the Korean government to hire migrant workers. The government pointed out that Bangladeshi workers come to Korea with 2-year visas but they stay and work here for 7~8 years.

Antigovernment activities against Korean government carried out by Bangladeshi workers have become a social issue, because they hold many protest rallies. Although the activities of labor unions are illegal, Bangladeshi workers hold antigovernment meetings or seminars. Even worse, sexual crimes occurred. However, workers who stay legally for over 3 years, they can make a labor union.

The Korean government stated it will strongly respond to antigovernment protests of the Bangladeshi workers if they continuously occur.

An officer at the Bangladesh embassy advised that if Bangladesh workers are not heedful from now on, the Korean government will stop introducing Bangladeshi workers and instead induce workers from China, India, and other countries. The Bangladesh minister in charge of immigration accepting the requirement of the Korean government, asked the recruiting agencies to follow it and requested the job seekers not to spend over 182,000 Taka. **AWN**

## My bone broken again during work

**Q** I'm Nguyen from Vietnam, an undocumented worker. In 2003, my bone was broken in a traffic-accident. Then, it was broken again in 2004, because I had to shift many heavy burdens in my company. However, my boss said the second accident was also a personal accident, not an industrial one, so I wasn't paid treatment fee and salary. Now, I must have an operation for removing pins fixed on my bone. I have exhausted all my money for treatment, and as I can't work, I can't make money. I also don't have medical insurance. What can I do?

**A** Even though you got your personal accident in the past, the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance can be applied to you if your doctor would say that your bones were broken again by hard working. After application, as it would be permitted, your treatment cost and salary would be covered. Surely, your boss may reject this process, but even though your boss won't agree, you can apply to the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance. It's every laborer's right. If you don't know the process of applying to the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance, call a counsellor's office or the Korea Labor Welfare Corporation. (☎1588-0075)

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