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Mr. Kim Ynag Soo
CEO
Jeju Free City Broadcasting System (JIBS)
Jeju Free City
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Respecting the Rights of Jeju Broadcasting Workers

Dear Sir,

UNI MEI Global Union representing over 140 media and entertainment unions worldwide and its affiliated broadcasting workers unions are writing you to express our support for the NUMW-JIBS Workers Union's strike over better working conditions for fair broadcasting in the Jeju Island.

As we understand, the union took strike action in response to by you and senior management of Jeju Free City Broadcasting System breaching the collective bargaining agreement. The media workers of JIBS have the lowest wage among terrestrial broadcasting in Korea as well as production environment. Further, JIBS fails to implement the Labour Standard Acts such as the provision on maternity protection of women. Thanks to the hard work of workers and under bad working conditions, JIBS has accumulated W32billion. We note that JIBS invests in real estate, but is not investing to improve the working conditions and the production environment.

Further, we are very much concerned with the situation of editorial independence within JIBS. As we understand, management has intervened and prevented the distribution of new items or has changed their content. Such behaviour is contrary to the values of democracy and the public mission of JIBS. It does not only disregard the rights of citizen to access information but also hurts the reputation among its viewers and is disrespectful of the work and ethos of journalists and all media workers.

We call on you and the management of JIBS to respect the public mission and editorial independence. We urge you to seek sustainable solutions to all issues raised by workers and their union during the strike. The resolution of the strike, which has lasted for over two months, needs to be achieved by dialogue with NUMW-JIBS all for workers to return to work with a fresh start.

We convey our respect to NUMW-JIBS workers who are working for journalists and media workers. We call upon you to have a sincere dialogue with the union and resolve the issues as soon as possible.

Looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Studinger'.

Johannes Studinger
Head of UNI MEI

Cc: Chris Ng, UNI-APRO Regional Secretary
Jay Choi, UNI Korea Desk Coordinator
Kim Hwan-Kyun, NUMW President

UNI global union

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