

Kan'nama in Osaka Superior Court

The police and the public prosecutor's office have been working together to file a criminal case against the Kansai Namakon branch of the All-Japan Construction and Transport Workers' Union (Zen Nikken), an affiliate of the Peace Forum, for attempted extortion, attempted blackmail and obstruction of business. The police and prosecutors in the two prefectures of Osaka, Otsu, Kyoto and Wakayama have falsely convicted 81 union members in four district courts (all of which have been appealed). These judgments have been severely criticized as "ignorance and lack of understanding of the activities of industrial trade unions" (Kunio Miyazato, lawyer). It must be said that these judgments are extremely vicious and ignorant judgments that neglect the rights of workers and trade union members, who are placed in a weak position in labour-management relations, by skeletonising the guarantee of fundamental labour rights in Article 28 of the Constitution and the criminal immunity (legitimate union activities are not subject to criminal punishment) in Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the Trade Union Law. In the midst of a major regression in the substance of the rights of workers to organise and dispute, which have been built up by our predecessors, the Peace Forum has raised a nationwide campaign of support for this extremely serious violation of human rights. We have decided to request the Osaka High Court, which is in charge of the appeal trial, to submit our signatures and to encourage understanding of the trade union movement and to make a fair decision, as follows. Although the situation is extremely difficult in the wake of the Corona disaster, we would like to ask for your participation so that the voices of as many unions and movement organisations as possible can be heard.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/KANNAMAnews>

Sanken Electric (Korea) dispute

On July 20, the Osaka Union Network organized a protest action against the Osaka branch of Sanken Electric. The protest action in front of the Osaka branch, which started in December last year, has been carried out approximately once a month. However, in the meantime, Sanken Electric has forced the dissolution of Sanken Korea and the dismissal of all workers in January, and the state power has unjustly arrested the members of the citizens' group supporting Sanken Korea in front of the head office in Saitama Prefecture in May.

The state authorities have been harshly repressing the upsurge in the struggle to strengthen solidarity between Japan and South Korea. In the action in front of the Osaka branch this time, all the speakers who took part in the action were unanimous in their condemnation of the combined attack of the police and the company, which is still keeping their colleagues in prison without releasing them, and appealed for the necessity of fighting against this. Workers' unions not only from Osaka but also from Kyoto and Hyogo came to the meeting, and there were always many colleagues from the citizens' movement. The 16 dismissed workers of the Korean Sanken Union are still fighting with great enthusiasm and without any discouragement. At the moment we are not able to travel back and forth between Japan and Korea because of Corona, but we hope to fight together, shoulder to shoulder, in the near future. The next action will be held on Wednesday 25 August at 12:00 in front of the Osaka branch of Sanken Electric (Meiji Yasuda Seimei Osaka Umeda Building). In addition, a protest by the Osaka Citizens' Association in support of the Korean Sanken Union will be held at 11:45 on Wednesday 18 August. Let's rally many people together!

Machine translation of article appearing in Osaka Zenrokyo August news.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ouhikXiRSnMZyf-1pSxRhanLChJwISJ/view?usp=sharing>

Sanken Electric Arrest - We demand the swift release of Mr. Ozawa

Four months have passed since Mr. Takashi Ozawa was wrongfully arrested in front of the main gate of Sanken Electric Co. Even though he has already been indicted, Mr. Takashi Ozawa is still under unjustified and prolonged detention with no access to him at Niiza Police Station, a substitute prison.

On 20 January this year, Sanken Electric forced the unilateral closure of Sanken Korea and the dismissal of all employees, and the Sanken Korea Workers' Union has been bravely fighting for the withdrawal of the disguised closure and dismissal.

On May 6, the Gyeongnam Labor Relations Commission of Korea issued a "recommendation for discussion and settlement" to the labor and management, but we could not get in touch with the president of Kankoku Sanken. Therefore, Mr. Takashi Ozawa, the deputy secretary-general of the Association to Support the Workers' Union of Sanken Korea, was the one who requested in front of the main gate of the head office of Sanken Electric to inform the recommendation of settlement of the Labour Relations Commission on behalf of his colleagues of the Workers' Union of Sanken Korea who could not come to Japan due to the Corona disaster.

The prolonged detention of Mr. Koji Ozawa, who has a chronic illness, for more than 130 days is not only worrying for his health, but also for his wife, who is still battling breast cancer after undergoing an operation after his arrest.

We would like to ask for your cooperation in signing the petition (individual and group signatures) calling for the early release of Mr. Takashi Ozawa.

Due to these circumstances, the date for collecting signatures has been shortened, and we ask for your understanding in this matter.