

Informative materials re. Mr Baek Nam-gi, a Korean farmer

Translated by IUF Korea

1. Petition

Background and demand

On 14 November, police, without any legitimate reason, banned People's Rally 130,000 demonstrators gathered and violate freedom of assembly by setting up the police bus wall that was ruled to violation of the Constitution by the Supreme Court.

It was outrageous that police was shooting high pressure water cannon mixing high levels of capsaicin targeting directly demonstrators' face at the Rally.

Therefore, a 69 year-old farmer, Mr BAEK, Nam-gi remains unconscious at a hospital after he fell down and injured his head as police doused him with water cannon. When other demonstrators struggled to drag him away and to put him in the ambulance, police continued to fire water cannon from atop police buses. Other participants also got severely injured burn, bone fracture and eyeball bleeding.

Police crackdown on demonstrators was definitely regarded as a murder attempt.

Therefore, we demand while wishing him complete recovery as follows;

1. NPA Commissioner General must step down being responsible for murderous crackdown and those concerned must be punished
2. President Park Geun-hye must apologize this murderous crackdown

2. Biography of Mr Baek Nam-gi (Immanuel)



August 1947 - Born in Woongchi-Myeon Boseong-gun South Jeolla Province, Korea

March 1968 - Entered Chung Ang Univ.

October 1971 – 1st expelled from Univ. due to demonstration violating Garrison Decree (under the Military government of Park Jung-hee, a father of the existing president)

October 1971 – leading a demo against military gov't

Year 1974 to 1975 – escaped to Myeongdong Cathedral due to fugitive warrant

Year 1975 – Joined a student union and got 2nd expelled from Univ.

March 1980 – Reinstated to Univ. and led democratic movement under martial law as a student leader until August

July 1980 – Permanent Expelled from Univ.

August 1980 – Sentenced two-year in prison at a military tribunal for violation of martial law

March 1981 – Release on parole as a special grant on Independent Day

Year 1981 - Homecoming to Boseong to be a small farmer (rice-farming, dairy, dry-field farming)

November 1981 - Married

Year 1983 - Restored rights to political activity

Year 1986 - Joined Corea Catholic Farmers' Movement (CCFM)

Year 1987 - Elected as a chair of CCFM Boseong & Goheung council

Year 1989 - 1991 - Elected as a chair of CCFM-South Jeolla Association

Year 1992 – 1993 - Elected as a vice chairperson of CCFM nationwide

Year 1992 - Initiator of reviving local wheat campaign/drive at South Jeolla Province

Year 1994 - Elected as a co-chair of reviving local wheat campaign/drive at South Jeolla Province

Year 2014 - Chair of fellow group of CCFM, a senior group for advice

Year 2015 - Consultative member of reviving local wheat campaign/drive at South Jeolla Province

14 November 2015 - At the People's Rally he was fallen by murderous police water cannon and remains unconscious. Now he's desperately struggling to recovery in the Seoul National Univ' Hospital



87년 고흥 해청만 염수피해 보상투쟁(고흥군청, 경찰서앞) 농성

Figure: In 1987, sit-in struggle for compensation to recover damages from salt water in Goheung, South Jeolla Province



Figure: Performing a traditional musical instrument, Jing at the village festival



3. The Farmers' Rally on 14 November 2015

- Why the farmer, Mr Baek Nam-gi joined the Rally

We can't be alive! Let us turn over (the soil)! Crying farmers

We can't stand under the neo-liberal open farm policy

- ignoring farmers by forcing farmers' sacrifice and be alive at the situation deprived from farmers' right to decent life
- collapsing agriculture
- getting farm village/rural area isolated more and more

4 Aims for the Farmers' Rally

- No to rice import for the purpose of cooked rice and secure rice price!
- No to FTA-TPP killing every farmer!
- Winning state purchase system of basic agri products to secure farm prices
- Defeat forthcoming General Election candidates breaking faith with farmers

10 Demands at the Farmers' Rally

- Stop rice import for cooked rice and segregate low price imported rice (TRQ)
- Stop FTA ratification at the National Assembly and stop an attempt to join TPP
- Secure rice prices in a way to send rice to North Korea and implement farm exchange visit btw South and North Korea
- Lee Dong-phil, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs who promote selling US imported rice must resign
- Settle farmhouse debt and reduce a police rate to 1 percent
- Secure women farmers' legal status and establish a body exclusively to deal with their concerns
- Stop right now an attempt to promote commercializing GM crops and dissolve a task force team to develop GM crops
- Secure environment friendly cost of agriculture products and implement a fair compensation scheme about contribution of environment and ecology
- Defeat forthcoming General Election candidates breaking faith with farmers