

World March of Women Declaration: Deportation of activists acting against the G20 summit in South Korea

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On the 11th and 12th November the fifth meeting of the G20 will take place in Seoul, South Korea. Made up of 19 "developed" and "emerging" nations (United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, South Korea, Russia, China, India, Indonesia, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Australia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Turkey) and the European Union, the G20 emerged in 2008 as a new "power structure" aiming to fix the capitalist system shaken by the financial crisis, without the participation of majority of "developing" and poor countries.

But people know there's no solution for the crisis without real wealth and power distribution. In this framework, social movements around the world have been organizing G20 Counter Summits since 2008.

On the 8th November, the Korea Women's Alliance (KWA) and Korean Women's Association United (KWAU), national reference groups of the World March of Women, organized the Gender Justice Action against the G20 Seoul Summit in order to debate the gender blindness of the G20's agenda, and feminist alternatives to the current global financial architecture. The WMW organized a representative delegation with activists from Pakistan, the Philippines and Japan.

But the G20 - through the South Korean government - has swung into action to avoid any democratic debate, by unjustifiably denying visas for progressive activists from Asian and African countries, including our sister Bushra Khaliq from Pakistan. They also deported 7 Philippines activists, including our sister Nice Coronacion.

"These deportations and the denial of visas of many our colleagues signifies the failure of the G20 and cowardice of the G20 governments. Refusing to listening to women's voices is not acceptable, so we cannot accept any legitimacy of the G20", said Fumi Suzuki, from the World March of Women in Japan.

As Jean Enriquez, member of the WMW's International Committee stated, "the South Korean Government and the G20 have exposed themselves as violators not only of economic rights, but of political rights as well". The last G20 summit, held in Toronto, Canada, last June, is still fresh in our minds, where over 900 activists were arrested to avoid the expression of critical voices.

We, activists from the WMW, denounce G20 efforts to create and give authority to this new "power structure", in an attempt to hide the illegitimacy of the multilateral institutions, especially the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). We raise our voices against the false solutions to the economic, financial, social, political crises and affirm that democracy is impossible as long as wealth is concentrated to such an extent in the hands of the few.

Our minds and hearts will be turned to Seoul, where we know that our sisters will be struggling to change women's lives and to transform the world!

Women on the March until we are All Free!