

# WMW IC member is deported from South Korea

Wednesday 10 November 2010, by [ENRIQUE Jean](#), [WMW](#) (Date first published: 10 November 2010).

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Dear friends,

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November we sent a WMW declaration denouncing the deportation of activists (including a WMW activist, Nice Coronación) who were trying to enter South Korea to take part in events parallel to the G20 meeting in Seoul. A Korean visa was also denied to Bushra Khaliq, Pakistani activist who was also going to represent the WMW in Korea.

Since then, the South Korean government, on behalf of the other G20 countries, has once again acted to suppress criticism and democratic debate, by refusing the entry of our IC member, Jean Enriquez from the Philippines, into the country. She was deported back to Manila on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, very early in the morning.

We denounce the humiliating treatment to which Jean and other Philippines activists have been subjected by the South Korean government. We will continue to struggle against the G20 and the capitalist, sexist, racist system which it represents.

See below Jean Enriquez's account on her deportation and to read the paper of the presentation she would do in Seoul, click here: [Resistance and Alternatives to Neo-Liberalism: G20 as Regulator and Reformer, Is it Sufficient?!](#)

In feminist solidarity,

WMW International Secretariat

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## Arrogance of the Powerful - Journal of a Deported Activist

I was held at the Seoul immigration upon arrival at 5:05am. After getting my documents and my fingerprints, I was told that they cannot allow me to enter the country today. I asked if I can enter in the future, as I'm concerned of our long-term work, she said she thinks so. I saw another guy brought to detention area. I asked the immigration officer if I will stay where I was seated, she said yes, seeming embarrassed. She informed me that I will be taking the 8:10 am flight to Manila, then appeared to be arranging my flight and calling an escort. Then a young man in black came and

asked for my luggage tag and ticket. I asked if they are charging my return home to my ticket, and the woman said yes, as the man hardly speaks English.

I said how could they charge me when they are forcing me to return. She said it's in their law — immigration law. I asked for a copy, and she cannot say anything. Both looked exasperated with me. She then said I can look it up in the internet. She said I have a return ticket anyway and I'm not going to live in Korea. I said 'of course I'm not! But because I bought it for a purpose, and I didn't achieve my purpose, so you should pay for it because you're denying me entry! It's you who want me to return now! Why will I pay for your policy?' They kept shaking their heads. I said 'that's total abuse'. She said I can complain with the Korean embassy in the Philippines. I said, 'shameful!' I felt that all eyes were on me as I was being escorted out of the office.

The guy brought me to a lounge where waiting passengers are sleeping, but there's a long desk of immigration officers, only two are awake. I asked for a copy of the repatriation order that I saw on their desk. They adamantly refused. I said it's my right to have a copy of it. They kept shaking their heads and waving their hands, refusing and dismissing me to go to the benches. They are annoyed with me already.

They continued to refuse to give me my passport despite my insistence. I argued for a long time before boarding the plane going back to Manila. Even when I'm on board the plane, they continue to deny me my passport.

It is most absurd that this despicable government is denying entry to visitors and making us pay for it. How illustrative of its ilk in the G20 who are crafting anti-poor policies and still charge their wrongdoing to the poor. Such arrogance!

I have come to Korea around 8 times speaking on economic and violence against women issues, upon invitation of local civil society groups. I am coming today upon the invitation of Korea Women's Alliance to the World March of Women, where I am part of the International Committee, to deliver the keynote Speech in the Gender Justice Action Debate. There, the voices of poor and marginalized women are to be aired. I was bringing with me the experiences of the poor and violated women in the Philippines and other parts of Asia, their analysis and alternatives to the failed market-oriented policies of states, the international financial institutions and the self-proclaimed managers of the global economy. I was not the only one denied of a voice. The South Korean government and the G20 it protects, denied voices to millions of poor women and girls, rural and indigenous, victims of sexual violence.

I have been made to feel guilty of the gender violence I suffered in the past. The deportees are made to feel guilty now for the violations inflicted on them. I held my head high as I was being escorted and treated like a criminal. I am indignant.

The South Korean government and G20 will be made to account for all its sins.

They can try, but they cannot rob us of our dignity.

**Jean Enriquez**

World March of Women

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific (CATW-AP)

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## **The Kenyan Chapter of the World March of Women, condemn the mistreatment of Bushra Khaliq and Jean Enriquez**

We , the Kenyan Chapter of the World March of Women, condemn the mistreatment of Bushra Khaliq, Pakistani activist who was going to represent the WMW in Korea.and we also denounce in the strongest term possible the humiliation caused to Jean (IC member of the March) and other Philippine activists by the South Korean government. It is a shame that in this time and age, when social movements and progressive groups are determined to help change the world in their little small ways, they get such frustrations and mistreatment that keeps many still in bondage.

Movements of the world, arise! lets all continue to struggle against the G20 and all the capitalists who are frustrating the efforts of many.

We stand in solidarity with all those who are against these heinous acts.

In solidarity

Sophie D. Ogutu  
WMW - Kenyan Chapter

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