

[PUBLISHED] A report on the methanol poisoning cases in supply chains for Samsung and LG

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SEOUL, South Korea, June 5, 2017 – Solidarity for Worker’s Health (SWH), Korean House for International Solidarity (KHIS) and Korean Lawyers for Public interest and Human rights (KLPH) announced that they jointly published a report on the methanol poisoning cases in supply chains for Samsung and LG Electronics in Korea.

This report, named *The Blind An untold story behind Samsung and LG cell phones*, is an edited and translated version of the research report titled “Follow-up study on the acute methanol poisoning victims in cell phone manufacturing subcontractors with recommendations for improvement”, which was conducted by SWH and commissioned by Korean Industrial Hygiene Association.

It covers the circumstances of cases, key issues and conclusions, the authors of which arguing that the lead companies such as Samsung and LG

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should recognize their responsibility and come to social dialogue with the victims and civil society organizations.

It will be distributed during the 35th session of UN Human Rights Council and 106th Session of the International Labour Conference, and also by online (download link is as follows).

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This project is financially supported by GoodElectronics and European Union.

A Victim of the methanol poisoning will participate UN HRC, speaking for the victims on his own in an oral statement.

Furthermore, a victim of the methanol poisoning, named Youngsin Kim, will participate in the 35th session of UN Human Rights Council, making an oral statement on June 8. On behalf of the whole victims, he will speak about the negligence of the employers, non-functioning measures taken by the government, and the responsibility of the lead companies. Prepared oral statement is as follows.

“No response. No apology. No compensation. There was no justice from the Government nor the company.”

“We were used and abandoned just like a disposable paper cup. No one told me that it is illegal to dispatch workers in manufacturing business in South Korea. No one told me methanol is dangerous.”

“We urge Samsung and LG to be accountable. South Korean government should also take responsibility for this, because human's life, our lives are more important than business profit.”

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A side event titled “Strengthening Corporate Accountability in Supply Chains” will be held during the UN HRC session.



In light of the presentations by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights of their country visit reports of South Korea and Mexico, this event will be an important opportunity to review challenges, discuss the recommendations of the Working Group, and strategize about ways to promote their implementation.

Testimony

- **Youngsin, KIM**, methanol poisoning victim in a third-tier supplier for Samsung Electronics in South Korea

Keynote speech

- **Michael Addo**, chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Panel discussion

- Occupational health and safety issue in supply chains, Dongkyun, KIM (attorney at law, KTNC Watch)
- Eviction of assembly in supply chain, Thawook, KIM (attorney at law, KCTU Legal Centre)
- Mexico situation, Elena Valverde (ProDESC)
- Measures to improve corporate accountability in supply chains, Kintae Dew (TUAAC)

Floor discussion (Q&A)

In light of the presentation by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights of their country visit reports of South Korea and Mexico, A side event will be held during this UN HRC session.

In this event, Michael Addo, chair of the UN Working group on Business and Human rights, will be a keynote speaker, and Youngsin Kim, a victim of the methanol poisoning will testify the experience. Also, Specialists from South Korea and Mexico will be on the panel, discussing the recommendations of the Working Group, and strategizing about ways to promote their implementation.

This event is hosted by FORUM-ASIA, KTNC Watch, ISHR, and GoodElectronics.



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