



Council for World Mission Statement on South Korea's Declaration of Martial Law

Wednesday, 04 December 2024

The Council for World Mission (CWM) expresses deepest concern and condemns the South Korean government's declaration of martial law on Tuesday, 03 December 2024. This action, ironically presented as a measure to protect constitutional democratic order, is a severe violation of the constitutional rights of the South Korean people and threatens the foundations of democracy achieved by people's blood and sweat.

The claim that martial law protects South Korea's constitutional order is deeply flawed. This declaration contradicts the principles of democracy, including the rule of law and individual freedom. By militarising governance and criminalising legitimate political actions, the government has abandoned its democratic accountability. Instead of safeguarding the Constitution, this measure violates it, creating a climate of fear and suppression.

As a global partnership of churches in mission, CWM is committed to advocating for the dignity and rights of all people, aiming to promote justice, liberation, and peace, especially in the face of oppression and injustice. We believe that the liberation of communities from authoritarianism and systemic injustices is central to the Gospel's call for abundant life for all. The imposition of martial law in South Korea undermines these values. Therefore:

We demand an immediate restoration of democracy and stability in South Korea. The government must cease all actions that infringe upon the rights of its citizens and restore democratic governance without delay.

We call upon the people of South Korea to unite in peaceful resistance against this undemocratic imposition. Civil society must continue advocating for their freedoms with courage, determination, and resilience.

We call upon churches and ecumenical organisations worldwide to pray for the people of South Korea, asking God for strength and courage during this unprecedented crisis. Churches must also advocate for peace and stability and support South Korean communities in resisting these undemocratic actions.

The imposition of martial law, although for a short while, in South Korea highlights the fragility of democracy in the face of authoritarianism. South Korea, a nation that has overcome numerous challenges to build a vibrant democracy, must not allow this regressive step to define its future.

CWM stands in solidarity with the people of South Korea as they strive for justice and freedom. We are committed to amplifying their voices, mobilising international support, and praying for their strength until democracy is fully restored and their rights are upheld.

May the God of justice, liberation, and peace guide the people of South Korea through this time of trial, strengthen them in the face of oppression, and inspire all who seek to stand with them.