

DER KIRCHENPRÄSIDENT
Dr. Volker Jung

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Presbyterian Church in the Republic of
Korea (PROK)
General Secretary Reverend BAE Tae-Jin
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(Bitte bei Antwort unbedingt angeben!)

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„Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord“ (Jeremiah 31, 16).

Dear General Secretary Reverend Bae Tae-Jin,
dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the 30th anniversary of Gwangju Uprising and massacre we send you our prayerful greetings with this verse from the Book of Jeremiah.

We remember the brutal suppression of the earnest desire of the people of Korea for democracy and human rights. We remember in a very special way the victims of this cruel act in which hundreds of people were murdered and thousands were wounded. Our thoughts are with the relatives and dear ones of those who sacrificed their lives for freedom and democracy.

The Gwangju Uprising sparked South Korea's democratic movement, which eventually brought about civilian rule in the late 1980s, the most important event in the history of South Korea. We admire the people of South Korea for their achievements in democracy and human rights. We also appreciate and acknowledge the active role played by the Christian Churches, especially by the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, in those difficult times. Christians in South Korea understood the gospel of Jesus as a liberating message and drew inspiration and strength from it for their struggle. Thus they set up an example for a true Christian resistance.

Gwangju Uprising has become a symbol of South Koreans' struggle against authoritarian regimes and their fight for democracy. In a time, when in many countries democracy, human rights and human welfare are under threat, let us stand up against any attempt to curtail them and engage ourselves for peaceful transformation of inhuman structures and systems and especially for a peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula. Let us strengthen each other through our prayers in this work.



Dr. Volker Jung
Church President