



KTNC
Watch

KTNC Watch Highlights

Who we are

Since 2008, KTNC Watch (Korea Transnational Corporations Watch) has been monitoring human rights and environmental impacts of Korean multinational corporations. We have raised awareness in Korea of human and labor rights violations and environmental destruction in overseas operations, assisted victims to access remedies, and advocated for policy change.

KTNC Watch is one of few networks in South Korea that uniquely focuses on holding corporations accountable for respecting human rights and the environment. Our work is centered on research and investigation that reflects the voices of those on the ground, policy advocacy, and international solidarity.



RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS



POLICY ADVOCACY



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Goals

All our activities are driven by three long-term goals:

- Seeking corporate accountability in the global supply chain
- Assisting victims of human rights and environmental violations caused by corporate activities
- Strengthening international solidarity

Member Organizations

KTNC Watch is made up of human rights, labor, environmental, and public interest lawyers' organizations that work together to address the various human rights and environmental issues caused by Korean multinational corporations.



Goal 1: Seeking corporate accountability in the global supply chain

The impact of business activities on human rights and the environment crosses borders. A growing number of companies are making a commitment to change their practices to be more sustainable, but change is too slow to make a difference in the face of the climate crisis and turbulent world events. KTNC Watch investigates human rights, labor, and environmental issues in the supply chains of Korean multinational corporations and conducts awareness-raising activities to inform stakeholders and call for action. We also work to develop norms and policies to prevent and respond to adverse impacts arising from corporate activities.



KTNC Watch Highlights

Field investigation on Korean corporations overseas

Since 2013, KTNC Watch has conducted field investigations in countries like Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Mexico, and Guatemala to respond to issues such as excessive use of force against strikers, violations of indigenous peoples' rights, large-scale dam collapses, and destruction of primary rainforests at the local operations of Korean corporations overseas. The results of our work have been featured in domestic and international media, which have led to substantial changes in the operations.

Monitoring public financing

KTNC Watch monitors public financing to prevent funding going to corporations that commit human rights violations or into development projects that have adverse impacts. KTNC Watch challenges Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) projects, investment by Korea's National Pension Service and the Export-Import Bank of Korea, overseas resource development and any other financial support that does not take into consideration human rights or the environment. Through monitoring the activities of Korean multinational corporations, KTNC Watch seeks to bring about improvements in the public financing decision-making processes.

National policy

KTNC Watch monitors Korean national policies related to business and human rights, including the National Action Plan (NAP), and proposes items for the parliamentary agenda. These activities ensure national policies and regulations are consistent and effective in ensuring the corporate responsibility to respect human rights.

In August 2023, KTNC Watch was successful in facilitating the introduction of an Asia-first bill on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence, contributing to enhancing the responsibility of Korean corporations to respect human rights and the environment in their supply chains.





“WHEN KOREAN COMPANIES AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CONDUCT BUSINESSES OVERSEAS, DEVELOPING LAND AND RESOURCES ON A LARGE SCALE, THEY MUST PROVIDE FOR A PROCESS WHERE THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE RESPECTED.”

Chung Shin-young,
a Lawyer for Advocates for Public Interest Law
(a member organization of KTNC Watch)

"DUE DILIGENCE SHOULD NOT EXIST FOR THE SAKE OF CORPORATE REPUTATION OR RISK MANAGEMENT, BUT SHOULD ULTIMATELY BE A CONCRETE LEGAL TOOL TO PREVENT CORPORATE HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ABUSES AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO REMEDIES TO VICTIMS."

Kim Doo-na,
a Lawyer from Korean Lawyers for Public Interest and Human Rights(a member organization of KTNC Watch)

Goal 2: Assisting victims of human rights and environmental violations caused by corporate activities

Steeply rising demand for natural resources leads to land grabbing and exploitation of nature, with increasing threats to people and communities trying to defend their territories and rights. This is not a remote occurrence: in 2020, several indigenous community leaders were murdered and a number of local residents were arrested for resisting a large-scale development project funded by the Export-Import Bank of Korea. KTNC Watch assists people affected by the activities of Korean multinational corporations through judicial and non-judicial remedies.

Monitoring public financing

KTNC Watch assists victims to access judicial and non-judicial remedies. It utilizes the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, lodges complaints with the OECD National Contact Point (NCP), presents petitions to the National Human Rights

Commission of Korea, submits complaints to the UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures, and takes legal action through judicial procedures including lawsuits. KTNC Watch also advocates for policy reforms to ensure that victims can access substantive remedies.



"THE KOREAN NCP SHOULD MEDIATE WITH COMPANIES TO PROVIDE AN ACCESS TO REMEDIES FOR THE HARMS THEY HAVE CAUSED"

Na Hyun-phil,
a director for Korean House for International Solidarity(a member organization of KTNC Watch)



Goal 3: Strengthening international solidarity

From its inception, KTNC Watch has worked closely with civil society organizations abroad. Posco's India steel plant project, which we responded to in earnest, was the result of a call for solidarity from local civil society organizations in India. Our work is informed by solidarity with regional and international partners focused on seeking corporate accountability worldwide.

International solidarity

KTNC Watch cooperates with various international networks. It has worked with the Asian Transnational Corporations Monitoring Network since 2003. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), a human rights organization promoting and protecting human rights in Asia, is also a partner.

We also work closely with OECD Watch to respond to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. The organizations

that make up the KTNC Watch network actively participate in other networks, such as the Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) and GoodElectronics. KTNC Watch also participates in a variety of international campaigns that target Korean corporations. It has also organized regional and international events on business and human rights to share and learn from each other's experiences and strategies and to strengthen international solidarity.



KTNC Watch Highlights



KTNC Watch

Publication Date : November 2023

Website : <https://ktncwatch.org/>

Email : ktncwatch@gmail.com

Designed by Jeong Jae-young (jae0chung@gmail.com)

The authors take sole responsibility for the views express

Copyright ©Korea Transnational Corporations Watch (KTNC Watch)