

## **Condolences for Two Divers Killed While on Duty in Ferry Sewol**

[http://www.peoplepower21.org/index.php?mid=English&page=7&document\\_srl=1169981&listStyle=list](http://www.peoplepower21.org/index.php?mid=English&page=7&document_srl=1169981&listStyle=list)

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### **We mourn for two divers who died while searching the sunken ferry Sewol.**



(30 May 2014, Seoul) Another diver fell unconscious during ferry disaster search and was taken to hospital but he died on May 30. The veteran crew member was being involved in cutting open the hull of the sunken ferry Sewol. He was the second who fell victim during search and rescue work after another civilian diver died on May 6. We are deeply saddened to hear that two more lives have been taken after the April 16 ferry disaster. We, People's Committee on the Sewol Ferry Disaster, would like to mourn for two civilian divers who shared the pain and tried to rescue the missing victims at the risk of their own lives and to pray for their bereaved families.

Divers have faced intense pressure to retrieve as many of the missing as possible and take all the risks and burdens on their own. The Korean government, bearing ultimate responsibility, should have tried to minimize risks involved with the overall search operation and to provide safety for the divers. It was revealed when Lee Gwang-wook, a diver, died while on duty on May 6, that no medical staff were standing by on the barge where divers rest and resupply. The government should set up measures to ensure that divers could rest enough after underwater search and get medical assistance immediately when they need.

Since the early stage of the ferry sinking, all the Koreans as well as the families of the victims have been shocked and become outraged at the government's incompetency and irresponsibility laid bare in handling the accident. As a private firm, not a government agency as a control tower, took on the rescue operations, the early critical moments were wasted, with failure of expeditious rescue and search. And even after the government set up a disaster management taskforce, individual divers have taken all the risks without proper support. To make matters worse, President Park Geun-hye's sudden announcement of disbanding the Coast Guard rather intensified confusion at the scene, stirring up resentment among the families of the missing. Presidential spokesman Min Kyung-wook's inappropriate remarks on "divers being paid per body" not only hurt the bereaved but also insulted divers to dampen their morale. The government has still drawn a profound distrust upon itself by resorting to temporary expedients.

No more pain should be inflicted on the families of the missing and the victims of the ferry disaster. They are now concerned about the divers' health and safety more than anyone else. The authorities should thoroughly ensure the search operations to be prompt and complete and check the safety measures for divers. We, People's

Committee on the Sewol Ferry Disaster, urge the government to make sincere efforts to end suffering and tragedy that has continued since April 16.

Korean Statement >> [세월호 수색 민간 잠수사 두 분의 명복을 빕니다](#)

(Translated by Kyungsun Park, Volunteer)

## **Another Sewol diver dies**

<http://fairplay.ihs.com/article/12969/another-sewol-diver-dies>

30 May 2014 **Crystal Chan**

Another civilian diver has died during the search for the missing bodies of 16 Sewol passengers who remain missing.

A statement released by South Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said that the 46-year-old diver, identified only as Lee, injured himself while making an incision on Sewol's hull this afternoon.

The statement, written in Korean, said: "At 13.50hrs South Korea time today, the divers accessed the fourth level of the ferry and began cutting through the structure. Around 14.20hrs, the team heard moaning. The team immediately stopped work to see what was wrong.

"When Lee was found by a fellow diver and brought to the surface, he was unconscious and bleeding from the face. The medical team onsite performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Lee and at 14.48hrs, he was airlifted to the hospital."

Lee, an Incheon resident, arrived at Korea Hospital in Mokpo around 15.25hrs. He was pronounced dead 10 minutes later.

Lee's death follows that of Lee Gwang Wook, 53, another civilian diver, who died on 6 May after losing consciousness soon after entering the waters around the Sewol.

The Sewol capsized on 16 April. Of the 476 passengers and crew, 304 are presumed dead. So far, 288 bodies have been retrieved while 16 remain missing.

Since 21 May, no bodies have been found and rescuers are under mounting pressure to retrieve all the corpses.

## **South Korea ferry search diver dies**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/30/south-korea-ferry-search-diver-dies>

May 30, 2014 Agence France-Presse

Cause of death unclear but 46-year-old is second diver to die in effort to retrieve bodies from the Sewol, which sank last month.

A diver has died during efforts to cut a new access hole into a submerged ferry that sank last month with the loss of about 300 lives, the South Korean coastguard said.



**South Korean police search the bow of the Sewol. No bodies have been recovered since 21 May, leaving the confirmed death toll at 288, with 16 still unaccounted for. Photograph: Kim Hong-Ji/Reuters**

The 46-year-old diver, identified only as Kim, was pulled on Friday from the water unconscious and bleeding from his face, a coastguard official said.

He was later pronounced dead in hospital, but the precise cause of death was not immediately clear, the official said.

He was the second diver killed in the operation to retrieve hundreds of bodies from the 6,825-tonne Sewol ferry, which sank on 16 April off the southern coast of [South Korea](#).

The Sewol was carrying 476 people – most of them schoolchildren.

No bodies have been recovered since 21 May, leaving the confirmed death toll at 288, with 16 still unaccounted for.

Divers have had to battle strong currents and work in near-zero visibility. Two dozen have been treated for injuries and decompression sickness.