

30 November 2022

LAWASIA STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE ARSON ATTACK ON LAWYERS IN KOREA

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, is an association of legal organizations, lawyers, judges and jurists who advocate to promote social justice and rule of law principles in Asia and the Pacific region. The Association aims to promote and support the administration of justice and the maintenance of the rule of law.

LAWASIA expresses its grave concern regarding a recent arson attack at a law office in Daegu, South Korea, on June 9, 2022. It appears that the incident, in which seven people died and 49 were injured, was instigated by a disaffected client who also died in the fire. The Korean Bar Association, a member organisation of LAWASIA, has expressed its deep condolences to the families of the victims and strongly urged that specific consideration be given as to how emotionally driven hostility and physical attacks against lawyers can be prevented in future.

LAWASIA shares the concern of the Korean Bar Association regarding this incident. The violence and terrorist activity directed against the legal profession not only jeopardises innocent lives but also fundamentally threatens the rule of law. Lawyers from all fields and all specialties act in good faith and to the best of their ability to promote and protect their clients' interests, and this in turn is fundamental to our concept of justice and stability in civilized society.

Unfortunately, incidents of violence against lawyers are reported from across the region from time to time. LAWASIA views any assault on the legal profession to be a direct affront to the rule of law and the administration of justice. Lawyers have the right to perform their professional duties and obligations without intimidation or fear for their personal and professional wellbeing. It is fundamental to our system of justice, the practice of law, and the protection of the community.

LAWASIA, The Law Association for Asia and The Pacific