



ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION

Protecting Rights and Promoting Freedom on the Electronic Frontier

March 28, 2013

The Honorable Choi Jae Cheon

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Re: Joint Civil Society Letter in Support of Repealing the Three-Strikes Law

Dear Honorable Member of the National Assembly:

Internet access is vital to people's livelihood, education, health, and engagement in social, cultural, and civic activities. However, recent copyright enforcement measures neglect the heavy implications of disconnecting and limiting users' online access.

Graduated response, or so-called "three-strikes" policies punish users following repeated accusations of copyright infringement. Such regulations frequently have minimal or no judicial involvement, depriving their victims the right to due process, and subsequently free expression, freedom of association, and innovation — all of which are fundamental to social and economic progress. Internet restriction policies create a legal imbalance that gives content owners unfair and disproportionate enforcement rights at the expense of Internet users' rights.

The Republic of Korea was the first country to implement a three-strikes policy and its harmful impact on Internet users is already apparent. In the past three and a half years since its enactment, 468,446 take-down notices have been sent to users, and it has shut down 408 website accounts. Under its current copyright law, an administrative body has the power to disconnect Internet service without a court order. The chilling effect this has had for users is immeasurable, but its impact is already apparent.

The Republic of Korea is at the forefront of technological development with one of the most Internet-connected populations in the world. Therefore it is especially crucial that lawmakers show their leadership in opposing online censorship and to position themselves as strong defenders of digital civil liberties.

We are Internet freedom and free speech groups dedicated to the rights of all people to access cultural and educational resources, to enjoy a free and open Internet, and to benefit from open innovation. We jointly sign this letter in support of your proposed bill to completely remove the three-strikes and ISP monitoring and content filtering provisions from the Korean Copyright Act.

Honorable Members of the Republic of Korea's National Assembly

March 28, 2013

Page 2 of 2

We are happy to continue the conversation with the Republic of Korea's National Assembly Member, and provide you with information, evidence, and reports from the rest of the world in support of this initiative.

Sincerely,



Access (International)



Global Voices (International)



Creative Commons Korea (Rep. of Korea)



Demand Progress (U.S.)



OpenMedia (Canada)



Electronic Frontier Foundation (U.S.)



Fight for the Future (United States)



ONG Derechos Digitales (Chile)



Free Press (United States)



Public Knowledge (United States)