

THE SEWOL DISASTER, 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The 16th April 2024 sadly marks the 10th anniversary of the senseless tragedy of the sinking of the passenger ferry Sewol, off the southwest coast of South Korea.

On that day in 2014 the world watched on in horror as 304 souls were lost as the ship slowly sank, trapping and drowning passengers and crew. The victims included 250 students and 11 teachers from Danwon High School in Ansan, during a school trip. Two heroic volunteer civilian divers would later join the list of victims. The Korean coastguard failed to mount an effective rescue operation and blocked offers of help.

As if the disaster and lack of rescue itself was not already unbearable, the victims' families have had to battle for the truth in the face of Government whitewash enquiries, hostile briefings, broken promises, scapegoating, surveillance and intimidation by the military intelligence service. These acts of state oppression aimed to shift focus away from the failings of the Government apparatus, and despite several investigations the cause of the sinking has still not been officially determined.

We stand in solidarity and unwavering support of the families' continued fight for justice and will continue to raise public awareness in the UK. The families' channelling of grief and anger into the creation of a powerful civic movement for justice, human rights and a safer society is an inspiration.

Lessons must be learnt if we are to understand and prevent future disasters.

Remembering Sewol Disaster UK



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SEWOL UK