

Communication about Emergency Martial Law, South Korea (Dec. 4, 2024)

This is a brief note about the recently declared Emergency Martial Law in South Korea. Like you, we are monitoring news of this recent status. In fact, you might even be waking up (December 4th) to learn of this quite new status. While we have no current expectation that your program experience will be substantially jeopardized, I nonetheless wanted to reach out specifically to you.

We have great confidence in leadership of your program(s) and urge you to continue to follow their local guidance. We also are aware that in the Seoul vicinity there could be strong reactions conducive to rising tensions. We urge you to continue to make good choices by not putting yourself in escalating situations which could effectively make you a target for aggression. This is not unlike what we suggest during your entire time abroad for well-being (e.g. maintaining a low profile, not advertising yourself as a student from an American institution, avoiding disturbances and protests).

As you have opportunity to learn and observe about this moment in history, I wish you the best for the conclusion of your semester in South Korea. We will continue our vigilance to monitor this situation; as we have subsequent updates this will be shared directly with you. Yet if you have questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Harley, PhD

he/him/his

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