

Sewol Ferry Disaster National Countermeasures Conference

To Journalists from the social and political departments of each media company

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Title [Commentary] The Coast Guard and Control Tower should also be investigated.

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Commentary

The government, which focuses only on arresting Yoo Byung-eun, should also investigate the Coast Guard and the Control Tower.

1. The pursuit and investigation of former Semo Group Chairman Yoo Byung-eun, who is currently on the run, will be a mess. The government seems to believe that catching Yoo Byung-eun is key in finding the truth behind the Sewol Ferry Disaster. Therefore, they are mobilizing the military, prosecution, the police, and holding neighborhood meetings in order to catch him. Yoo Byung-eun has been on the run for more than a month, teasing the prosecution and police. However, his arrest is neither the end nor the center of the Sewol Ferry investigation. Even if Yoo Byung-eun is caught, it is questionable whether he can be held directly responsible for the Sewol Ferry disaster. In the end, it seems like the government's only intention in pursuing Yoo Bung-eun is to turn the public's attention to him and avoid responsibility for the rescue failure in the Sewol Ferry disaster itself. The investigation that the prosecution must look into is the failure of the initial response, the rescue of the Coast Guard, and the so-called Control Tower that made the accident a disaster.
2. The charges against Yoo Byung-eun and his son, Yoo Dae Kyoon, indicated in their arrest warrants requested by prosecution, are only charges of

embezzlement, breach of trust, and tax evasion under the Act on Aggravated Punishment for Specific Economic Crimes. It is natural to hold Cheonghaejin Shipping responsible for indiscriminate profit-seeking, which is one of the fundamental causes of the Sewol Ferry disaster. It is also necessary to arrest Yoo Byung-eun as soon as possible. However, mobilizing troops and holding neighborhood meetings are a completely different matter. It is an abuse of public power to mobilize troops to arrest civilians when it is not during an emergency martial law period. The same applies for the neighborhood meetings. This was after President Park Geun-hye encouraged the arrest of the Yoo family at the cabinet meeting. Just as the government is intentionally making an all-out effort to arrest Yoo Byung-eun, they are also conducting an investigation to show off. The prosecution investigation officers who mobilized 6,000 police officers to search Geumsuwon, were caught taking naps and were humiliated.

3. The prosecution's investigation into the Coast Guard and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, who were responsible for the Sewol Ferry disaster, has been slow. During past disasters, the investigation of the government authorities responsible has been sluggish. That is, until the government's accountability finally falters. This precedent is repeating itself. The so-called Control Tower including the Blue House, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and the Korea Coast Guard should be held responsible for the increase in casualties due to the failure of rescue in the early stages of the Sewol Ferry disaster. Numerous questions regarding the process of the sinking and growing into a disaster are still unresolved. The investigation into this is sluggish. We can't help but ask if they are investigating or willing to investigate.
4. The government is focusing its attention on tracking and arresting Yoo Byung-eun, and the government is trying to escape from the theory of responsibility. The government, prosecution, and some media make it seem as if the investigation of the Sewol Ferry disaster will end when Yoo Byung-eun is caught. However, this is a deception and miscalculation. Apart from the investigation into Yoo Byung-eun, the public knows that an investigation into the Coast Guard and the so-called Control Tower is urgently needed. It is the prosecution's dereliction of duty to not conduct this investigation. The prosecution should keep in mind that the families of victims of the disaster and the public are watching. End.