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# amnesty international

## SOUTH KOREA

### Summary of Amnesty International's Concerns

1994 AI

DECEMBER 1994

SUMMARY

AI INDEX: ASA 25/36/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

The Republic of Korea (South Korea) is a democracy with an elected civilian government. Its citizens have better human rights protection than they did in past decades, under military rule. However, the South Korean Government continues to allow the arrest of citizens for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association and it continues to hold some of the world's longest serving prisoners of conscience.

On the basis of information gathered throughout the year from a variety of sources, including the government, and following a visit to South Korea by representatives of the International Secretariat in October, Amnesty International has concluded that the human rights situation deteriorated in 1994 due to the extensive use of the National Security Law to detain prisoners of conscience. The organization has information about dozens of such people who were arrested, charged and convicted for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. Key reforms needed to improve human rights, such as amendment of the National Security Law, were not carried out. Amnesty International knows of at least 30 prisoners whose trials under previous governments appear to have been seriously flawed, and who continue to be held with no prospect of a review. Dozens of workers were imprisoned during a series of strikes. Some, who had not used or advocated violence, were prisoners of conscience. Executions were carried out for the first time in almost two years.

In October 1994 Amnesty International sent a three-person delegation to South Korea to assess the current human rights situation. This report summarizes some of Amnesty International's findings from the visit; it also incorporates information gathered by the organization throughout 1994. This report does not cover all issues of concern to Amnesty International. Instead, it highlights some of the most serious violations of civil and political rights, falling with Amnesty International's mandate.

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등록일	분류기호	자료번호
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## SOUTH KOREA

### Summary of Amnesty International's Concerns

DECEMBER 1994

SUMMARY

AI INDEX: ASA 25/36/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

The Republic of Korea (South Korea) is a democracy with an elected civilian government. Its citizens have better human rights protection than they did in past decades, under military rule. However, the South Korean Government continues to allow the arrest of citizens for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association and it continues to hold some of the world's longest serving prisoners of conscience.

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# SOUTH KOREA

## Summary of Amnesty International's Concerns

### *1) Amnesty International's Research on South Korea*

Amnesty International visits South Korea regularly to investigate human rights concerns which fall within its mandate. It also monitors the human rights situation in South Korea throughout the year from its International Secretariat in London. Amnesty International bases its reports on a variety of materials it collects through its research. These include written and verbal testimony; legal texts, including court documents; interviews with human rights workers, legal scholars and other experts; and meetings with government officials. The organization also uses its experience and knowledge about human rights in South Korea, accumulated over a number of years.

In October 1994 Amnesty International sent a three-person delegation to South Korea to assess the current human rights situation. This report summarizes some of Amnesty International's findings from the visit, and also incorporates information gathered by the organization throughout 1994.

This report does not cover all issues of concern to Amnesty International. Instead, it highlights some of the most serious violations of civil and political rights, falling within Amnesty International's mandate.

### *2) An Overview of the human rights situation*

South Korea is a democracy with an elected civilian government. Its citizens have better human rights protection than they did in past decades, under military rule. However, the South Korean Government continues to allow the arrest of citizens for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association and it continues to hold some of the world's longest serving prisoners of conscience.

Amnesty International concludes that the human rights situation deteriorated throughout 1994 due to the extensive use of the National Security Law to detain prisoners of conscience. The organization has information about dozens of such people who were arrested, charged and convicted for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. In October 1994 there were reported to be some 500 political prisoners, around 70% of whom were held under the National Security Law.

Korea. This organization has some 75 members, works openly and focuses some of its work on political education for workers. One other person associated with this group, Professor Yu Cho-ha, was forced into hiding to avoid arrest.

◆ Four members of a dissident pro-reunification group *Pomminuiyon* were arrested for alleged pro-North Korean activities. They include 70-year-old Reverend Kang Hui-chol who made a largely symbolic and public attempt to visit North Korea to offer his condolences following the death of Kim Il Sung.

◆ Nine members of a youth group called *SAM* were arrested in September and accused of attempting to indoctrinate high school students with North Korea's *Juche* philosophy. In October three remained in prison, awaiting trial. The group consists of young, former high school students who set up a forum to discuss and alleviate academic pressure on students.

◆ Dissident leaders Hwang In-sung and Lee Chang-bok were arrested in August under the National Security Law. They were accused of supporting North Korea's ideas on reunification and of expressing sympathy for the death of DPRK President Kim Il Sung. Supporters believe that the real reason for their arrest was to prevent them organizing a mass rally in favour of Korean reunification.

The Korean Bar Association has called for the abolition of the National Security Law, arguing that national security could be safeguarded by adding provisions to other criminal legislation and that the National Security Law could be abolished without any damage to state security. Others in South Korea calling for its abolition or revision include the Democratic Party (main opposition party), a number of legal scholars and many human rights organizations.

The Ministry of Justice has told Amnesty International that retention of the National Security Law in its current form is necessary because of the perceived threat from North Korea. Amnesty International is concerned that the government has used this threat to imprison people who posed no risk to state security. It is concerned that the government appears to be using the National Security Law as a bargaining chip in its negotiations with North Korea, refusing to revise the law until relations between the two countries are drastically improved. Amnesty International believes that the government has failed to meet the commitment it made when it ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a treaty which specifically safeguards the rights to freedom of expression and association.

In July 1992 the United Nations Human Rights Committee considered a report by the South Korean Government on its implementation of the International Covenant on

### ***5) Flaws in arrest and interrogation procedures / ill-treatment of suspects***

South Korea's arrest and interrogation procedures violate international human rights standards in several respects, some of which are described below. Amnesty International is concerned that flawed procedures have led to unfair convictions. Political prisoners are often arrested without a court-issued warrant, ill-treated during long periods of questioning and effectively presumed guilty before charge or trial.

In practice many political suspects are detained by use of an emergency arrest warrant, issued by a prosecutor without reference to a court of law. In such cases suspects may be held for up to 48 hours before a court-issued warrant is obtained. Amnesty International believes that the police and Agency for National Security Planning have sometimes used this 48 hour period to obtain "confessions" from detainees as grounds for obtaining a court warrant.

Judges are currently not entitled to question suspects when they issue arrest warrants. Under a revised Code of Criminal Procedure, the draft of which is currently before the National Assembly, a judge would be permitted in some cases to question selected suspects. Amnesty International is calling for this important safeguard to be made mandatory, so that all suspects appear before a judge.

National Security Law suspects may be questioned for up to 50 days before charge, an unreasonably long period. Amnesty International believes the police and the Agency for National Security Planning have used this long period of questioning to put excessive pressure on detainees in an attempt to extract "confessions" which may be used against them during their trial.

Amnesty International is disturbed by the widespread use of sleep deprivation during the questioning of suspects. In fact, the organization is not aware of any recent political suspect who was not deprived of sleep. In typical cases, suspects report that they were denied sleep for the first 48 hours of questioning and thereafter only allowed to sleep for two or three hours each night for up to 20 days. Some recent detainees (particularly those held and questioned by the Agency for National Security Planning) reported being beaten and threatened during questioning.

### ***6) Illegal activities of the Agency for National Security Planning***

The Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) is empowered to arrest and investigate National Security Law suspects. In December 1993 new legislative provisions gave the National Assembly (parliament) powers of scrutiny over the ANSP's budget and

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases, considering it to be the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment. The death penalty is irreversible, may be inflicted on the innocent and is often imposed on the poorest members of society who are least well-equipped to defend themselves. The families of some prisoners currently under sentence of death in South Korea could not afford to hire a lawyer to defend the prisoner. The death penalty also denies the possibility that prisoners may be rehabilitated. One of the prisoners executed in October, Suh Chae-taek, is said to have become a model prisoner since his arrest in 1987.

The latest executions were carried out in the wake of sensational media coverage about a series of murders and appear to have been inflicted both as a warning and as a means of appeasing public opinion. In October Ministry of Justice officials told Amnesty International that executions were necessary as a means of reducing the rate of violent crime in South Korea. They did not know, however, whether the government had carried out a survey into effect of the death penalty on the crime rate. To Amnesty International's knowledge, none of the surveys carried out in other countries have shown that use of the death penalty has a uniquely deterrent effect on violent crime.

### **8) Workers' human rights**

During 1994 over 100 workers were arrested during disputes at seven different workplaces. Most were charged under labour legislation with taking illegal strike action, violence during confrontation with riot policemen and disruption of company business. Amnesty International is concerned that some of those currently held are prisoners of conscience. In one dispute concerning the Korean National Railroad, eight union officials, including Suh Son-won, were arrested in September during a peaceful sit-in protest at a temple. The eight railway workers and dozens of others belonged to the trade union *Chongilhyop* which is illegal because current legislation does not allow more than one trade union at a workplace. They were deemed to have taken illegal strike action because current legislation does not allow public employees to go on strike. Amnesty International believes that a charge of violence levelled at Suh Son-won is unfounded and is concerned that he faces conviction and imprisonment as a prisoner of conscience. It is also concerned that his wife and two small children have been evicted from public housing as a consequence of his arrest and subsequent dismissal from the Korean National Railroad.

South Korean labour legislation violates international standards in several respects. A ban on "third party intervention" in labour disputes effectively prevents umbrella trade unions from giving advice to affiliate unions; government employees and teachers are not permitted to belong to a trade union; only one trade union is permitted in each

◆ **Ensure that procedures for arrest and interrogation comply with international human rights standards**

Some current procedures for arrest and interrogation should be amended to comply with international human rights standards. All those detained must be brought promptly before a judge. Suspects should not be subjected to sleep deprivation or other ill-treatment during questioning and the period of questioning before charge of suspects held under the National Security Law (currently up to 50 days) should be reduced drastically. Arrest and interrogation procedures should be brought into line with provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, The Convention Against Torture, the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and other relevant international standards.

◆ **Abolish the death penalty and commute all death sentences**

The government should take steps towards abolition of the death penalty. Pending abolition it should reduce the number of crimes subject to the death penalty, cease carrying out executions and commute all death sentences.

◆ **Respect workers' rights to freedom of expression and association**

Workers should not be arrested and imprisoned for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association. Current labour legislation should be amended to comply with international standards, including removal of the prohibition on "third party intervention" in labour disputes.

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## SOUTH KOREA

### Over 41 Years in Prison

### Two of the World's Longest-Serving Prisoners of Conscience

DECEMBER 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/31/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

One year ago, in December 1993, Amnesty International published a report about Kim Sun-myung and Ahn Hak-sop, prisoners of conscience who have been imprisoned in the Republic of Korea (South Korea) for over 40 years (*ASA 25/41/93, Prisoners of Conscience held for over 40 years*). One year later the two men are still held in Taejon Prison with no apparent prospect of early release, except on the grounds of old age. During 1994 a lawyer wishing to act on their behalf was denied access to the prisoners who continue to be held in solitary confinement, isolated from the outside world.

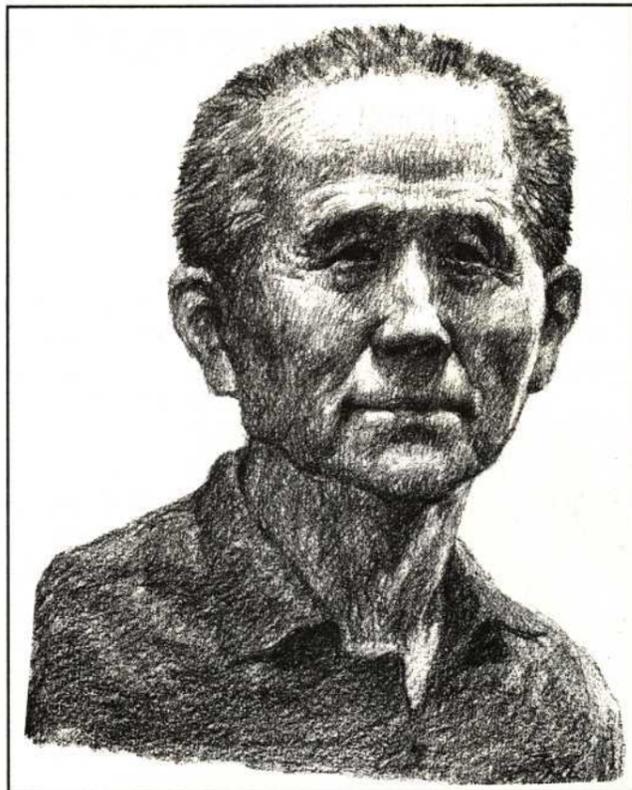
Kim Sun-myung is now aged 69 and has been in prison for 43 years. Ahn Hak-sop is now aged 64 and has been in prison for 41-and-a-half years. The two men were arrested during the Korean War (1950-53) and sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of espionage on behalf of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). According to available information they were tortured and convicted unfairly. Amnesty International believes that they continue to be held solely because of their refusal to sign a statement of "conversion" to anti-communism.

Throughout 1994 human rights groups in South Korea and Amnesty International groups worldwide campaigned for the release of Kim Sun-myung and Ahn Hak-sop. Lawyers in South Korea have been attempting to represent them in legal proceedings. However, their efforts have been hampered because of the lack of available information about the cases and by apparent obstruction from the authorities. They have been unable to obtain copies of trial documents, in spite of requests made to the Ministry of Justice. Access to the two prisoners is generally limited to family members.

On 16 May a lawyer belonging to the organization *Minbyun* (Lawyers for a Democratic Society) went to Taejon Prison to visit the two prisoners but after waiting for some four hours he was told that access was denied on the grounds that he did not have a "power of attorney" signed by the two prisoners. He returned to Seoul and

### ***The case of Kim Sun-myung***

Kim Sun-myung, aged 69, was born in Kyonggi province and left school before completing his education. In 1940 he came to Seoul where he worked in the textile and steel manufacturing industries. During the Korean War he also served as an ordinary soldier in the North Korean army. He was arrested on 15 October 1951 by the UN forces as he was trying to cross to the south. Kim Sun-myung was originally tried in a military court and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment on charges of espionage. Had he served this sentence he would have been released many years ago. However he was tried again in March 1953 on a more serious espionage charge, which he denies. At this time he says that he was severely beaten. He believes that he was charged because when he crossed to the South he saw some military installations which the authorities apparently suspected he might have reported to the North Korean army, had he been released. He was tried by a military court and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment the following year.



Drawing of Kim Sun-myung, aged 69, imprisoned for 43 years

**KEYWORDS:** PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT1 / SOLITARY CONFINEMENT1 / AGED / ILL-HEALTH / MENTAL HEALTH / PRISON CONDITIONS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / ESPIONAGE / MILITARY AS VICTIMS / PHOTOGRAPHS /

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM**

prepared the required documents for signature by the prisoners. The documents were taken to Taejon prison in June by a representative of *Minkahyop* (human rights groups) but the prison refused to accept them. Since then lawyers have filed a complaint of administrative malpractice against the authorities. Pending the outcome of this complaint, all avenues of legal redress on behalf of the two prisoners are effectively blocked.

Ahn Hak-sop and Kim Sun-myung are currently held in Taejon Prison. Their families have suffered a great deal through being branded as families of "spies". Kim Sun-myung's family no longer visit him and he has only had six visits throughout his 43-year imprisonment. Ahn Hak-sop's family were unable to visit in the earlier years of his imprisonment and they now go about once each year. Both men are said to be in poor physical and mental health as a result of torture, prolonged imprisonment in poor conditions and lack of contact with other people.

The two prisoners have consistently refused to sign a statement of "conversion" renouncing their alleged communist beliefs. This means that they are denied the possibility of early release on parole and generally receive poorer treatment than other prisoners. For example, they have been held in solitary confinement for most of their 40-year imprisonment and are not permitted any contact with other prisoners. They are generally allowed visits from family members only and their mail is restricted. During the 1970s and 1980s such prisoners were tortured in order to force them to "convert". At present there are some 30 "unconverted" political prisoners in South Korea, of whom Ahn Hak-sop and Kim Sun-myung are the longest-serving.

No other political prisoners in South Korea have been held in such conditions for so long. In spite of their old age, ill-health and lack of contact with the modern world, the South Korean Government appears to regard these two prisoners as a threat solely because they may still have communist views. Amnesty International believes that the prolonged imprisonment of these two men for their political views is in clear contravention of both domestic and international standards safeguarding the rights to freedom of thought and freedom of expression.

### ***The case of Ahn Hak-sop***

Ahn Hak-sop, aged 64, was born and educated in Kanghwa-do island. This is situated close to the Demilitarized Zone which has separated North and South Korea since the Korean War ended in an armistice in 1953. During the Korean War Ahn Hak-sop fought as a soldier in the North Korean army. He was captured by the South Korean armed forces in Kanghwa province on 26 April 1953 when his whole unit was reportedly destroyed and he was apparently the lone survivor. After interrogation by a special police unit, Ahn Hak-sop was moved to Taegu Prison. There he says that he was badly beaten and accused of being a North Korean spy, a charge which he denies. In 1953 Ahn Hak-sop was sentenced to life imprisonment by a military court. His family believe that this charge was based on the fact that he was captured alone, close to the border, and that his family did not come forward to identify him. In fact, the family were living on Kanghwa-do island at the time and were unable to obtain permits to cross to the mainland and visit him. A member of his family only managed to reach Taegu one week after the trial and alleged that she was told that if she had come one week earlier and bribed officials she could have secured his release. To Amnesty International's knowledge no photograph of Ahn Hak-sop exists.

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## SOUTH KOREA

### New Appeal for the Release of Kim Sam-sok

관	인권 자료실	사본
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NOVEMBER 1994

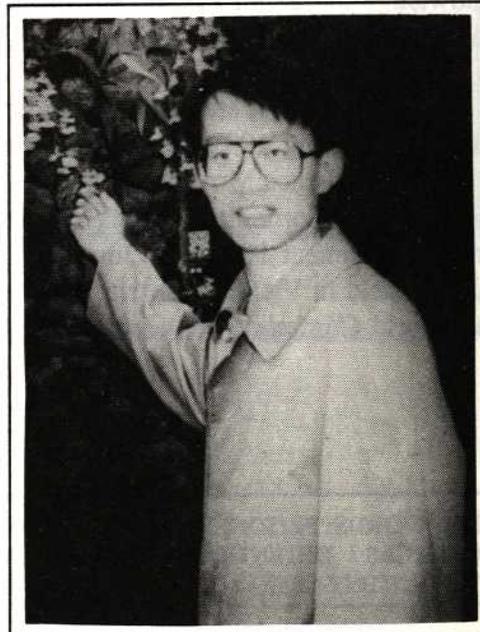
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Amnesty International is renewing its calls for the release of Kim Sam-sok, following allegations that his conviction and sentence were based on false evidence provided by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP), South Korea's intelligence service. These allegations reinforce Amnesty International's own findings about the activities of the ANSP and its involvement in the conviction of Kim Sam-sok.

Kim Sam-sok, aged 28, and his sister Kim Un-ju were arrested in September 1993 for alleged offences under the National Security Law. They were accused of contacting an alleged pro-North Korean group in Japan and leaking "state secrets". Amnesty International adopted the two as prisoners of conscience on the grounds that the charges against them were unfounded.

In February 1994, Kim Un-ju was given a suspended sentence and released. Kim Sam-sok was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, reduced to four years on appeal and is now held in Youngdungpo prison in Seoul. When Amnesty International delegates tried to visit him in October, they were denied access on the grounds that meeting him would be harmful to his "re-education".



Kim Sam-sok

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

**Please send letters and faxes to the South Korean Government:**

◆ *Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Kim Sam-sok, imprisoned for the non-violent exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association;*

◆ *Calling for an independent investigation into the circumstances in which the Agency for National Security Planning allegedly provided false evidence to convict Kim Sam-sok and his sister Kim Un-ju.*

**Appeals to:**

◆ *President Kim Young-sam*

*The Blue House*

*1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu, Seoul*

*Republic of Korea*

*Fax: +822 770 0253*

◆ *Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice*

*Ministry of Justice*

*1 Chungang-dong*

*Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province*

*Republic of Korea*

*Fax: +822 504 3337*

◆ *Mr Kim Deok, Director*

*Agency for National Security Planning*

*Presidential Office, The Blue House*

*1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu*

*Seoul, Republic of Korea*

*Fax: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs +822 720 2686*

◆ *and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.*

*This appeal is being sent to Korea coordinators and South Korea Action File groups*

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM

Amnesty International believes that on several occasions in recent years exaggerated or false information provided to prosecutors by the ANSP has led to the conviction under the National Security Law of known dissidents and other government critics. The National Security Law, which forbids any unauthorized contact with North Korea or North Koreans in other countries, defines the crime of "espionage" in broad terms and has often been used to convict people who were exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

Park Heung-yong (also known as Pae In-oh) used to work for the ANSP. On 31 October 1994 he claimed that in mid-1993 he was told by the ANSP of plans to "fabricate" a case against Kim Un-ju and Kim Sam-sok. He said he was ordered to frame Kim Un-ju by asking her to deliver a parcel which contained pro-North Korean literature. He also claimed that since 1992 he had been told to make incriminating links between alleged pro-North Korean organizations in Japan and several political non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in South Korea, including NGOs working on South Korean human rights issues.

Amnesty International has written to the South Korean Government urging it to order an independent investigation into the circumstances in which the ANSP allegedly provided false evidence to convict Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju.

In October 1994, Kim Un-ju told Amnesty International that during 17 days of questioning by the ANSP she was repeatedly kicked and slapped and forced to do physical exercises. She was also deprived of sleep for four days and threatened with sexual harassment. Kim Sam-sok said that he had been beaten, stripped naked and sexually assaulted during his interrogation by the ANSP. To Amnesty International's knowledge the South Korean authorities did not carry out any independent inquiry into these allegations of ill-treatment.

Kim Sam-sok studied Russian language at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul. During 1992 he worked as a staff member of the Korean Alliance of Anti-Nuclear and Peace Movements and in 1993 he became Secretary General of the Pacific War Victims Committee. He has written a number of published articles on anti-nuclear and disarmament issues. In June 1993 he attended the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna, Austria, as a delegate of KONUCH (Korean NGO Network for the World Conference on Human Rights).

**KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL CHARGES / DETENTION FOR RE-EDUCATION / PEACE ACTIVISTS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / SEXUAL ASSAULT / MISSIONS / PHOTOGRAPHS /**

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EXTERNAL

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To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia  
Date: 30 November 1994

### **MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION**

**Yu Chong-sik  
SOUTH KOREA**

#### **Keywords**

Theme: Ill-health/medical care/POC

#### **Summary**

Appeals are requested on behalf of a 54-year-old prisoner of conscience in South Korea who is in need of medical attention. He is serving a term of life imprisonment and requires attention for a number of long-standing problems. Please see the details attached.

#### **Recommended Actions**

Letters should be sent to the addresses below:

- raising the case of Yu Chong-sik who is held in Andong prison, expressing concern that he has experienced ear and eye problems and headaches, and has a fluctuating mental state
- seeking information on his present state and on what treatment he has received in prison
- stressing that while he remains in prison it is the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that he receive proper medical attention and asking that he be referred to a hospital where he can receive full examination and any treatment recommended. (You could note that it is 15 years since he was last referred for outside examination.)
- stating that he was convicted unfairly, on the basis of a confession extracted under torture and under trial procedures which fell far short of international standards of fair trial
- calling for his unconditional release from prison

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EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 25/33/94  
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Addresses

Ms Kim Doo-hee  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Kwachon-myon  
Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea

The Director  
Correction Bureau  
c/o Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon  
Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea

(The Correction Bureau is responsible for the administration of prisons throughout the country.)

The Director  
Andong Prison  
Sangri 3-dong 121  
Pungsanup  
Andong-kun  
Kyong-puk  
Republic of Korea

Date: 30 November 1994

**MEDICAL CONCERN**

Yu Chong-sik  
SOUTH KOREA

Amnesty International is concerned for Yu Chong-sik, a 54-year-old prisoner of conscience who is reported to be in need of medical attention. Yu Chong-sik is serving a sentence of life imprisonment and has already spent 19 years in prison. During this time he is said to have received very little medical attention.

**Background**

Yu Chong-sik was born in Japan. He lived there until the age of five when his family moved to the city of Pusan in the Republic of Korea (South Korea). He began university studies in Seoul and then in the early 1960s moved to Japan where he studied agriculture at the Universities of Tokyo and Nihon. He returned to South Korea in 1970, married and had two children.

Yu Chong-sik was arrested under the National Security Law in March 1975 and accused of espionage - charges which he denies. The authorities accused him of having received espionage training when he visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) several years earlier. In the accusation made against him this included orders to infiltrate university campuses, establish underground organizations, recruit others and gather state secrets. Yu says that he twice visited North Korea while he was resident in Japan, but that the trips had been made solely out of curiosity.

Yu was interrogated for a period of one month by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (now called the Agency for National Security Planning). During this time he is reported to have been held incommunicado and tortured. He did not see a lawyer until his trial commenced and was in a very poor state of health when he appeared in court. Amnesty International believes that he was convicted on the basis of a forced confession extracted under torture and has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience. To AI's knowledge there is no evidence which would suggest that he was guilty of espionage.

**The definition of "espionage" under the National Security Law**

Yu's case is similar to those of many other political prisoners convicted of espionage and sentenced to lengthy prison terms in the 1970s and '80s after trials which fell short of international standards. The National Security Law (NSL) defines "espionage" in very broad terms. It prescribes long sentences or the death penalty for "anti-state" activities or contacts with "anti-state" organizations. The term "anti-state" organization has been used to describe the North Korean government and countless South Korean groups, mostly those

embracing socialist or communist views. The South Korean courts have ruled that any information which might be useful to North Korea is a state secret, even if it is in the public domain and has been made available to the public. Passing such information may be considered an act of espionage. Similarly, any unauthorized contact with a North Korean may be interpreted as an act of espionage. Over the years the NSL has been widely used to imprison people who visited North Korea without government authorization, people who met North Koreans, people who expressed support for North Korea, who were in sympathy with the North Korean Government or who supported North Korea's positions on reunification.

#### **Yu Chong-sik's state of health and access to medical care**

Yu Chong-sik was sentenced to death at his trial in 1975 - a sentence which was commuted to life imprisonment later that year. During his imprisonment, he has had a number of health problems, including ear problems, but appears to have received little medical treatment. He is now reported to have a fluctuating psychological state; his speech is sometimes confused and he is subject to marked mood changes. He now complains of frequent severe headaches and walks with a slightly swaying gait. In addition, his eyesight has deteriorated to the point where he is unable to read. As is common with political prisoners convicted of espionage in South Korea, Yu is forced to remain in virtual isolation. Such prisoners are usually held in single cells and are generally not assigned work duties. In general, the only regular social contact Yu Chong-sik has with other prisoners is during his daily exercise period.

Yu Chong-sik has been held in a number of different prisons and is currently in Andong prison. The provision of medical attention there is said to be inadequate. Although Yu's referral to an outside doctor has been requested, the prison authorities do not appear to consider his problems sufficient to warrant his referral to a hospital. According to his family, he was last referred for outside examination 15 years ago.

A report published in 1992 by the Seoul-based *Lawyers for a Democratic Society* addresses some of the problems with the provision of medical care in Korean prisons. By way of illustration, it notes that in 1990 there were 1,500 prisoners in the medical section of Seoul detention centre who were attended by only one full-time doctor and a number of non-medical personnel. There was also a circuit physician who made the rounds of the cells and a circuit dentist. No medical staff were on duty in the prison during the night. The report quotes the *Korean Committee for the Defence of Human Rights of Prisoners* as saying that prisoners frequently complain of delays in obtaining medical attention, of rudimentary examinations, lack of proper treatment, and a general attitude of neglect. Although there is legal provision for prisoners to be attended by doctors from outside the prison system, this is in practice rarely exercised. Prison rules do not stipulate a recommended ratio of doctors to prisoners.

--oOo--

Amnesty International is appealing to the Korean authorities to refer Yu Chong-sik to hospital without further delays to allow examination and treatment by appropriate experts. It continues to call for his unconditional release from prison.



News Service 267/94

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 08/94  
29 NOVEMBER 1994

SOUTH KOREA: GOVERNMENT BREACHES COPYRIGHT ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

The Government of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), in breach of copyright, has reproduced two Amnesty International reports on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) without the organization's permission.

"As an independent and impartial organization, we regret the selective use of our reports by governments," Amnesty International said. "We are particularly concerned in this instance because of the potential damage to Amnesty International's reputation for impartiality".

Last month, Amnesty International obtained copies of the two reproduced reports which were published in August by the National Unification Board and the Government Publishing Office.

Amnesty International has asked the South Korean Government to withdraw all copies of the two publications from circulation and to ensure that existing stock is destroyed. The organization has also sought a written commitment that no future reproductions will be made without its written permission and has reserved the right to take further action unless the government pays urgent attention to this matter.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44) (71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 AMNSTY G FAX: (44) (71) 956 1157

E-mail: (GreenNet) amnestyis@gn.apc.org, (GeoNet) amnesty-is@mcr1.geonet.de

As from 16 April 1995: Tel: (44) (171) 413 5500 Fax: (44) (171) 956 1157

참여연대 인권 자료실		
번호	구분	사유
	E-54	

NEWS RELEASE ISSUED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

For further information please contact: East Asia Research, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom. Tel: (44)(71) 413 5665/5500 Fax: (44)(71) 956 1157.

News Service 267/94

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 08/94  
29 NOVEMBER 1994

SOUTH KOREA: GOVERNMENT BREACHES COPYRIGHT ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

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As an independent and impartial organization, we regret the selective use of our reports by governments, Amnesty International said. We are particularly concerned in this instance because of the potential damage to Amnesty International's reputation for impartiality.

Last month, Amnesty International obtained copies of the two reproduced reports which were published in August by the National Unification Board and the Government Publishing Office.

Amnesty International has asked the South Korean Government to withdraw all copies of the two publications from circulation and to ensure that existing stock is destroyed. The organization has also sought a written commitment that no future reproductions will be made without its written permission and has reserved the right to take further action unless the government pays urgent attention to this matter.

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منظمة العفو الدولية



國際  
特赦  
組織

참여연대 인권 자료실		
날짜	구분	자료번호
1. 9 95	E-5 -4	

# URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/34/94  
Distr: UA/SC

23 November 1994

Further information on UA 237/94 (ASA 25/23/94, 17 June 1994) - Mass arrests / fear of ill-treatment and new concern: Prisoner of conscience faces possible death sentence

SOUTH KOREA

Ahn Jae-ku, aged 61, former professor of mathematics

On 17 November the prosecution asked for a death sentence to be imposed on prisoner of conscience Ahn Jae-ku, currently on trial before Seoul District Criminal Court on charges under the National Security Law. The court's verdict on this case is expected on 30 November. Since 17 November Ahn Jae-ku has been forced to wear handcuffs 24 hours a day. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty and believes that the permanent handcuffing of Ahn Jae-ku is an arbitrary additional punishment which amounts to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. The organization is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ahn Jae-ku.

After his arrest on 14 June Ahn Jae-ku was questioned for 20 consecutive days by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) who subjected him to sleep deprivation and intense psychological pressure to sign a "confession". He is currently in poor health, suffering from arthritis and rheumatism.

Twenty-two others arrested in this case are also on trial. They include 66-year-old Yu Rak-jin and Ahn Jae-ku's son, Ahn Young-min, also adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience. Some of the other prisoners in this case were reportedly beaten by ANSP investigators.

## FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty, generally imposed for murder, may be enforced for over 100 offences under South Korea's Criminal Code. The last execution for a political offence was carried out in 1982. According to the Ministry of Justice, prisoners under sentence of death, or facing a death sentence, may be kept in handcuffs in order to prevent them from committing suicide. However, international standards impose strict limits on the use of instruments of restraint, including daily medical checks.

Ahn Jae-ku is charged under the National Security Law with establishing an "anti-state" organization, the National Front for the Salvation of the Fatherland, with the purpose of spying for North Korea. However, to Amnesty International's knowledge there is no evidence that the group formed by Ahn Jae-ku had been involved in any such espionage activities.

This is the latest in a succession of cases where Amnesty International believes that suspects have been framed by the ANSP and subsequently accused of "espionage". The National Security Law forbids any unauthorized contact with North Korea, defines the crime of "espionage" in broad terms and has often been used to convict people who were exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

# URGENT ACTION



**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters  
- expressing concern Ahn Jae-ku may be sentenced to death and stating Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty in all cases, as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;  
- stating Amnesty International's opposition to the permanent handcuffing of prisoners which constitutes ill-treatment if not carried out strictly in accordance with international standards limiting the use of instruments of restraint;  
- expressing concern that Ahn Jae-ku and other prisoners in this case were ill-treated during questioning by the ANSP;  
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ahn Jae-ku, a prisoner of conscience.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President  
President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: **President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea**  
Telexes: **24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K**  
Faxes: **+ 822 770 0253 or + 822 720 2686 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Salutation: **Dear President Kim**

2) Minister of Justice  
Mr Kim Doo-hee  
Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myong, Shihung-gun

Telegrams: **Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea**  
Telexes: **24757 MOJUST K**  
Faxes: **+ 822 504 3337**  
Salutation: **Dear Minister Kim**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Chief Judge  
Seoul District Criminal Court  
1701-1 Socho-dong, Socho-gu  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Minkahyop (human rights group)  
2Fl, 592-7 Changshin-2-dong  
Jongro-ku, Seoul 110-542  
Republic of Korea

◆ and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 December 1994.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/35/94  
Distr: UA/SC

1 December 1994

Further information on UA 237/94 (ASA 25/23/94, 17 June 1994) and follow-up (ASA 25/34/94 of 23 November) - Mass arrests / fear of ill-treatment / Prisoner of conscience faces possible death sentence

**SOUTH KOREA** Ahn Jae-ku, aged 61, former professor of mathematics

On 30 November 1994 Ahn Jae-ku was sentenced to life imprisonment by Seoul District Criminal Court. He was reportedly convicted under the National Security Law with forming an "anti-state" organization and spreading pro-North Korean ideology among its members. During his trial Ahn Jae-ku was forced to wear handcuffs 24 hours a day and these have apparently not been removed.

The prosecution had sought a death sentence for Ahn Jae-ku who was arrested in June. Twenty two others are also being tried in connection with this case, some of whom face long prison terms.

Amnesty International believes that Ahn Jae-ku is held for the non-violent exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release. It is concerned at reports that he was ill-treated during interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP).

This is the latest in a succession of cases where Amnesty International is concerned that suspects may have been framed by the ANSP and subsequently accused of "anti-state" and "espionage" activities. The National Security Law, which forbids any unauthorized contact with North Korea, defines such activities in very broad terms and has often been used to convict people who were exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Ahn Jae-ku, a prisoner of conscience, has been sentenced to life imprisonment and calling for his immediate and unconditional release;
- stating Amnesty International's opposition to the permanent handcuffing of prisoners which constitutes ill-treatment if not carried out strictly in accordance with international standards limiting the use of instruments of restraint;
- expressing concern that Ahn Jae-ku and other prisoners in this case were ill-treated during questioning by the Agency for National Security Planning.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44)(71) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: (GeoNet) mcr1:amnesty-is, (GreenNet) amnestyis@gn.apc.org

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President  
 President Kim Young-sam  
 The Blue House  
 1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu  
 Seoul, Republic of Korea  
 Telegrams: **President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea**  
 Telexes: **24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K**  
 Faxes: **+822 770 0253 or +822 720 2686 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**  
 Salutation: **Dear President Kim**

2) Minister of Justice  
 Mr Kim Doo-hee  
 Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice  
 1 Chungang-dong  
 Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
 Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea  
 Telegrams: **Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyongi Province, Republic of Korea**  
 Telexes: **24757 MOJUST K**  
 Faxes: **+822 504 3337**  
 Salutation: **Dear Minister Kim**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Chief Judge  
 Seoul District Criminal Court  
 1701-1 Socho-dong, Socho-gu  
 Seoul, Republic of Korea

Minkahyop (human rights group)  
 2FI, 592-7 Changshin-2-dong  
 Jongro-ku, Seoul 110-542  
 Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 January 1995.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**  
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**МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ**  
**منظمة العفو الدولية**



**國際特赦組織**

한국연대 인권 자료실		
일련번호	분류기호	날짜
1.9 95	E-5 -4	

News Service 261/94

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 06/94  
16 NOVEMBER 1994

**RENEWED CALL FOR RELEASE OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE FOLLOWING FORMER SOUTH KOREAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL'S REVELATIONS**

Amnesty International is renewing its calls for the release of a South Korean prisoner of conscience, following allegations that his conviction and sentence were based on false evidence provided by South Korea's intelligence service.

"These allegations reinforce our own findings about the activities of the Agency for National Security Planning," Amnesty International said.

The organization believes that on several occasions in recent years exaggerated or false information provided by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) has led to the conviction under the National Security Law of known dissidents and other government critics.

Kim Sam-sok and his sister Kim Un-ju were arrested in September 1993 for offences under the National Security Law. They were accused of contacting an alleged pro-North Korean group in Japan and leaking "state secrets".

The National Security Law, which forbids any unauthorized contact with North Korea or North Koreans in other countries, defines the crime of "espionage" in broad terms and has often been used to convict people who were exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

A former official for the ANSP, claimed last month that in mid-1993 he was told by the Agency about plans to "fabricate" a case against Kim Eun-ju and Kim Sam-sok. He said he was ordered to frame Kim Eun-ju by asking her to deliver a parcel which contained pro-North Korean literature. He also claims that since 1992 he had been told to make incriminating links between alleged pro-North Korean organizations in Japan and several political non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in South Korea, including NGOs working on South Korean human rights issues.

Amnesty International is calling for the South Korean Government to order an independent investigation into the circumstances in which the ANSP allegedly provided false evidence to convict the two activists.

The human rights organization adopted the two as prisoners of conscience on the grounds that the charges against them were unfounded. In February, Kim Eun-ju was given a suspended sentence and released. Kim Sam-sok was sentenced to four years' imprisonment in Youngdungpo prison in

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 As from 16 April 1995: Tel: (44) (171) 413 5500 Fax: (44) (171) 956 1157

Seoul. When Amnesty International delegates tried to visit him in October, they were denied access on the grounds that meeting him would be harmful to his "re-education".

In October, Kim Eun-ju told Amnesty International that during 17 days of questioning by the ANSP she was repeatedly kicked and slapped and forced to do physical exercises. She was also deprived of sleep for four days and threatened with sexual harassment. Her brother Kim Sam-sok said that he had been beaten, stripped naked and sexually assaulted during his interrogation. To Amnesty International's knowledge the South Korean authorities did not carry out any independent inquiry into these allegations of ill-treatment.

ENDS\

# amnesty international

## SOUTH KOREA

### Unfair Trial Concern: Long-Term Prisoner Lee Hon-chi

SEPTEMBER 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/28/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Amnesty International is calling on the South Korean Government to review the case of Lee Hon-chi who has been in prison since 1981 on charges under the National Security Law. The organization is concerned at reports that he was tried unfairly, largely on the basis of a confession obtained under torture, and that he may be a prisoner of conscience.

At the time of his arrest Lee Hon-chi, now aged 42, was an electronics technician working for the South Korean company Samsung Electronics. He had been brought up in Japan, of Korean parents, and lived there until 1977 when he moved to South Korea to work for a Japanese electronics company. According to his family he had little interest in politics. However, former Korean residents of Japan who came to live in South Korea were sometimes suspected by the South Korean authorities of having links with the pro-North Korean community in Japan.



Lee Hon-chi was arrested on 9 October 1981 by South Korea's Military Security Command (MSC). He claims to have been tortured and forced to confess that he had spied for North Korea, charges he later denied. The accusations against him included a charge that he had sent industrial and military information to a North Korean agent in Japan and that he had visited North Korea for espionage training. He is said to have been held without access to his lawyer or family members for over four months, until the date of his first trial on 16 February 1982.

Lee Hon-chi's case is similar to that of dozens of others who were sentenced to long prison terms under the National Security Law during the 1970s and 1980s, whose cases have been documented by Amnesty International. There are many reports that these prisoners were held incommunicado for lengthy periods and convicted on the basis of "confessions" obtained under torture. Amnesty International is calling on the South Korean Government to review the case of Lee Hon-chi and others like him.

Amnesty International is also concerned about Lee Hon-chi and other prisoners like him because of the very broad definition of "espionage" in South Korea's National Security Law. Under this law any unauthorized contact with a North Korean may be defined as "espionage" and any information deemed useful to North Korea may be defined as a "state secret". Many prisoners convicted of espionage have in fact been imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association and adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International is concerned that Lee Hon-chi may also be a prisoner of conscience.

Lee Hon-chi's appeals to higher courts were rejected. The only recourse now available to him is to apply for a retrial. However this puts the onus on Lee Hon-chi himself to uncover substantial new evidence and submit it to the court in the hope that they would order a retrial. In practice this requirement has made it impossible for political prisoners in South Korea to obtain a retrial. In that context, Amnesty International believes that the South Korean Government should take the initiative to order a review of the case of Lee Hon-chi and others whose arrest, trial and conviction appear to have violated international human rights standards.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send letters and faxes:**

- ◆ *expressing concern at reports that Lee Hon-chi was tried unfairly, on the basis of a confession extracted under torture and urging the authorities to review his case;*
- ◆ *urging the South Korean Government to review of the cases of all long-term prisoners where there are reports that trials did not conform to international standards.*

**Appeals to:**

◆ President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea Fax: +822 770 0253

◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihuhng-gun, Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea Fax: +822 504 3337

- ◆ *and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.*

*This is one of a series of appeals, sent to South Korea action file groups for action*

**KEYWORDS:** CONFESSIONS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / TRIALS / INCOMMUNICADO  
DETENTION / LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT / POLITICAL PRISONERS / TECHNICIANS /  
ESPIONAGE / PHOTOGRAPHS /

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM**



News Service 233/94

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 06/94  
7 OCTOBER 1994

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISITS SOUTH KOREA**

An Amnesty International delegation will be visiting South Korea from 9 to 25 October to investigate political imprisonment, ill-treatment and the death penalty in that country.

Two members of the delegation are from Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London, while the third delegate is a member of the organization's Japanese Section.

The delegation will seek meetings with a wide range of people including human rights activists, lawyers, journalists, legal specialists and politicians from across the political spectrum. They will also seek meetings with officials in the Ministry of Justice, the police, the Agency for National Security Planning, and other relevant authorities.

The delegation will be carrying out research into specific reports of human rights violations, including:

- The large numbers of arrests under the National Security Law which have been carried out in recent months. Some of those detained are prisoners of conscience.

- Reports of ill-treatment by the police and the Agency for National Security Planning, and procedures followed by these bodies to ensure that prisoners are protected from torture and ill-treatment.

- The use of the death penalty and the treatment of prisoners awaiting execution. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty unconditionally and deeply regrets the execution of 15 prisoners on 6 October.

The delegation will also be seeking information about government procedures relating to the full range of Amnesty International's human rights concerns in South Korea, including:

- The National Security Law which, in its current form, may be used to detain and imprison people for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

- Any proposals made by the relevant authorities regarding judicial reform; particularly information about any proposal to reform arrest and

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**  
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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detention procedures, to improve safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, to reinforce the independence of the judiciary and the accessibility of complaints procedure to members of the public who allege that their rights may have been violated.

- New information about procedures to protect suspects from ill-treatment at the time of arrest and during questioning, and further information on trial procedures in death penalty case, and on procedures for the granting of pardons or commutations of death sentences.

- Any proposals to redress human rights violations which occurred under previous governments. Of particular concern is the fate of a number of long-term political prisoners who appear to have been convicted during the 1970s and 1980s after trials which did not conform to international standards, and are currently serving long terms of imprisonment.

- Information about any human rights education programs for security forces, including the Police and the Agency for National Security Planning.

- Information on matters relating to legislation on the protection and refugee determination procedures for asylum-seekers.

Amnesty International will also be inquiring into the intentions of the Government of the Republic of Korea concerning the ratification of international human rights treaties, particularly the UN Convention Against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

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# URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/29/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 370/94

Executions / Fear of further executions

7 October 1994

SOUTH KOREA

Chon Ki-chol, aged 27  
Suh Chae-tak, aged 48  
Cho hyun-chul, aged 35  
Mun Sung-do, aged 41  
Kim Mu-kyeong, aged 31  
Kim Dae-Hung, aged 29  
and 3 others (names not known)

Lee Pil-wan, aged 41  
Park Gi-tae, aged 29  
Lee Duek-jae, aged 31  
Cha Sun-suk, aged 35  
Kim Man-su, aged 48  
Oh Tae-hwan, aged 35

The execution of 15 people on 6 October 1994 has raised fears that others on death row in South Korea may also have their sentences carried out at any time. This concern has been heightened by reports of the Ministry of Justice stating that the executions were a response to public concern about violent crime, and Amnesty International fears that the decision to execute the 15 may have been motivated in part by recent sensational media coverage of violent crime. These are the first executions in South Korea for nearly two years.

The 15 executions were carried out by hanging at prisons in Seoul, Taegu and Pusan. Those executed had reportedly been convicted of murder, including Chon Ki-chol. Ministry of the Justice officials are reported to have said that seven of those executed had donated their organs for transplantation as a sign of repentance for their crimes.

Executions are carried out in secret and the authorities do not inform a prisoner's relatives or lawyer of an impending execution. Prisoners themselves receive only a few hours' notice, according to sources familiar with the procedures.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases, considering it to be the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Before these latest executions some 50 people were believed to be on death row in South Korea including fourteen who were sentenced to death during 1994. These were the first executions since December 1992 when nine prisoners were executed.

In September a gang of men were arrested on charges of mass murder. The arrests and details of the alleged crimes were widely reported by the media in South Korea and may have been used as justification for the latest executions. A Ministry of Justice spokesman is reported to have said: "The executions show the determination of the government to expel such heinous, anti-human criminals eternally from this society".

The South Korean government justifies its use of the death penalty as a deterrent to violent crime. However, in no country has the death penalty been conclusively shown to have a greater deterrent effect than other forms of punishment.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44)(71) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: (GeoNet) mcr1:amnesty-is, (GreenNet) amnestyis@gn.apc.org

or in your own language:

- expressing deep regret about the execution on 6 October of 15 prisoners
- expressing Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment, pointing out that it has never been conclusively demonstrated that the death penalty is a deterrent to violent crime;
- calling on the government to commute all death sentences and take steps to abolish the death penalty in law.

#### APPEALS TO

##### 1) President

President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: **President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea**  
Telexes: **24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K**  
Faxes: **+822 770 0253 or +822 720 2686 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**  
Salutation: **Dear President Kim**

##### 2) Minister of Justice

Mr Kim Doo-hee  
Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: **Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea**  
Telexes: **24757 MOJUST K**  
Faxes: **+822 504 3337**  
Salutation: **Dear Minister Kim**

#### COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

##### 1) Editor, Hankyoreh Daily

1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ka  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: **+822 710 0360, +822 710 0310**

##### 2) Editor, Dong-A Ilbo

139 Sejong Chongro-gu  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: **+822 361 0424, +822 361 0434**

and to the correspondents in your country of South Korean news organizations.

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 December 1994.

#### NEWS STATEMENT ISSUED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON 18 AUGUST 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 05/94  
18 AUGUST 1994

#### SOUTH KOREA: NEW ARRESTS IN CLAMP DOWN ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Amnesty International is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of two well-known dissident leaders arrested on 9 August under the National Security Law for their allegedly pro-North Korean activities, the latest arrests in a clampdown that started last month with the arrests of dozens of student activists who expressed sympathy for the late North Korean leader Kim Il Sung.

The two men, Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung, Chairman and Executive Committee member of the dissident organization *National Alliance for Democracy and Unification of Korea (NADUK)*, are long-time advocates of peaceful reunification.

They are accused of supporting North Korea's reunification ideas at a rally in March and for expressing sympathy for North Korea following the death of Kim Il Sung. They face charges under the National Security Law which prohibits activities deemed to "praise", "encourage" and "side with" North Korea, on penalty of imprisonment.

"Over the past month, the South Korean government has stepped up its use of the National Security Law to clamp down on the rights to freedom of expression and association," Amnesty International said.

The organization said that these rights are guaranteed by international human rights standards to which the South Korean Government has publicly committed itself, and that the government cannot use the current situation on the Korean peninsula as an excuse to curtail these rights.

Others targeted since the start of the clampdown include nine professors of Kyungsang University in Chinju City who are jointly accused of writing a pro-North Korean textbook which has been used in teaching for the past four years. The nine have reportedly refused a summons by the prosecution and face imminent arrest.

Amnesty International believes that the recent National Security Law clamp down has led to a climate of fear and anger in student and dissident circles which has contributed to the recent student-police clashes.

The organization calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all people held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

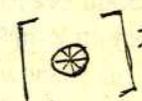
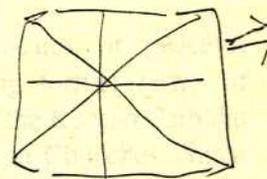
For further information, contact Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ. Tel: (44)(71) 413 5500 Fax: (44)(71) 956 1157

TEXT OF APPEAL ISSUED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON 17 AUGUST 1994

# amnesty international

## SOUTH KOREA

### Appeal for the release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung



Handwritten Korean text in a circle: 김일성  
사상  
전파

17 AUGUST 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/27/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Handwritten Korean text in a box: 김일성  
사상 전파



Amnesty International is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung, Chairman and Executive Committee member of the dissident organization *National Alliance for Democracy and Unification of Korea (NADUK, Chonkukyonhap)*. The two men were arrested on 9 August under the National Security Law for their allegedly pro-North Korean activities. Amnesty International believes they are the victims of a recent crackdown on progressive and leftist activities in South Korea which has led to dozens of arrests under the National Security Law.

Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung are accused of supporting North Korea's reunification ideas at a rally in March and for expressing sympathy for North Korea following the death of Kim Il Sung. They face charges under the National Security Law which prohibits activities deemed to "praise", "encourage" and "side with" North Korea, on penalty of imprisonment. Supporters believe that they were also arrested to prevent them from helping to organize a pro-reunification rally in Seoul on 15 August, the anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

Since July dozens of students and dissidents have been arrested for attempting to mourn or express sympathy at the death of Kim Il Sung, leading to a crackdown on leftist and progressive expression in South Korea. Amnesty international is concerned that many people appear to have been arrested for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. (See Amnesty International documents: ASA 25/25/94, *Death of Kim Il Sung leads to Arrests in South Korea*, issued on 20 July and ASA 25/26/94, *Professors Targeted in Latest National Security Law Crackdown*, issued on 10 August).

Several provisions of National Security Law violate the rights to freedom of expression and association, rights which are guaranteed by international human rights standards to which the South Korean Government have publicly committed themselves. Amnesty International has expressed concern that the current tense situation on the Korean peninsula should not be used as justification for curbing these fundamental rights.

Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung are long-time advocates of peaceful reunification and were adopted as prisoners of conscience during former terms of imprisonment. Lee Chang-bok, aged 56, has worked as Chairman of the Korean Catholic Working Youth and Vice-Chairman of the Social Mission of Korean Churches. Since 1989 he has been a leader of the NADUK. He was imprisoned from 1991 to 1993 under the National Security Law for establishing the South Korean branch of the Pan-National Alliance for Reunification (*Pominnyon*). Hwang In-sung, aged 42, has worked as a leader of the Korean Student Christian Federation and the Korea Christian Coalition for Democracy and Reunification and has been a leader of the NADUK since 1992. He was also arrested and imprisoned in 1991 for his involvement with *Pominnyon*.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send letters and faxes to the South Korean Government:

- ◆ *Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung, arrested for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association;*
- ◆ *expressing concern about the recent arrests of many leftist students and dissidents for alleged pro-North Korean activities, some of whom are prisoners of conscience held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.*

#### Appeals to:

- ◆ President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea Fax: +822 770 0253
- ◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwacheon-myon, Shihwang-gu, Kyunggi Province  
Republic of Korea Fax: +822 504 3337
- ◆ Mr Kim Hwa-nam, Director  
National Police Administration  
209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu  
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Fax: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs +822 720 2686
- ◆ *and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country*

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM

## 보도요청서

수신 : 각 언론사 사회부

발신 : 경상대 '한국사회의 이해' 저자, 인권운동 사랑방

제목 : 8월 10일(런던 현지시간) 엠네스티 '한국사회의 이해' 탄압 우려 공문

매수 : 2매

### 국제사면위원회

1994. 8. 10

### 남한 : 최근 국가보안법 단속의 표적이 된 대학교수들

국제 사면위원회는 9명의 대학교수가 국가권력이 친북적이라고 혐의를 둔 교과서를 집필했다는 이유로 국가보안법으로 기소 및 구속될 사태에 직면해 있다는 보고에 대해 예의 주시하고 있다.

9명의 교수명단은 장상환, 최태룡, 백좌흠, 이해숙, 이창호, 송기호, 김준형, 김의동, 정진상이다. 이러한 혐의로 구금된다면 그들은 표현의 자유의 권리 행사 때문에 구금된 양심수가 될 것이다. 국제 사면위원회는 이들 교수들이 7월 북한 지도자 김일성 사망이후 남한에서 일어난 진보적, 좌익견해를 표현한 사람들에 대한 단속에서 가장 최근의 희생자들이라고 믿고 있다.

진주 경상대학교의 9명의 교수들은 『한국사회의 이해』라는 책을 저술한 것으로 혐의를 받고 있는데, 이 책은 몇년 전에 출판되어 1990년부터 대학 교재로 사용되어 왔다. 당국에 따르면 이 책이 공산주의 이데올로기를 지지하고 계급투쟁과 혁명을 선동하므로 국가보안법을 위반하였다고 한다. 그러나 해당 교수들은 이 책이 단지 한국사회에 대한 균형잡힌 관점을 제공하고 있으며 친북의 의도가 없다고 주장한다. 그들은 이 책이 지난 4년동안 대학교재로 사용되어 왔음을 지적한다. 한 보도에 따르면, 리포트에서 맑스주의와 북한 이데올로기를 지지했기 때문에 9명의 교수들로부터 좋은 점수를 받은 것으로 생각되는 학생들도 검찰이 조사하려고 한다.

경제학과 장상환교수(44세)는 다음과 같이 언급하였다:

"우리는 학생들에게 한국사회의 현실에 대한 기본적인 지식을 제공하려고 기획된 강좌를 위해 이 책을 공동 집필하였다. 이 책이 적을 이롭게 한다고 주장하는 것은 대학의 연구 및 교육활동을 심각하게 침해하는 것이다. 4년간 사용되어 왔던 대학교재를 문제삼아서 공안당국은 우리를 인민재판으로 몰아넣으려고 한다. 이것은 국민의 기본권에 대한 도전이므로 우리는 소환에 응하지 않을 것이다."

7월 8일 북한의 전지도자 김일성이 사망한 후, 남한 당국은 북한에 조문을 보내고 북한에 동조하며 북한방문을 시도한 혐의로 수십명의 남한 인사들에 대해 체포와 수사를 명령하였다. (7월 20일 발행된 ASA 25/25/94, 「김일성의 사망이 부른 남한에서의 체포, 참조) 구속인사의 대부분은 북한에 조문을 보낸 혐의를 받고 있는 대학생들이다. 국제사면위원회는 많은 인사들이 표현 및 결사 자유의 권리를 비폭력적으로 행사한 이유로 구금되고 수사를 받고 있는듯 하기 때문에 우려를 표시하고 이러한 인사들이 석방되어야 한다고 본다.

「국가보안법」은 허가받지 않은 대북접촉을 금지하고 있으며 이를 위반하는 경우에 대하여는 실형을 규정하고 있다. 이 법은 또한 북한에 대한 동조 고무 또는 찬양으로 간주될 수 있는 행위에 대한 처벌을 규정하고 있으며, 이 조항은 애매하게 해석되어 왔기 때문에, 이로 인하여 학생, 반체제인사, 작가, 출판인 등 양심수들이 임의적으로 체포되었다.

국제사면위원회는 좌익사상이나 진보사상을 가진 인사들에 대한 합동 공세의 일환으로 추가적인 체포가 일어나지 않을까 우려하고 있다. 8월초 집권 민자당의 국회의원들은 좌익사상을 학생들에게 주입시키는 교수들과 교사들을 제거하도록 정부에 촉구했던 것으로 보도되었다. 이것은 일부 학생들이 북한으로부터 지시를 받는다는 서강대학교 총장의 진술과 대다수의 학생회가 좌익 학생들에 의해서 조종되고 있다는 경찰발표에 뒤이어 나온 것이다. 국제사면위원회는 단순히 표현 및 결사 자유의 권리를 행사한 이유로 국민들을 체포하지 않도록 한국정부에 촉구한다. (번역 : 정진상 등)

1994. 8. 10 국제사면위원회

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## SOUTH KOREA

### Appeal for the release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung

17 AUGUST 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/27/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Amnesty International is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung, Chairman and Executive Committee member of the dissident organization *National Alliance for Democracy and Unification of Korea (NADUK, Chonkukyonhap)*. The two men were arrested on 9 August under the National Security Law for their allegedly pro-North Korean activities. Amnesty International believes they are the victims of a recent crackdown on progressive and leftist activities in South Korea which has led to dozens of arrests under the National Security Law.

Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung are accused of supporting North Korea's reunification ideas at a rally in March and for expressing sympathy for North Korea following the death of Kim Il Sung. They face charges under the National Security Law which prohibits activities deemed to "praise", "encourage" and "side with" North Korea, on penalty of imprisonment. Supporters believe that they were also arrested to prevent them from helping to organize a pro-reunification rally in Seoul on 15 August, the anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

Since July dozens of students and dissidents have been arrested for attempting to mourn or express sympathy at the death of Kim Il Sung, leading to a crackdown on leftist and progressive expression in South Korea. Amnesty International is concerned that many people appear to have been arrested for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. (See Amnesty International documents: ASA 25/25/94, *Death of Kim Il Sung leads to Arrests in South Korea*, issued on 20 July and ASA 25/26/94, *Professors Targeted in Latest National Security Law Crackdown*, issued on 10 August).

Several provisions of National Security Law violate the rights to freedom of expression and association, rights which are guaranteed by international human rights standards to which the South Korean Government have publicly committed themselves. Amnesty International has expressed concern that the current tense situation on the

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## SOUTH KOREA

### Professors Targeted in Latest National Security Law Crackdown

10 AUGUST 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/26/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that nine university professors face prosecution and imprisonment under the National Security Law for writing a textbook which the authorities allege to be pro-North Korean. The nine professors are Chang Sang-hwan, Cho Tae-ryong, Paek Choi-hum, Lee Hyu-suk, Lee Chang-ho, Song Ki-ho, Kim Chun-hyong, Kim Ui-dong and Chong Chin-sang. If detained on these charges, they will be prisoners of conscience, held for exercising their rights to freedom of expression. Amnesty International believes that these professors are the latest victims in a crackdown on people expressing progressive and leftist views which has taken place in South Korea since the death in July of North Korean leader, Kim Il Sung.

The nine professors from Kyongsang University in Chinju city are accused of writing a book, *Understanding Korean Society*, which was published several years ago and has been used as a university text book since 1990. According to the authorities the book may violate the National Security Law on the grounds that it supports communist ideology and instigates class struggle and revolution. The professors claim, however, that the book merely gives a balanced view of Korean society and is not intended to be pro-North Korean. They point out that the book has been used as a university textbook for the past four years. According to one report, the prosecution also wish to question a number of students whom it suspects of receiving good marks from the nine professors for supporting Marxism and North Korean ideology in their essays.

Professor Chang Sang-hwan, 44-year-old professor of economics, commented:

*"We co-authored the book for a course designed to provide students with basic knowledge of the reality of Korean society. Alleging that it benefits the enemy is to seriously infringe upon the research and educational activities of the university. . . taking issue with a college textbook which has been in*

Korean peninsula should not be used as justification for curbing these fundamental rights.

Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung are long-time advocates of peaceful reunification and were adopted as prisoners of conscience during former terms of imprisonment. Lee Chang-bok, aged 56, has worked as Chairman of the Korean Catholic Working Youth and Vice-Chairman of the Social Mission of Korean Churches. Since 1989 he has been a leader of the NADUK. He was imprisoned from 1991 to 1993 under the National Security Law for establishing the South Korean branch of the Pan-National Alliance for Reunification (*Pomminnyon*). Hwang In-sung, aged 42, has worked as a leader of the Korean Student Christian Federation and the Korea Christian Coalition for Democracy and Reunification and has been a leader of the NADUK since 1992. He was also arrested and imprisoned in 1991 for his involvement with *Pomminnyon*.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send letters and faxes to the South Korean Government:

- ◆ *Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung, arrested for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association;*
- ◆ *expressing concern about the recent arrests of many leftist students and dissidents for alleged pro-North Korean activities, some of whom are prisoners of conscience held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.*

Appeals to:

- ◆ *President Kim Young-sam*  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea Fax: +822 770 0253
- ◆ *Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice*  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea Fax: +822 504 3337
- ◆ *Mr Kim Hwa-nam, Director*  
National Police Administration  
209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu  
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Fax: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs +822 720 2686
- ◆ *and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.*

*This appeal is being sent to Korea coordinators and South Korea Action File groups*

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / RELIGIOUS GROUPS - CATHOLIC / LEGISLATION /

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Please send letters and faxes to the South Korean Government:

- ◆ *expressing concern at the investigation of nine university professors under the National Security Law for writing a book alleged to be pro-North Korean;*
- ◆ *urging the authorities not to arrest the professors on these charges which would constitute a violation their rights to freedom of expression;*
- ◆ *expressing concern about the recent arrests of many leftist students and dissidents for pro-North Korean activities, some of whom are prisoners of conscience held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.*

**Appeals to:**

- ◆ President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 770 0253
- ◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 504 3337
- ◆ Mr Kim Hwa-nam, Director  
National Police Administration  
209 Mi Kun-dong  
Sudaemoon-gu  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs +822 720 2686
- ◆ *and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.*

*This appeal has been sent to all KOTARAN coordinators for action.*

*use for four years, the prosecution is seeking to try us in a kangaroo court. This is a challenge to the basic rights of the people and we will not comply with the summons".*

Since the death on 8 July of former North Korean leader, Kim Il Sung, the South Korean authorities have ordered the arrest and investigation of dozens of South Koreans on suspicion of sending condolence messages to North Korea, sympathising with North Korea and attempting to visit North Korea (see ASA 25/25/94, *Death of Kim Il Sung leads to Arrests in South Korea*, issued on 20 July). Most of the people arrested are students accused of sending messages of condolence to North Korea. Amnesty International is concerned that many people appear to have been detained and investigated for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association and that such people should be released.

The National Security Law prohibits unauthorized contact with North Koreans on penalty of imprisonment. The law also punishes actions which may be interpreted as siding with, encouraging or praising North Korea, a provision which has been loosely interpreted and has led to arbitrary arrests of prisoners of conscience including students, dissidents, writers, publishers and others.

Amnesty International is also concerned that there may be further arrests as part of what appears to be a concerted campaign against people with leftist or progressive ideas. In early August lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party are reported to have urged the government to remove professors and teachers who instill leftist ideas in students. This followed a statement by the President of Sogang University that some students take orders from North Korea and police reports that the majority of student councils are controlled by leftist students. Amnesty International is urging the authorities to ensure that people are not arrested for merely exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

**KEYWORDS: ACADEMICS1 / CENSORSHIP / PRISONERS' TESTIMONIES /**

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM**

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# amnesty international

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## SOUTH KOREA

### Death of Kim Il Sung leads to Arrests in South Korea

20 July 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/25/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Amnesty International is concerned that dozens of people, including students and dissidents, have been arrested in South Korea under the National Security Law following the death on 9 July of North Korean leader Kim Il Sung. They are accused of holding or preparing mourning ceremonies; of expressing sympathy for the late North Korean leader or of attempting to travel to North Korea to attend his funeral. Amnesty International considers that South Koreans detained for attempting to visit North Korea or expressing sympathy for its late leader, without use or advocacy of violence, are imprisoned for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association or movement and that they should be released. It also urges the authorities to refrain from ordering further arrests on these grounds.

Over 50 students were detained on 13 July in Seoul and some 30 on 16 July in Kwangju for allegedly preparing mourning ceremonies for Kim Il Sung. The arrests led to violent student protests, but many of those initially arrested do not appear to have used violence. Leaders of the student federation *Hanchongnyon* (Federation of Student Councils) said on 14 July that they would send a message of condolence to North Korea, an action which may lead to their arrest. On 19 July, the day of Kim Il Sung's funeral, over 100 students were reportedly detained to prevent them from mourning.

Two leaders of the dissident organization *Pomminnyon* (pan-national alliance for the reunification of Korea) were arrested on 16 July as they attempted to visit North Korea through the border village of Panmunjom to attend Kim Il Sung's funeral. They are 72-year-old former Prisoner of Conscience Reverend Kang Hee-nam and his assistant 29-year-old Ahn Hee-chan. Several other members of *Pomminnyon* were questioned about their involvement in the visit. Others facing arrest include Park Bo-hee, President of a daily newspaper *Segye Times*, who is reported to have travelled to North Korea. The South Korean authorities stated that Park Bo-hee may be arrested on his return to South Korea for holding unauthorized meetings with North Korean leaders.

The North Korean authorities issued a public invitation to South Koreans who wished to attend Kim Il Sung's funeral on 19 July but South Korea's National Security

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## SOUTH KOREA

### Appeal for the Release of Kim Sun-myung: Held for 42 Years

JULY 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/24/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Amnesty International is appealing for the release of 69-year-old Kim Sun-myung, a former textile worker who fought for North Korea during the Korean War (1951 - 1953). Kim Sun-myung has been in prison in conditions of extreme isolation since October 1951, making him one of the world's longest serving prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International believes that he continues to be held solely on grounds of conscience, because of his refusal to renounce communism.

Kim Sun-myung was arrested in 1951 as he crossed the border separating North and South Korea. He was accused of espionage and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by a military court. In 1953 he was tried again by a military court and was sentenced to death, later commuted to life imprisonment. According to available information about Kim Sun-myung, he was tortured during interrogation and convicted unfairly. He has consistently refused to sign a statement of "conversion" renouncing his alleged communist views. Amnesty International believes this is the reason why he has been refused the possibility of release on parole and also accounts for the poor conditions in which he is held.



For most of his 42-year imprisonment in Taejon Prison Kim Sun-myung has been held in isolation from other prisoners and has received no visitors. His family stopped visiting him many years ago and human rights groups have been denied access. In May and June 1994 human rights lawyers who are trying to secure Kim Sun-myung's release were refused access. As a result of his isolation, prolonged imprisonment and old age, Kim Sun-myung is said to be in poor physical and mental health.

Law prohibits unauthorized contact with North Koreans on penalty of imprisonment. The law also punishes actions which may be interpreted as siding with, encouraging or praising North Korea, a provision which has recently led to the arrest of prisoners of conscience including students, dissidents, writers, publishers and others.

Amnesty International has urged the South Korean government to amend the National Security Law to bring it into line with international human rights standards relating to freedom of expression and association.

On 20 July Amnesty International also published a statement calling on the North Korean authorities to commit themselves to respecting all internationally recognized human rights. In particular, the organization urged North Korea to release all prisoners of conscience, to review legislation which allows the imprisonment of people for exercising their fundamental rights, and to account for the whereabouts and legal status of all political prisoners.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send letters and faxes to the South Korean Government:

- ◆ *expressing concern about dozens of recent arrests in South Korea under the National Security Law;*
- ◆ *calling for the immediate and unconditional release of those detained solely for expressing sympathy about the death of Kim Il Sung, without use or advocacy of violence, and of those who attempted to visit North Korea to attend the funeral;*
- ◆ *urging the authorities to refrain from making arrests on these grounds.*

Appeals to:

- ◆ President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 770 0253
- ◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 504 3337
- ◆ *and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.*

This appeal has been sent to all KOTARAN coordinators for action.

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / BANNING / STUDENTS / POLITICAL  
ACTIVISTS / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - PROTESTANT / AGED / EDITORS /

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/23/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 237/94 Mass arrests / Fear of ill-treatment

17 June 1994

**SOUTH KOREA** Ahn Jae-ku, aged 61, mathematics lecturer at Kyonghee University  
Ahn Young-min, aged 26, son of above  
Ryu Nak-jin, aged 66  
Kim Sung-hwan, aged 28, member of Korean Council of Youth Organizations (Hanchonghyop) in Pohang city  
Kim Jin-bae, aged 26, worker  
Jong Hwa-ryo, aged 30  
Jong Chang-soo, aged 30  
Hong Jong-hee, aged 37  
Park Rae-koon, aged 32  
and at least 16 others

On 14 June at least 25 people, including those named above, were arrested in South Korea by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) and the police for alleged pro-North Korean activities. They are currently held for interrogation under the National Security Law (NSL). Amnesty International fears that the prisoners may be ill-treated during interrogation and that they may be held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

According to the ANSP, some of the prisoners, including Ahn Jae-ku, are accused of forming an underground branch of the (North Korean) Workers' Party of Korea (WPK). They are said to have established, in January 1993, a pro-North Korean group called the National Front for Salvation of the Fatherland. Some of the other prisoners are accused of forming a pro-North Korean group called the Korean Democratic Nationalistic Front.

Since early 1994 dozens of people have been arrested under the NSL for alleged pro-North Korean activities, many of whom are prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International is concerned that the South Korean Government appears to be using the state of tension with North Korea to arrest people for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are some 300 political prisoners in South Korea, the majority of whom are held under the NSL. This law prescribes long prison terms for pro-North Korean activities, including the vaguely-defined crime of "espionage". It has been used to imprison many people who were merely exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

Political detainees in South Korea are routinely subjected to sleep deprivation during interrogation, which may last for up to 50 days. At least two prisoners detained by the ANSP in 1993 are known to have been subjected to beatings, threats and intimidation. In past cases of a similar nature prisoners said that during questioning by the ANSP and the police they were coerced into making false confessions which were then used to convict them to long prison terms.

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed prisoners of conscience. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.

No other political prisoner in South Korea has been held in such conditions for so long. In spite of his old age, ill-health and lack of contact with the outside world, the South Korean Government appears to regard Kim Sun-myung as an ideological threat because of his alleged communist views. Amnesty International believes that the prolonged imprisonment of Kim Sun-myung for his political views amounts to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. It calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send letters and faxes to the South Korean Government:

- ◆ *expressing concern that the prolonged imprisonment of Kim Sun-myung, a prisoner of conscience, amounts to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;*
- ◆ *calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Kim Sun-myung;*
- ◆ *urging the authorities to allow human rights groups and lawyers to visit Kim Sun-myung in prison.*

Appeals to:

- ◆ *President Kim Young-sam*  
*The Blue House*  
*1 Sejong-no*  
*Chongno-gu, Seoul*  
*Republic of Korea*  
*Fax: +822 770 0253*
- ◆ *Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice*  
*Ministry of Justice*  
*1 Chungang-dong*  
*Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun*  
*Kyonggi Province*  
*Republic of Korea*  
*Fax: +822 504 3337*
- ◆ *and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.*

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT1 / AGED / ILL-HEALTH / MENTAL HEALTH / SOLITARY CONFINEMENT / CONFESSIONS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / ESPIONAGE / PHOTOGRAPHS /

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and mail letters either in English, Korean or in your own language:

- expressing concern that at least 25 people were arrested on 14 June 1994 under the National Security Law and urging the authorities to ensure that they are protected from torture and ill-treatment during interrogation;
- urging the authorities to release the prisoners unless they are promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences, in accordance with international standards;
- expressing concern that in the past the National Security Law has been used to detain people for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association and that these latest arrests may fall into this category;
- expressing concern that the authorities should not use the current state of tension on the Korean peninsula in order to restrict the fundamental rights which are guaranteed under international human rights standards.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President Kim Young-sam

The Blue House

1 Sejong-no

Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telexes: 24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K

Faxes: + 822 770 0253

Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) Mr KIM Doo-hee

Minister of Justice

1 Chungang-dong

Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun

Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyongi Province, Republic of Korea

Telexes: 24757 MOJUST K

Faxes: + 822 504 3337

Salutation: Dear Minister Kim

3) Mr Kim Deok, Director

Agency for National Security Planning

Presidential Office

The Blue House

1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Director, ANSP, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: + 82 2 720 2686 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Sir

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Editor, Hankyoreh Daily

1-2 Yangpyeong-dong, 2-ga

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: +822 710 0319, +822 671 7797

Editor, Chosun Ilbo

61 Taepyongro 1-ka, Jung-ku

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: + 822 724 5390

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 July 1994.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended actions. If possible, send a telegram, telex, fax or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

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- Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.



인권 자료실	
유기종	자료번호

News Service 32/94

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 02/1994  
EMBARGOED FOR 9 MARCH 1994

SOUTH KOREA: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS STILL RIFE UNDER NEW GOVERNMENT

The government of President Kim Young-sam, South Korea's first president in recent years without a military background, has ended its first year in office without substantially improving South Korea's human rights record. Dozens of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience have been arrested over the past year. South Korea has some of the longest-held prisoners of conscience known to Amnesty International anywhere in the world. There have been new reports of torture and ill-treatment.

In his inaugural speech in February 1993 President Kim Young-sam said that under his government South Korea would be a "freer and more mature democratic society" where "justice will flow like a river". In June 1993 the Minister of Foreign Affairs told the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights that "human rights have finally come of age in Korea. I stand before you representing a nation and a people who can proudly say that truth, freedom and democracy have at last triumphed in their country".

In spite of these words, Kim Young-sam's government has done next to nothing to end human rights violations. It curbed slightly the powers of the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP), but left intact those of the police, who like the ANSP can detain political suspects without charge for up to 50 days. It decided to shelve indefinitely amendments to the National Security Law (NSL), a law which has led to the imprisonment of hundreds of prisoners of conscience. It failed to amend the Labour Dispute Mediation Act to remove the ban on "third party intervention" in labour disputes, which effectively prohibits trade union officials and advisors from giving advice to members. It has failed to meet its commitment to ratify the UN Convention against Torture before the end of 1993. It has done nothing to review the cases of dozens of prisoners of conscience imprisoned on fabricated charges and after unfair trials under previous governments.

Today, some 200 prisoners are held under the NSL. A number of political prisoners serving long prison terms are being denied release on parole because they have not "converted" (renounced their real or alleged Communist views). They include Kim Sun-myung and Ahn Hak-sop, prisoners of conscience held since the Korean War.

Those arrested during 1993 included dozens of alleged members of Sanomaeng (Socialist Workers League), labelled by the authorities as an "anti-state" organization. Others were arrested under a widely-abused clause of the NSL which allows imprisonment for possessing and distributing published material "benefitting" North Korea - even when the material in question is publicly available in South Korea.

New reports of torture and ill-treatment were received over the past year. Peace activist Kim Sam-sok and his sister, Kim Un-ju were beaten and sexually assaulted by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) after their arrest on national security charges in September 1993. Other political detainees arrested by the police or the ANSP also reported being beaten and said that they had been deprived of sleep during the initial stages of interrogation.



**amnesty international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

**URGENT ACTION**

In a major positive development in human rights protection, the new government has so far refrained from carrying out death sentences. But some 50 prisoners remain under sentence of death. Most are handcuffed throughout their imprisonment, a practice which in Amnesty International's view amounts to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

In a report published today, Amnesty International highlighted the failure of the year-old South Korean Government to end human rights violations. The organization urges the South Korean Government to release all prisoners of conscience and to review the cases of political prisoners who were convicted after apparently unfair trials. It calls for legislation used to curtail the rights to peaceful freedom of expression and association, including the National Security Law, to be amended; for torture and ill-treatment to be ended; and recommends that further safeguards be implemented to protect the rights of detainees. It also urges the government to commute all death sentences and to abolish the death penalty.

ENDS/

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/14/94  
Distr: UA/SC

25 March 1994

Further information on UA 78/94 (ASA 25/12/94, 1 March 1994) - Mass Arrests/Fear of Ill-Treatment/Legal Concern

**SOUTH KOREA:** Hwang Seung-hyun  
Lee Sang-yeop (f)  
Lee Yoon-jung (f)  
Jang Gee-bum  
Kim Mee-kyung (f)  
Lee Kwon-seop

Amnesty International has received reports that another six members and supporters of the singing troupe *Heemangsae* were arrested on 24 March in Seoul. They were arrested after participating in a peaceful rally to demand the release of five other *Heemangsae* members detained on 21 and 22 February, apparently suspected of planning to stage a musical based on a book which the authorities said praised North Korea. Amnesty International is concerned that the six detainees may face ill-treatment during police interrogation.

The six detainees were arrested in the afternoon of 24 March by about 15 plainclothes police officers who produced no warrant of arrest. They were taken to the Security Division of the Seoul Police Headquarters. They were not permitted to see a lawyer until late that night. According to the lawyer, the detainees still did not know the exact charges against them after several hours in detention.

Political detainees in South Korea are routinely deprived of sleep for long periods in the days following their arrest, during which confessions may be extracted under duress. Amnesty International is concerned that they appear to be prisoners of conscience, held solely for the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and association.

Amnesty International is also concerned that the current state of tension in the Korean Peninsula may be used by security forces in South Korea to detain members of the domestic political opposition.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Korean or in your own language:

- urging the South Korean authorities to ensure that all the detainees are protected from torture and ill-treatment in custody, given access to relatives and allowed private meetings with lawyers in full accordance with international standards;
- urging the authorities to release all six detainees, if they are not charged promptly with recognizably criminal offences;
- urging the authorities to account publicly for the situation and charges against those detained in mass arrest since February 1994.

(44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) President Kim Young Sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Telexes: 24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K  
Faxes: + 822 720 0253  
Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) Mr Kim Doo-hee  
Minister of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea  
Telegrams: Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea  
Telexes: 24757 MOJUST K  
Faxes: + 822 504 3337  
Salutation: Dear Minister Kim

3) Mr Kim Hwa-nam  
Director  
National Police Administration  
209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu  
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Telegrams: Director, National Police Administration, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: +82 2 720 2686 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)  
Salutation: Dear Sir

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Editor, Hankyoreh Daily  
1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: + 822 710 0310, + 822 671 7797

Human Rights Group:

Minkahyop  
2Fl, 592-7  
Changsin-2-dong, Seoul, Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 May 1994.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended actions. If possible, send a telegram, telex, fax or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
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**amnesty international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**URGENT ACTION**

AI Index: ASA 25/16/94  
Distr: UA/SC

28 March 1994

Further information on UA 78/94 (ASA 25/12/94, 1 March 1994) and follow-up (ASA 25/14/94 of 25 March) - Mass Arrests/Fear of Ill-Treatment/Legal concern

**SOUTH KOREA:** Hwang Seung-hyun - released.  
Lee Sang-yeop (f)  
Lee Yoon-jung (f)  
Jang Gee-bum - released  
Kim Mee-kyung (f) - released  
Lee Kwon-seop - released  
Kim Tae-il  
Lee Chang-eul  
Cho Jae-hyun  
Song Hyun-jik

Hwang Seung-hyun, Jang Gee-bum, Kim Mee-kyung and Lee Kwon-seop were released after questioning by the police. They were interrogated about the activities of the singing troupe *Heemangsae* (Bird of Hope) and its plans to stage the musical *Shining Path*, based on a book which the authorities said praised North Korea.

The troupe's two lead singers, Lee Sang-yeop and Lee Yoon-jung, are still in police custody. Their continued detention appears to be an attempt to prevent them from staging the musical. Amnesty International believes that they are prisoners of conscience.

Four other members of *Heemangsae*, Kim Tae-il, Lee Chang-eul, Cho Jae-hyun and Song Hyun-jik, arrested on 21 and 22 February (see ASA 25/12/94) have been charged under the National Security Law for attempting to stage a pro-North Korean musical and for distributing information about the musical via a computer communication network. Amnesty International believes that they are prisoners of conscience.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- welcoming the release of four *Heemangsae* members but expressing concern at the continued detention of Lee Sang-yeop, Lee Yoon-jung, Kim Tae-il, Lee Chang-eul, Cho Jae-hyun and Song Hyun-jik and urging that they be released immediately and unconditionally;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Lee Sang-yeop and Lee Yoon-jung, who appear to be still under police interrogation, are protected from torture and ill-treatment in custody;
- urging the authorities to account publicly for the situation of, and charges against, those detained in mass arrests since February 1994.

Telephone: 01-833 1771 Fax: 01-833 5100 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

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Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
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1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea  
Telegrams: Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea  
Telexes: 24757 MOJUST K  
Faxes: + 822 504 3337  
Salutation: Dear Minister Kim

3) Mr KIM Hwa-nam  
Director  
National Police Administration  
209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu  
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Telegrams: Director, National Police Administration, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: +82 2 720 2686 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)  
Salutation: Dear Sir

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Human Rights Group:

Minkahyop  
2Fl, 592-7  
Changsin-2-dong, Seoul, Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
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國際特赦組織  
منظمة العفو الدولية

News Service 61/94

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 03/1994  
29 March 1994

SOUTH KOREA: ARRESTS OF LEFT-WING ACTIVISTS

Alleged left-wing activists have been rounded up and detained by the South Korean authorities, following the recent increase in tension on the Korean Peninsula. "Dozens of people were arrested in February and March under the National Security Law for alleged pro-North Korean activities, even though they were merely exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association" says Amnesty International.

Those detained include singers, artists, publishers, students and members of computer networks, many of whom are prisoners of conscience.

On 21 and 22 February, four members of a singing troupe, Heemangsae, were arrested for attempting to stage a musical which, the authorities allege, benefits or praises North Korea; and for disseminating information about the musical via a computer communication network. Six other members of the troupe were detained on 6 March after a peaceful demonstration in Seoul to protest against the earlier arrests. Four of these were later released but the troupe's two lead singers, Lee Yoon-jung and Lee Sang-yeop, are still in police custody.

Kim Young-son and Jin Sang-ho, both members of the study group Hyoncholdong (Modern Philosophy Society), were arrested on 9 and 13 March, apparently on suspicion of transmitting information about the group's activities via a computer network.

Lee Song-woo, a publisher, was arrested on 18 March on charges of publishing pro-North Korea material. Many of the alleged "pro-North Korea" books confiscated at Lee's home by the police were legally published and are sold in bookshops.

Political detainees in South Korea face lengthy interrogation and are routinely subjected to sleep deprivation. Most recent detainees were reportedly arrested without warrants, in some cases involving the use of force. Some were denied immediate and private meetings with their lawyers.

The South Korean Government says it needs the National Security Law, which punishes ill-defined "anti-state" activities, to counter the alleged threat from North Korea. Amnesty International considers that, in practice, the law is often used to detain people solely because they have leftist views or views considered to be similar to those of the North Korean Government. Amnesty International reiterates its call on the South Korean

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom  
Tel: (44) (71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157  
E-mail: (GeoNet) mcr1:amnesty-is, (GreenNet) amnestyis@gn.apc.org

Government to release all prisoners of conscience and to end the use of the National Security law in its present form.

There is relatively little information available on the human rights situation in North Korea. Amnesty International published a report on North Korea in October 1993, the first detailed report on the country by any human rights organization in many years, and is continuing to document human rights violations there.

ENDS/

# amnesty international

## SOUTH KOREA

### Appeal for the Release of Kim Chin-ju

MARCH 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/15/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Kim Chin-ju, 38-year-old pharmacist and editor, is serving a four-year sentence under the National Security Law for belonging to an "anti-state" organization. Amnesty International believes that Kim Chin-ju is held for the non-violent exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association and is calling for her immediate and unconditional release.



Kim Chin-ju was arrested in February 1991 by the Agency for National Security Planning who interrogated her for 20 days, during which time she was deprived of sleep, hit and insulted. She was accused of belonging to *Sanomaeng* (Socialist Workers' League), an organization which has been defined by the authorities as "anti-state". Under the National Security Law an "anti-state" organization is defined as a group "with the structure of command and control, organized for the purpose of assuming a title of the government or disturbing the state". This broad definition has been widely interpreted by the courts and often used to imprison people with left-wing views and those with views considered to be similar to those of the North Korean Government. Since 1990 over 200 *Sanomaneg* members have been arrested, around 60 of whom remain in prison today.

Amnesty International believes there is no evidence to support accusations that Kim Chin-ju and other members of the group had planned to overthrow the state using violence, as claimed by the authorities. *Sanomaeng* said it sought to set up a political party and several of its members have stated their commitment to using non-violent methods of political activism.

Kim Chin-ju graduated from Ewha Women's University in 1978 with a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy. She worked as a pharmacist before working for *Sanomaeng* as an editor. Her husband, Park No-hae, is a well-known poet and leader of *Sanomaeng* who has been sentenced to life imprisonment for establishing an "anti-state" organization. Kim Chin-ju is held in Hongsong Prison and has been unable to communicate with her husband since the couple were arrested in 1991.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** please send letters and faxes:

- ◆ expressing concern that Kim Chin-ju is a prisoner of conscience, held for the non-violent exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association;
- ◆ calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

**Appeals to:**

◆ President Kim Young-sam

The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: + 822 770 0253

◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: + 822 504 3337

◆ Mr Lee Hoi Chang, Prime Minister

Prime Minister's Office  
77 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: + 822 739 5830

- ◆ and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.

**KEYWORDS:** PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / WOMEN / PHARMACISTS / EDITORS / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / PHOTOGRAPHS /

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM**

사랑방 자료

# amnesty international

## SOUTH KOREA

### Appeal for the Release of three Publishers

6 April 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/17/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Amnesty International is calling for the release of three publishers arrested in March 1994 under the National Security Law. Kim Yon-in is the owner of *Heem* Publishing Company; Lee Song-woo and Kim Byong-hak are the owner and managing director of *Ilbit* Publishing Company. Amnesty International believes that these three men are prisoners of conscience held for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of expression and that they should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Kim Yon-in was arrested on 23 March by some 15 police officers and taken to Namdaemun police station for questioning. A warrant for his arrest was not issued until 24 March and gave as grounds for his arrest the publication and dissemination of material benefitting the enemy (North Korea). Employees of *Heem* Publishing Company who witnessed the arrest said that a large number of books and articles were confiscated including books entitled *Action Philosophy* and *The Theory of the Student Movement*. The arrest of Kim Yon-in closely followed that of Lee Song-woo and Kim Byong-hak on 18 March. They have also been accused of publishing material benefitting North Korea. Police confiscated a number of books and computer diskettes from *Ilbit* Publishing, including *The Practice of Socialism*, volumes 1 and 11 (published in 1991); *Flowers of Salt*, *Flowers of Mist* (poems by Jung In-hwa); *The History of the Construction of the Party* (translation of a book published by the Soviet Academy of Sciences) and prison writings by Yoon Cheol-ho, a former political prisoner in South Korea.

Both *Heem* and *Ilbit* Publishing Companies are legal enterprises and some of the publications seized by police officers were published and distributed several years ago. These arrests reinforce Amnesty International's concern that the National Security Law may be enforced in an arbitrary manner to detain prisoners of conscience. Information which has been published and sold to the public may in certain cases be considered "anti-state" and "pro-North Korean". This appears to be the case with the arrests of Kim Yon-in, Lee Song-woo and Kim Byong-hak.

사랑방 자료

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** please send letters and faxes:

◆ *expressing concern that publishers Kim Yon-in, Lee Song-woo and Kim Byong-hak are prisoners of conscience, held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association and calling for their immediate and unconditional release.*

◆ *expressing concern that the prisoners were deprived of sleep during interrogation and urging the authorities to ensure that they are protected from further ill-treatment in police custody.*

**Appeals to:**

◆ President Kim Young-sam

The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 770 0253

◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-nyon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 504 3337

◆ Mr Kim Hwa-nam, Director

National Police Administration  
209 Mi Kun-dong  
Sudaemoon-gu  
Chongno-gu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs: +822 720 2686

◆ and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM**

*"I would like to express my sincere thanks to you and the members of Amnesty International for your efforts in calling for the unconditional release of Mr Kim Sam-suk and Mr Kim Yon-in. I have also received hundreds of letters from many conscientious people both domestic and foreign who have called for their unconditional and immediate release. Some of the letters were translated and published in a few Korean newspapers."*

*Amnesty International is an independent, non-profit organisation which works to secure the release of prisoners of conscience, to put an end to torture and to ensure that all political prisoners and those who have been detained without charge or trial receive the most basic and humane conditions of detention. Amnesty International is a part of the Amnesty International movement, which is a global network of national and regional organisations.*



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**URGENT ACTION**

AI Index: ASA 25/13/94  
Distr: UA/SC

8 March 1994

Further information on UA 330/93 (ASA 25/35/93, 17 September 1993) and follow-ups (ASA 25/36/93, 24 September and ASA 25/37/93, 11 October) - Ill-treatment / prisoners of conscience

SOUTH KOREA: KIM Sam-sok, 28  
KIM Un-ju (f), 24



Kim Sam-sok



Kim Un-ju

On 28 February 1994 Kim Sam-sok was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment under the National Security Law and Kim Un-ju was released after being given a suspended sentence.

The two, brother and sister, had been accused of meeting and passing state secrets to North Korean "agents" in Japan, but Amnesty International believes they were simply exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association. They were tortured after their arrest by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) in September 1993. Kim Sam-sok told his lawyer that he had been beaten each day during his interrogation by ANSP officials. He also said that he had been stripped naked and sexually assaulted. He was forced to put his thumbprint on a confession, which he later retracted. Kim Un-ju said that she had

been deprived of sleep for several days after her arrest, forced to do repeated physical exercises, slapped, shaken and insulted. She also said that interrogators had threatened to strip her and abuse her sexually. She too made a confession which she later denied. To Amnesty International's knowledge, there has been no official investigation into their allegations that they were ill-treated in custody.

The South Korean human rights group *Minkahyop* wrote the following message to all people who have participated in this action:

*"I would like to express my sincere thanks to you and the members of your organization for your kind efforts in calling for the unconditional release of Mr Kim Sam-sok and Ms Kim Un-ju. Your efforts were a great boost to the family and the many people working for the release of both Mr and Ms Kim. Minkahyop has received hundreds of letters from many conscientious people from countries all over the world calling for their unconditional and immediate release. Some of the letters were translated and published in a few Korean newspapers."*

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Kim Sam-sok;
- urging the authorities to review Kim Un-ju's conviction and to make her release unconditional;
- seeking an independent inquiry into reports that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were subjected to torture and ill-treatment by the Agency for National Security Planning;
- urging the authorities to introduce effective safeguards to protect the basic rights of detainees during interrogation.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
**Telegrams:** President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
**Telexes:** 24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K  
**Faxes:** + 822 720 0253  
**Salutation:** Dear President Kim

2) Mr KIM Doo-hee  
Minister of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea  
**Telegrams:** Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea  
**Telexes:** 24757 MOJUST K  
**Faxes:** + 822 504 3337  
**Salutation:** Dear Minister Kim

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Editor, Hankyoreh Daily  
1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
**Faxes:** +822 710 0310; +822 671 7797

Human Rights Group  
2FI, 592-7  
Changsin-2-dong  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 April 1994.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended actions. If possible, send a telegram, telex, fax or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

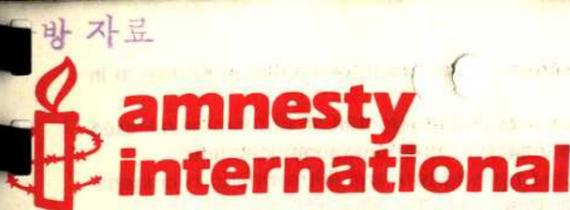
Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Actions cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly on behalf of victims of grave human rights violations. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action co-ordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**URGENT ACTION**

AI Index: ASA 25/12/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 78/94 Mass Arrests / Fear of Ill-Treatment / Legal Concern 1 March 1994

**SOUTH KOREA** At least 30 arrests of members or alleged members of *Nohaetoosa* (Socialists for Workers' Liberation), *Heemangsae* (Bird of Hope) singing troupe, and *Minjongryon* (People's Political Union of Korea)

Between 17 and 22 February 1994, at least 30 people were reportedly arrested in South Korea, and face charges under the National Security Law (NSL). Amnesty International is concerned that they are at risk of ill-treatment while undergoing interrogation in police custody. Some appear to have been denied private meetings with their lawyers. Amnesty International is concerned that the prisoners appear to be held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

About 14 of the prisoners, arrested on 21 and 22 February, are accused of belonging to a group called *Nohaetoosa* (Socialists for Workers' Liberation) and of distributing leaflets at a public rally, in work places and in bookstores. However, some of the detainees reportedly said that they had never heard of *Nohaetoosa* before their arrest. Amnesty International understands that the "group" was an informal association of people concerned with social issues, not an organized group.

Those arrested included students and recent graduates Choi Yong-ik (27); Lee Tae-seong (29); Im Hyun-suk (f) (23); Lee Baek-kyu (28); Choi Hyang-suk (22); and Park Soh-yon (24), and workers Cho Yong-chan (27); Ju Tae-bong (28); Cho Gae-eun (24); Kim chang-hoon (29); Park Sang-hyun (29); Kim In-sook (f) (20); Choi Eun-ha (f) (25); and Lee Jong-im (24).

Six military conscripts, arrested by the military police at the same time, are believed to be held in connection with the *Nohaetoosa* arrests, but no details are available. They appear to be in military custody and it is unclear whether they have any access to a lawyer. They were named as Jung Jae-young; Han Jang-hyun; Kim Song-pil; Shin Hyun-jae; Shin Chang-soo and Yang Gi-huk.

Five other people belonging to *Heemangsae* (Bird of Hope) a singing troupe based in Pusan, were also arrested on 21 and 22 February. They reportedly included troupe director Kim Tae-il (30) and members Lee Chang-eul (30) and Cho Jae-hyun. They are apparently accused of planning to stage a musical based on a book which, according to the South Korean authorities, praises North Korea. Police reportedly confiscated an incomplete script of the musical - which has not yet been performed - on the basis that it contains "anti-state" elements. Song Hyun-jik, was arrested on the same charges although he does not belong to *Heemangsae*.

Thirteen members of *Minjongryon* (People's Political Union of Korea, a left-wing political group) were arrested in South Cholla Province on or just before 17 February. They included Kim Young-ki, the head of the Suncheon city branch of *Minjongryon*. Dozens of *Minjongryon* members have been arrested in recent months on charges under the NSL, although Amnesty International believes that most of those still held are prisoners of conscience held solely because of their peaceful expression of political views not tolerated by the authorities. Five of those arrested were released on 19 February.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The NSL prescribes prison terms for the offence of "praising" and "encouraging" North Korea and for belonging to organizations deemed to be "anti-state". Amnesty International believes that many prisoners held under these provisions of the NSL are in fact held solely for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

(44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express airmail letters either in Korean or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the large number of recent arrests of activists and urging that all of them be released if not promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences, in accordance with international standards;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all the detainees are protected from torture and ill-treatment in custody, given access to relatives and allowed private meetings with their lawyers.
- expressing concern that in the past the National Security Law has been used to detain people solely for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association, and that the recent arrests seem to fall into this category;
- urging the authorities not to allow the arrest of anyone solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

#### APPEALS TO

1) President Kim Young-sam

The Blue House

1 Sejong-no

Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telexes: 24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K

Faxes: + 822 720 0253

Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) Mr KIM Doo-hee

Minister of Justice

1 Chungang-dong

Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun

Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea

Telexes: 24757 MOJUST K

Faxes: + 822 504 3337

Salutation: Dear Minister Kim

3) Mr KIM Hwa-nam

Director

National Police Administration

209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu

Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Director, National Police Administration, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: + 82 2 720 2686 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Sir

#### COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Editor, Hankyoreh Daily

1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: + 822 710 0310, + 822 671 7797

Human Rights Group:

Minkahyop

2FI, 592-7

Changsin-2-dong, Seoul, Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 April 1994.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended actions. If possible, send a telegram, telex, fax or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

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— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.

# amnesty international

## SOUTH KOREA

### Appeal for the Release of Chon Kyong-hee

FEBRUARY 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/11/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Chon Kyong-hee, 32-year-old art teacher and editor, is serving a three-year sentence under the National Security Law (NSL) for belonging to an "anti-state" organization. Amnesty International believes that Chon Kyong-hee is held for the non-violent exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association and is calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

Chon Kyong-hee was arrested in April 1992 because she belonged to *Sanomaeng* (Socialist Workers League), an organization which has been defined by the authorities as "anti-state". Under the NSL an "anti-state" organization is defined as a group "with the structure of command and control, organized for the purpose of assuming a title of the government or disturbing the state". This broad definition has been widely interpreted by the courts and often used to imprison people with left-wing views and those with views considered to be similar to those of the North Korean Government. Since 1990 over 200 *Sanomaneg* members have been arrested, around 50 of whom remain in prison today.



Amnesty International believes there is no evidence to support accusations that Chon Kyong-hee and other members of the group had planned to overthrow the state using violence, as claimed by the authorities. *Sanomaeng*, which said it sought to set up a political party, has stated its commitment to using non-violent methods of political activism.

Chon Kyong-hee is a practising Christian. She studied nutrition at university and later taught at an art college. She also worked as an editor at a publishing company specializing in social science books. It was here that she met her future husband, Baik Tae-ung, the alleged leader of *Sanomaeng* who is now serving a 15-year prison term for leading an "anti-state" organization and is also a prisoner of conscience. The couple married in July 1992 shortly after their arrest but are held in separate prisons. Chon Kyong-hee is in Chongju Prison.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: please send letters and faxes:**

- ◆ expressing concern that Chon Kyong-hee is a prisoner of conscience, held for the non-violent exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association;
- ◆ calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

**Appeals to:**

- ◆ **President Kim Young-sam**  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 770 0253
- ◆ **Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice**  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 504 3337
- ◆ **Mr Lee Hoi Chang, Prime Minister**  
Prime Minister's Office  
77 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
Fax: +822 739 5830
- ◆ and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.

**KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / WOMEN / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS /  
TEACHERS / EDITORS / RELIGIOUS GROUPS / PHOTOGRAPHS /**

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM**

# amnesty international

## SOUTH KOREA

### National Security Law used to Silence Singing Troupe

27 MAY 1994

AI INDEX: ASA 25/22/94

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Five members of the singing troupe *Heemangsae* (Bird of Hope) are currently on trial under the National Security Law. Amnesty International believes that they are prisoners of conscience, held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release. It is also concerned at reports that some of the prisoners were ill-treated during interrogation.

*Heemangsae* singing troupe was established in 1992 by activists and students in the Pusan area. It was planning to stage a musical called *Shining Morning*, written by one of its members and based on the poem *Black Mountain Red Blood* by Oh Bong-ok. This poem has been published and sold in bookshops in South Korea. The five members currently on trial have been charged under Article 7 of the National Security for trying to stage a musical containing pro-North Korean elements and for sending parts of the poem *Black Mountain Red Blood* via a computer communications network.

At least 13 members of *Heemangsae* have been arrested and questioned under the National Security Law since February 1994, including the company's director, the author of *Shining Morning* and several of the company's lead singers. Some were later released. The first arrests took place in late February when police searched the company's offices and confiscated copies of its new musical *Shining Morning*. More members, including two lead singers, were detained on 24 March as they were protesting against the arrests of their colleagues. Despite protests from international and domestic human rights groups, three more singers were detained on 15 April, apparently for continuing with the company's plans to stage *Shining Morning*.

Three of the *Heemangsae* members currently on trial were arrested on 22 February in Pusan City. They are **Kim Tae-il**, 30-year-old Chairperson of *Heemangsae* **Cho Jae-hyun**, 27-year-old student and author of the musical *Shining Morning* and **Lee Chang-ryol**, 30-year-old Planning Director of *Heemangsae*. The two others, **Lee Yoon-jung**, aged 26, and **Lee Sang-yeop**, also aged 26, are female singers who were arrested on 24 March during

a peaceful demonstration to protest about the arrest of their colleagues. The prisoners were arrested and questioned by members of the Security Division of the Seoul Police Administration and are currently held in Seoul Prison. Their trial open at Seoul District Court on 13 May. In an opening statement, Kim Tae-il told the court that he had been stripped, threatened and beaten by police investigators.

The National Security Law, designed to protect state security, has often been used to curtail the rights to freedom of expression and association in South Korea. Its vague provisions prohibit activities deemed to be "praising" or "siding with" North Korea and enable the authorities to use the law to clamp down on people with socialist ideas or views considered to be similar to those of the North Korean Government. For many years Amnesty International and other human rights groups have urged the South Korean Government to amend the National Security Law so that it complies with international human rights standards on freedom of expression and association.

In recent months several other people have been charged for sending allegedly pro-North Korean information via a computer network in violation of the National Security Law. On 12 March senior prosecutors are reported to have decided to crackdown on the dissemination of leftist ideology through computer communications systems and the head of the Public Security Department of the Prosecutor General's Office is reported to have said: "There is a strong indication that the North is continuing to harbour ambitions of communizing the entire Korean peninsula and leftists are utilizing more discreet methods of spreading their belief". Amnesty International is concerned that the National Security Law is being used yet again to curtail the activities of people who are peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.



Lee Sang-yeop (left) and Lee Yoon-jung (right), taken shortly before their arrest on 24 March 1994

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: please send immediate letters and faxes:**

- ◆ expressing concern that imprisoned *Heemangsaе* members are held in violation of their rights to freedom of expression and association;
- ◆ calling for the immediate and unconditional release of *Heemangsaе* members currently on trial on charges under the National Security law

**APPEALS TO:**

- ◆ President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House, 1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu,  
Seoul, Republic of Korea Fax: +822 770 0253
- ◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea Fax: +822 504 3337

**COPIES TO:**

- ◆ Chief Judge, Seoul District Criminal Court  
1701-1 Socho-dong, Socho-gu  
Seoul, Republic of Korea
- ◆ Diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country

This appeal has been sent to all KOTARAN coordinators for action.

**KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / MUSICIANS1 / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / STUDENTS / WOMEN / DEMONSTRATIONS / CENSORSHIP / LEGISLATION / PHOTOGRAPHS /**

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM**