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Amnesty International, International Secretariat  
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom  
Tel: (71) 413 5500  
Fax: (71) 956 1157

NEWS RELEASE

AI INDEX: ASA 25/U 05/93  
8 DECEMBER 1993

SOUTH KOREA: THREAT OF IMMINENT EXECUTION OF SENTENCED PRISONERS

Prisoners on death row in South Korea face an imminent threat of execution and Amnesty International is urgently calling on the South Korean Government not to carry out executions and to commute all death sentences.

Nine prisoners were executed in December 1991 and nine others in December 1992. In this context, death row inmates and other South Koreans are concerned that more prisoners may be executed in the next few weeks.

At least 30 prisoners appear to have been on death row for two years or more. The prisoners on death row live in perpetual fear that they may be executed when the authorities so decide. In practice, according to sources familiar with the execution procedures, prisoners are not told of their impending execution until the day it is due to take place.

Amnesty International is concerned that the decision to order an execution is arbitrary. The Minister of Justice makes this determination alone, basing this decision on background comments from the government's Correctional Committee. In effect, some prisoners appear to be given a reprieve and avoid execution for a time, at the discretion of the Minister of Justice, while others were executed without explanation.

The families of prisoners and lawyers of prisoners due to be executed receive no advance notification of executions - whereas the media learn of executions before or soon after they take place. In at least one case in 1992, relatives of a prisoner, who had been visiting him regularly, learned of his execution, on 28 December, from the press.

Prisoners sentenced to death generally remain handcuffed throughout their imprisonment, a practice which Amnesty International believes amounts to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, prohibited under Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by South Korea in 1991. Prisoners sometimes spend years on death row. Amnesty International is concerned that the lengthy and indefinite wait on death row also amounts to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases. It considers the death penalty to be a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Amnesty International urges the South Korean Government to abolish the death penalty and to commute all death sentences.

As a temporary measure until such abolition takes place, Amnesty International urges the government to stop carrying out any executions and commute all death sentences. It also calls on the South Korea Government to immediately end the long-term handcuffing of prisoners sentenced to death, a practice contrary to international human rights standards.

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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 FAX: 956 1157

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

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Fax: (71) 956 1157

93 AI 반란 결과 요약문

사랑방 자료

NEWS RELEASE

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 04/93  
24 November 1993

SOUTH KOREA: AI DELEGATES RETURN FROM VISIT WITH NEW EVIDENCE OF VIOLATIONS

A delegation from Amnesty International has just returned from a research visit to South Korea, where they found further evidence of continuing human rights violations, including hundreds of political prisoners, torture and new arrests of prisoners of conscience.

A two-member delegation visited South Korea from 1 to 17 November and found that human rights abuses continue under the new government which took office in February. Although a willingness on the part of the government to carry out reform was expressed, the human rights violations which Amnesty International has criticized for many years still continue.

Some 350 political prisoners continue to be held in South Korea, a sizeable portion of whom are believed to be prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience. Around 250 of these prisoners are held under the National Security Law which restricts the rights to freedom of expression and association. Prisoners arrested since the new government took office in February include students and academics held solely for their research work on socialist and reunification issues. There are over 70 prisoners serving terms of between 7 years and life imprisonment, many of whom are believed to have been tortured and convicted after unfair trials. Two prisoners who were captured during the Korean War have been held for over 40 years.

Since February of this year, Amnesty International has urged the government to amend the National Security Law, so that the rights of freedom of expression and association are fully protected, and to release prisoners of conscience - unfortunately, the organization has learned that the government has no plans to amend the National Security Law.

Political prisoners continue to be detained by the Police and the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) without proper warrants of arrest. They continue to be deprived of sleep and beaten during interrogation in order to force them to make a "confession".

Amnesty International has also expressed concern about illegal arrests, torture and ill-treatment carried out by the police and the ANSP, such as the arrests in September of brother and sister Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju who were detained without arrest warrants and subjected to sleep deprivation, beatings and sexual abuse by the ANSP.

The organization has urged the government to introduce measures to ensure that detainees rights are fully protected and to investigate all reports of past human rights abuses. It has also sought an end to executions and the abolition of the death penalty. The delegates urged the authorities to commute the death sentences of all prisoners under sentence of death, believed to be around 50.

Amnesty International's comments and reports on the human rights situation in South Korea are based upon years of detailed research work on that country. Its London-based researchers are specialists in human rights research work on North and South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. They have collected and analyzed information from a wide variety of sources, including legal documents and judicial authorities.

While in South Korea, Amnesty International's two representatives also met a wide variety of sources including lawyers, academics, lawmakers, journalists and former prisoners. They met the Director of the Human Rights

Division of the Ministry of Justice and requested but were denied a meeting with the National Police Administration. An offer to meet officials of the ANSP came shortly before the delegation was due to leave the country and could not therefore be taken up.

Amnesty International has constantly sought a dialogue with the government. Over the past year some 300 Amnesty International groups in countries throughout the world wrote to the South Korean Government about some 100 prisoner cases. Some groups met embassy officials in their own countries and the International Secretariat has frequently met with embassy officials in London.

Said the organization: "We are very disappointed that human rights violations have persisted under the new government in South Korea. An opportunity to make a new start for human rights has been lost."

Amnesty International, 국제사무국  
1993. 11. 24

### 발간 뉴스 (또는 뉴스 발간)

한국 : AI대표단 인권침해의 새로운 증거를 가지고 방문을 마치고 돌아오다.

국제사면위의 대표단은 한국 조사방문을 마치고 방금 돌아왔는데 그곳에서 그들은 수백명의 정치범들과 고문 그리고 새로운 양심수들의 체포를 포함한 계속되는 인권침해를 더욱더 발견했다.

11월 1일부터 17일까지의 두명의 방문에서 2월에 출범한 새 정부하에서 인권 침해가 계속되고있음을 발견했다. 개혁을 시행하려는 정부의 부분적인 의지가 표명되었음에도 불구하고 국제사면위가 몇해동안 비판대왔던 인권침해는 계속 되고있다.

350명가량의 정치범이 계속 수감되고 있고 그중 상당부분이 양심수라고 믿어지거나 양심수일수 있다. 그중 250여명은 표현과 집시의 자유를 제한하는 국가보안법에 의해 수감되어있다. 새 정부가 2월에 출범한 이래 사회주의나 통일에 관한 조사작업을 한 학생과 학자를 포함한 수인들은 계속 수감되어오고 있다. 7년에서 종신형까지 살고있는 수인들이 70명이상이 있고 이들중 많은 이들은 고문을 받았고 부당한 처우후에 유죄판결을 받은것으로 믿어진다. 한 국전쟁중에 생포된 2명의 수인은 40년이상을 수감되어있다.

올 2월부터 국제사면위는 정부가 표현과 집회의 자유를 보장하기위해 국가보안법을 수정할것과 양심수를 석방할것을 요청하였다. 그러나 불행하게도 사면위는 정부가 국보법을 개정할 계획이 없음을 알게되었다.

정치범들이 여전히 체포영장없이 안기부에 체포되고있다. 그들은 여전히 취조중에 자백을 받아내기위해 잠 안재우고 구타를 하고있다.

국제사면위는 경찰과 안기부에 의해 행해지는 불법적인 체포, 고문, 부당한 처우가 에 대해서도 말해왔는데 그 예로서 지난 9월에 체포된 김삼석, 김은주 남매의 경우 안기부에 의해 체포영장없이 구속되었으며 의도적으로 잠을 재우지 않았고, 구타 성적모욕을 당했다.

사면위는 정부에게 국속자의권리를 완전히 보장할수 있는 방법을 소개할 것과 과거의 인권유린에 대한 모든 보고서를 연구할 것을 요청했다. 그리고 또한 사형제도의 폐지와 사형집행을 종식시킬 것을 용서했다. 대표단은 약 50명이라고 믿어지는 사형선고를 받은 수인들의 사형선고를 바꿀것을 정부관리에게 요청했다.

국제사면위의 한국의 인권상황에 대한 평가 보고들은 그 나라에 대한 수년간의 자세한 조사작업에 기초하고 있다. 런던에 있는 조사자들은 북한, 남한, 타이완, 일본의 인권조사업무의 전문가들이다. 그들은 법적 문서와 사법부를 포함한 광범위하고 다양한 정보원으로 부터 정보를 수집하고 분석한다.

또한 한국에 머무는 동안 국제사면위 두 대표는 변호사, 학자, 입법부원들 기자들 그리고 과거에 수인이었던 사람들을 포함한 광범위하고 다양한 사람들을 만났다. 그들은 사법부의 인권과장을 만났고 요구했다. 그러나 경찰청

과의 만남을 거부되었다. 안기부 관리와 만남 요청은 대표단이 출국때문에 너무 급히 이루어져서 실현될 수 없었다

. 국제사면위는 정부와의 대화를 끊임없이 보아왔다. 지난 기간동안 각 국에 있는 약 300의 국제사면위 그룹들은 100여명의 수인들의 사건에 한국정부에게 국제적으로 편지를 보내왔다. 몇몇 그룹은 자국의 대사관 관리를 만났고 국제 사무국은 자주 런던에 있는 대사를 만나왔다.

사면위는 "우리는 새정부하에서 인권침해가 계속 지속되고 있는 것에 대해 매우 실망했다. 잃어왔던 인권에 대해 새롭게 시작할 기회이다."라고 얘기했다.

REFUGEE  
TERRITORY  
INDUSTRIAL  
CULTURE  
AGRICULTURE  
FACILITIES  
RESEARCH  
COMMUNITY  
TECHNOLOGY  
PHOTOGRAPH



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# amnesty international

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## SOUTH KOREA

### Unfair Trial and Torture: Long-Term Political Prisoners

OCTOBER 1993

SUMMARY

AI INDEX: ASA 25/33/93

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Amnesty International is concerned about the fate of dozens of long-term political prisoners, serving prison terms of between seven years and life imprisonment on national security charges. Some of these prisoners were arrested and convicted years ago and others were arrested recently. Many appear to have been imprisoned solely for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association, to have been tortured or ill-treated during interrogation and to have been convicted after a trial which did not conform to international standards.

Amnesty International is calling on the newly elected government of President Kim Young-sam to live up to its promise of a new and more democratic Korea. It is calling for the release of all prisoners of conscience and for an independent inquiry into all cases where there are reports of torture and unfair trial.

This document highlights the cases of 16 long-term political prisoners arrested between 1975 and 1992 on national security charges.

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICAL PRISONERS1 / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / TRIALS1 / LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT1 / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT1 / CONFESSIONS1 / HARASSMENT / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / DETENTION FOR RE-EDUCATION / ARBITRARY ARREST / WITNESSES / ILL-HEALTH / PRISON CONDITIONS / POLITICAL GROUPS / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / STUDENTS / BUSINESS PEOPLE / MANAGERS / ECONOMISTS / TECHNICIANS / FARMERS / FISHERMEN / MANUAL WORKERS / SAILORS / PUBLISHERS / WRITERS / RELIGIOUS GROUPS - CATHOLIC / WOMEN / PREGNANCY / FAMILIES / LEGISLATION / COMMUTATION / ESPIONAGE / PRISONERS' TESTIMONIES / GOVERNMENT CHANGE / UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE / ICCPR / HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS / PHOTOGRAPHS /

This report summarizes a 27-page document (8180 words), *South Korea: Unfair Trial and Torture: Long-term Political Prisoners* (AI Index: ASA 25/33/93), issued by Amnesty International in October 1993. Anyone wanting further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document.

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

SOUTH KOREA

Unfair Trial and Torture:  
Long-Term Political Prisoners

OCTOBER 1993  
AI INDEX: ASA 25/33/93  
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Amnesty International is concerned about the fate of dozens of long-term political prisoners, arrested between 1972 and 1981, and the impact on their families. Many of these prisoners were arrested and convicted years ago and others were arrested recently. Many appear to have been imprisoned solely for the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association, to have been tortured or ill-treated during interrogation and to have been convicted after a trial which did not conform to international standards.

Amnesty International is calling on the newly elected government of President Kim Young-sam to live up to its promise of a new and more democratic Korea. It is calling for the release of all prisoners of conscience and for an independent inquiry into all cases where there are reports of torture and unfair trial.

This document highlights the cases of 16 long-term political prisoners arrested between 1972 and 1981 on national security charges.

KEYWORDS: POLITICAL PRISONERS; PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE; TRIALS; LONG TERM IMPRISONMENT; TORTURE; TREATMENT; CONFINEMENT; HARASSMENT; INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION; RETENTION FOR RE-EDUCATION; ARBITRARY ARREST; WITNESSES; HEALTH; WORK CONDITIONS; POLITICAL RIGHTS; POLITICAL ACTIVISTS; STUDENTS; BUSINESS PEOPLE; MANAGERS; ECONOMISTS; TECHNICIANS; FARMERS; FISHERMEN; MANUAL WORKERS; SALES; PUBLISHERS; WRITERS; RELIGIOUS GROUPS; CATYOLIC; WOMEN; FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION; ASSOCIATION; COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; TESTIMONIES; DOCUMENTS; PHOTOGRAPHS; HUMAN RIGHTS; COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; DOCUMENTS; PHOTOGRAPHS

**amnesty international**

## SOUTH KOREA

### Unfair Trial and Torture: Long-Term Political Prisoners



October 1993  
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Distr: SC/CO/GR

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

# Unfair Trial and Torture: Long-Term Political Prisoners

## *Introduction*

Amnesty International is concerned about the fate of dozens of long-term political prisoners, serving prison terms of between seven years and life imprisonment on national security charges. This report highlights the cases of 16 long-term political prisoners who are prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience. Many appear to have been tortured and convicted after unfair trials.

There are currently some 80 long-term political prisoners in South Korea. Some of these prisoners were arrested as long ago as the 1950s and some suffer ill-health as a result of prolonged imprisonment. The longest-serving political prisoner has been imprisoned for over 40 years.

Some of the prisoner cases of concern to Amnesty International are described in a set of individual appeals, appended to this document.

## *Cases alleged to have been fabricated*

Amnesty International is concerned about at least 20 long-term political prisoners arrested during the late 1970s and 1980s, who appear to have been convicted after trials which did not conform to international standards. These prisoners were convicted of espionage under the National Security Law and most were sentenced to death or life imprisonment at their first trial. The death sentences were later commuted. In many of these cases there are consistent reports that the prisoners were held incommunicado for up to 60 days after their arrest, that they were severely tortured and that they were convicted largely on the basis of coerced confessions made by themselves or others.

In some of these cases, sufficient information exists to demonstrate that the trial was unfair and that the prisoners are held solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association. In other cases, very little information exists apart from testimony provided in later years by the prisoners and their families, which indicate a clear pattern of abuse.

South Korean law prohibits the use of torture. It also prohibits the use as evidence of a confession obtained under torture. Amnesty International considers it imperative that the South Korean authorities should investigate the consistent pattern of abuse which occurred in the cases of many long-term political prisoners. To Amnesty International's

knowledge, no impartial investigation into allegations of torture and other irregularities in these cases has been carried out.

#### **More recent cases**

In a number of recent cases the National Security Law has been used to convict political prisoners and sentence them to long prison terms on charges of spying or for other "anti-state" activities. In some of these cases there is concern that prisoners were tortured and denied access to lawyers during interrogation. Some of these prisoners do not appear to have had a fair trial and some have been adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience.

In 1993 13 people were sentenced to prison terms of seven years or more for their alleged involvement in a "spy ring" said to have been operated by the North Korean Government. There are consistent reports that many of these prisoners were tortured during interrogation and forced to sign a confession.

Two leaders of the socialist group *Sanomaeng* (Socialist Workers League) were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1991 and 1992. Other members of the group have been sentenced to long prison terms. In these cases too there are reliable reports that the prisoners were tortured and forced to sign confessions.

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

The National Security Law (NSL) 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 with socialist or communist views. Over the years the NSL has been used widely to imprison people who visited North Korea without government authorization, people who met North Koreans or alleged North Korean agents abroad, people who expressed support for North Korea and people who simply had similar ideas to those of the North Korean Government.

The South Korean courts have ruled that any information which might be useful to North Korea is a state secret, even if it 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 by the authorities as an act of espionage. The NSL has frequently been used to imprison people who were merely exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

For many years Amnesty International has urged the South Korean Government to amend the NSL so that the rights of freedom of expression and association are protected. The government has consistently failed to do so.

#### **The role of investigative agencies**

Many long-term political prisoners were arrested and interrogated by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP). There are consistent reports that this agency has violated the rights of prisoners through the use of torture and ill-treatment, incommunicado detention and coerced confessions.

Amnesty International believes that the current excessive powers of the ANSP should be curbed. It has recommended to the government that the ANSP's powers to arrest and detain suspects should be suspended until measures to effectively protect the basic rights of detainees have been introduced.

#### **South Korea's International Obligations**

Three years ago South Korea acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Two years ago it became a full member of the United Nations. In June 1993 the government announced that it was preparing to ratify the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment of Punishment.

International human rights standards state that prisoners should be guaranteed their basic rights. These include rights to freedom of expression and association, the right to a fair trial and protection from torture and ill-treatment. In July 1992 the United Nations Human Rights Committee considered a report by the South Korean Government on its implementation of the ICCPR. It recommended that South Korea should:

"intensify its efforts to bring its legislation more in line with the provisions of the Covenant. To that end, a serious attempt ought to be made to phase out the National Security Law which the Committee perceives as a major obstacle to the full realization of the rights enshrined in the Covenant . . ."

In April 1993 the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention stated that the detention of long-term political prisoners Kim Song-man, Hwang Tae-kwon and Chang Ui-gyun is in contravention of provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the ICCPR. These are three of the cases which have been taken up by Amnesty International.

### **The treatment of long-term political prisoners**

Long-term political prisoners are often held in poor conditions and, according to their families, they are denied adequate medical and dental care. Some of these prisoners are aged and suffer ill-health as a result of prolonged imprisonment. Some are said to be suffering from the effects of torture.

Prisoners who have refused to sign a statement of "conversion" renouncing their real or alleged communist beliefs have special problems. These prisoners are denied the possibility of early release on parole and generally receive poorer treatment than other prisoners.

### **Recommendations to the South Korean Government**

In February 1993 a new government took office in South Korea promising greater freedom and democracy. Amnesty International does not believe that the government can fulfil these promises unless it takes immediate action on the cases of long-term political prisoners.

Amnesty International believes that the South Korean Government should:

- ◆ Conduct full and impartial investigations into all reports that prisoners were held incommunicado, tortured and forced to make a confession. Investigations should focus on the arrest, interrogation and trial of the prisoners and findings should be made public.
- ◆ The Government should release prisoners who are held solely for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.
- ◆ Prisoners whose trials did not conform to international standards for a fair trial should either be retried or released.
- ◆ Prisoners who were tortured or ill-treated should be fully compensated. Those found to be responsible for torture or ill-treatment should be brought to justice.

## ACTION

### **What you can do to help long-term political prisoners in South Korea**

- ◆ Send appeals to the South Korean Government on behalf of one or more of the prisoners whose cases are described in this document. Focus your appeals on the points outlined at the bottom of each page.
- ◆ Encourage other people to send appeals.
- ◆ Publicise these cases and encourage others to do so.
- ◆ Contact professional organizations and other groups in your own country and urge them to take up these cases with the government and with their counterparts in South Korea.
- ◆ Urge members of your government to raise the cases of these prisoners with the South Korean Government.

## ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

Please send appeals to:

◆ President Kim Young-sam

The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea

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

◆ Mr Hwang In-sung

Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Office  
77 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu  
Seoul 110-760  
Republic of Korea

Fax: +82 2 739 5830

◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee

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

Fax: +82 2 504 3337

◆ Mr Shin Doo-byong

Ambassador for Human Rights  
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
77 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu  
Seoul 110-760  
Republic of Korea

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

## Yu Chong-sik

유정식

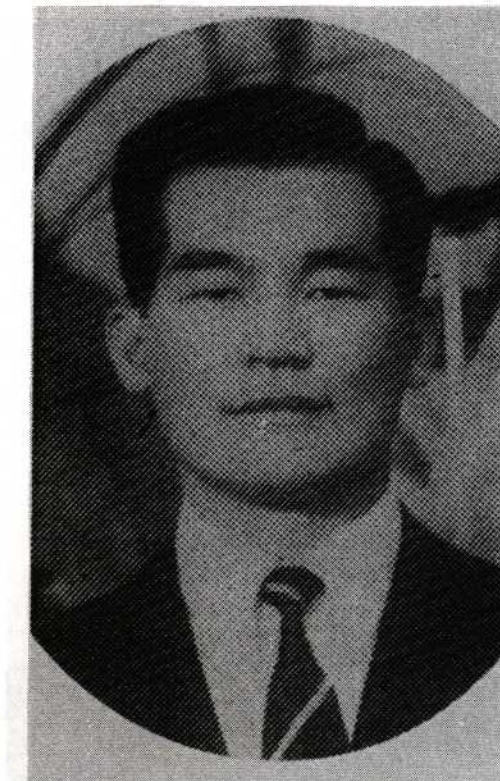
**Former student Yu Chong-sik, now aged 53**, was arrested in 1975 and has already served 18 years of a life sentence under the National Security Law. He was initially sentenced to death, but this sentence was commuted to life imprisonment after a High Court appeal. He is said to have been convicted after an unfair trial and to have been tortured.

Yu Chong-sik was born in 1940 in Japan. He lived there until the age of five when his family moved to the city of Pusan in South Korea. He studied at Kon Kuk University in Seoul and in the early 1960s went to Japan to study agriculture at Japan University and then at the University of Tokyo. While he was living in Japan he visited North Korea twice, but says he did so merely out of curiosity. He returned to South Korea in 1970, married and had two children. He initially worked for the Japan Trade Promotion Association in Seoul and then became an art dealer.

On 2 March 1975 Yu Chong-sik was arrested by officials of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (now called the Agency for National Security Planning). He was accused of making two trips to North Korea where he allegedly received espionage training. Human rights groups in South Korea and members of his family say that the charges against him were fabricated and that he was tortured during interrogation.

Yu Chong-sik is held in Andong Prison. Letters from supporters abroad have apparently not been delivered to him.

◆ Please send appeals expressing concern at reports that Yu Chong-sik was convicted after an unfair trial and that he was tortured. Urge the authorities to investigate these reports and to review Yu Chong-sik's conviction and sentence.



## Cho Sang-nok 조 상 녹

**Businessman and former political science student, Cho Sang-nok, now aged 48, has been in prison since 1978 when he was arrested under the National Security Law and sentenced to life imprisonment. He is said to have been tortured during interrogation and convicted after an unfair trial.**

From the mid-1960s until 1976 Cho Sang-nok studied law and social studies at Chungang University and Wonju University. During this time he stood for election to the National Assembly as an independent candidate and also worked for a manufacturing business.

In 1976 Cho Sang-nok went to study in Japan when he gained a post-graduate degree in politics, specializing in international relations. He also taught Korean. During this time he was apparently critical of the South Korean Government, although he is said to have openly opposed communism. At some point during his stay in Japan he was invited to make a speech at an event for exchange professors, hosted by the Korean Embassy in Tokyo. During his speech he criticized Japanese imperialism and also advocated democracy in South Korea.

In January 1978 Cho Sang-nok returned to South Korea for a holiday. On the morning of 15 January, as he was eating breakfast, two strangers came to his house and forced him to get into a car. They took him away and questioned him for 17 days. During this time he says that he was subjected to electric shock and water torture and beaten. On 2 February he was sent to Seoul Prison and this date is given by the authorities as the official date of his arrest. In a letter from prison he said:

*... two strangers suddenly poked revolvers into my waist from behind and told me to get in the car quietly. They took me in that car to an unknown location, covering my eyes, and they tortured me in every possible way. . .*



Cho Sang-nok was accused of contacting members of a pro-North Korean group in Japan and of organizing underground espionage and conducting "anti-state" activities in South Korea. On 24 May 1978 he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Cho Sang-nok is held in Taegu Prison and is said to be in poor health. He has consistently refused to sign a statement of "conversion" renouncing his alleged communist beliefs and is believed to have suffered poor treatment as a result. He has also consistently maintained his innocence. In a letter from prison he said *"I cannot help deploring this injustice with my eyes full of tears. How can I prove my innocence? God will know how"*.

◆ Please send appeals expressing concern at reports that Cho Sang-nok was convicted after an unfair trial on the basis of a confession extracted under torture. Urge the authorities to investigate these reports and to review Cho Sang-nok's conviction and sentence.





## Shin Kui-yong 신 귀영

Merchant seaman Shin Kui-yong, now aged 56, was arrested in 1980 and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment under the National Security Law. He is said to have been convicted on the basis of his confession, extracted under torture.

Shin Kui-yong was a Korean resident of Japan. In 1947 he and his family moved to South Korea where he worked as a farm labourer. In 1965 he took a job as a merchant seaman and on one overseas trip he stopped in Japan to visit an elder brother who still lived there.

After his arrest, Shin Kui-yong was reportedly held incommunicado by the Agency for National Security Planning for some 60 days and during this time he claims to have been tortured. His wife was also questioned for 15 days.

Shin Kui-yong was accused by the authorities of meeting his brother in Japan on several occasions. They said Shin Kui-yong's brother had recruited him as a spy for North Korea and that he had passed his brother information, including details of military installations in South Korea. The main evidence used to convict Shin Kui-yong appears to have been his confession, which he says was extracted under torture.

In 1989 Shin Kui-yong's wife wrote about her husband's case. She said:

*"I am not lonely any more. That is because we, the families of falsely-accused spies all over the country are sharing the pain and comforting and supporting each other. It is also a great comfort that our stories are beginning to be revealed. I truly pray and wish for the unification of the country so that there will not be any more victims like us."*

Shin Kui-yong is held in Chonju Prison. He has refused to sign a statement of "conversion", renouncing his alleged communist beliefs and has apparently received poor treatment in prison as a result.

◆ Please send appeals expressing concern at reports that Shin Kui-yong was convicted after an unfair trial, on the basis of a confession extracted under torture. Urge the authorities to investigate these reports and to review Shin Kui-yong's conviction and sentence.

## Kim Tae-hong 김 태 홍

**Kim Tae-hong**, a former economics student, now aged 36, was arrested in October 1981 and sentenced to life imprisonment under the National Security Law. His sentence was later reduced to 20 years' imprisonment. He is said to have been convicted on the basis of a confession extracted under torture.

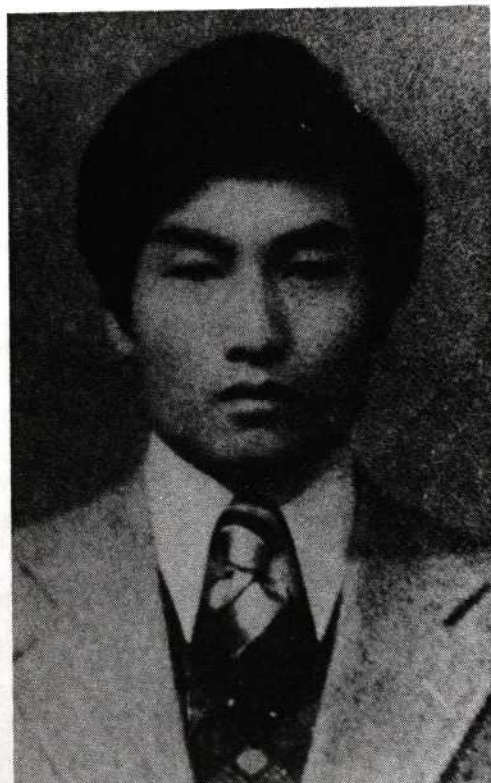
Kim Tae-hong was born in 1957 in Japan, the youngest of seven children. In 1977 he went to South Korea to study economics at Yonsei University. He was arrested on 5 September 1981 by the Agency for National Security Planning, but the arrest was not announced publicly until 13 October. He is believed to have been held incommunicado and tortured.

The authorities accused Kim Tae-hong of contacting a pro-North Korean group in Japan while he was living there and of making a secret visit to North Korea in 1981 where he is alleged to have received espionage training. They also said that he had encouraged "anti-government" activities among students at Yonsei University and that he had passed military secrets to North Korean agents in Japan.

These charges were apparently denied by Kim Tae-hong during his trial. He told the court that he had been tortured and forced to make a confession which was used to convict him.

Kim Tae-hong is held in Taejon Prison.

◆ Please send appeals expressing concern at reports that Kim Tae-hong was convicted after an unfair trial, on the basis of a confession extracted under torture. Urge the authorities to investigate these reports and to review Kim Tae-hong's conviction and sentence.



## Park Dong-oon

박 동 운

**Park Dong-oon, now aged 48**, was arrested in March 1981 and sentenced to death under the National Security Law. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Park Dong-oon used to live on Chin Island where he was employed as a manager by the Chin-do Myon Agricultural Cooperative. In March 1981 he and several other members of his family were arrested and accused of belonging to a "Chindo spy ring" which had allegedly acted on instructions from North Korea. Those arrested included Park Dong-oon's brother, his mother, his uncle and his father-in-law. All were held incommunicado for 60 days and all claim to have been tortured. Several members of the family made detailed statements about their torture. This included water torture, beatings, threats and sleep deprivation. They said that they were forced to sign false confessions implicating themselves and Park Dong-oon in a "spy ring" for North Korea. In 1991 his brother wrote to supporters abroad:

*"With the help of endless torture the security department transformed the whole family into spies over 60 days. Instead of catching spies they were creating spies. No matter how hard people like us tried later to tell that they had been fabricating facts, nobody would listen to us. There has been not a single news media article that attempted to reveal the truth".*

*"It turned out that they had dragged my brother, Park Dong-oon, out to a shooting alley at night, shot him, and dragged him to the Han river bank and threatened to throw him into the river. They inflicted all kinds of torture on him. All of my family went through humiliation and pain and I cannot find words to describe them. How long do you think a human being can put up with torture? One month, two months or several months? It is only a matter of time. Nobody can endure it forever".*



Other members of Park Dong-oon's family were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three and a half years to seven years' imprisonment. They have now been released.

Park Dong-oon was accused of meeting and collaborating with his father who had been missing since the Korean War and is alleged by the authorities to have returned to South Korea as a spy. The family claim to have had no contact at all with Park Dong-oon's missing father and say that they were forced to write false confessions which were later used to convict them. They also say that witnesses present during the trial were intimidated by the authorities and that public access to the trial was restricted. The only evidence of contacts between Park Dong-oon and his father were the statements made by other family members during interrogation.

Park Dong-oon is held in Kwangju Prison. His family feel that his case is "buried and has disappeared from people's memory".

◆ Please send appeals urging the South Korean authorities to release Park Dong-oon, imprisoned in South Korea since 1981.

◆ Please also express concern that the authorities have failed to adequately investigate claims that members of his family were tortured during interrogation.



## Lee Hon-chi 이 헌치

Electronics technician Lee Hon-chi, now aged 41, was arrested in 1981 and sentenced to death. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment under a presidential amnesty in 1988. He is said to have been convicted on the basis of a confession extracted under torture.

Lee Hon-chi, a Korean resident in Japan, moved to Seoul with his family in 1977. He obtained employment as an electronics technician for the Japanese-owned New Hope Industrial Company and later for Samsung Electronics.

On 9 October 1981 Lee Hon-chi arrived home late from work. As he went to enter his house he says that he was handcuffed and pushed into a car by around six unidentified men. He was taken away for interrogation and apparently denied access to a lawyer and to his family until 16 February 1982, the date of his first trial. During this time he claims to have been subjected to beatings, sleep deprivation and threats, and forced to sign a confession. Lee Hon-chi's wife was also arrested, although she was in the final stages of pregnancy. She gave birth while under interrogation and was later released with a suspended prison sentence.

Lee Hon-chi was accused of sending information about industrial and military secrets to a North Korean agent in Japan. The authorities also alleged that he had visited North Korea in 1974 to receive training in espionage. These charges formed the basis of his conviction in February 1982. In letters from prison he later said that the charges against him had been fabricated and that his conviction was based on his own confession, extracted under torture. In a letter to his wife he said:

*"I was not allowed any visitors. I did not have an attorney. Even after I was put in the detention house I was taken to the security department twice. Who do you think I can trust? . . . Some people say that if you are innocent you should keep denying the charges. I could not do that in the situation I was in. . . I went through all kinds of abuse including sleep deprivation, threats, lies, beating. Events in the next few days were a threat to my, your, and Sung-O's [his son] life and I gave up everything."*

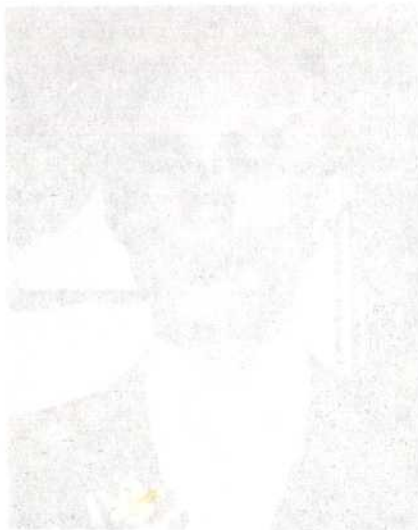
Lee Hon-chi is held in Taejon Prison and is apparently in poor health.

◆ Please send appeals expressing concern at reports that Lee Hon-chi was convicted after an unfair trial, on the basis of a confession obtained under torture. Urge the authorities to investigate these reports and to review Lee Hon-chi's conviction and sentence.





Painting of Lee Hon-chi, by his son



## Chong Yong

정영

Farmer and fisherman Chong Yong, now aged 42, was arrested in September 1982 and sentenced to life imprisonment under the National Security Law. He is said to have been tortured during interrogation and convicted after an unfair trial.

Chong Yong earned his living as a farmer on Mibop Island, off the northwest coast of South Korea, and supplemented his meagre income by fishing in the coastal waters. On one fishing trip in 1965, he was apparently captured and taken to North Korea where he was held for 20 days before being sent back to South Korea. He was interrogated briefly by the authorities and released. Many years passed. In 1981 he sold his land and moved with his family to the city of Incheon where he obtained employment with the Incheon Steel Company.

On 13 September 1983 Chong Yong was arrested. He was accused of receiving espionage training during his brief stay in North Korea in 1965. The authorities said that he had then returned to South Korea and passed military secrets to a distant cousin, thought to be living in North Korea. Later Chong Yong said that he had been tortured during his 40-day interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning and forced to make a confession. In a letter from prison he said:

*"The investigators bound me to a chair and tortured me incessantly, day and night, compelling me to tell of espionage activities. The torture was so severe that at last I could not resist it any longer. So I said to them 'please tell me what you want to hear'. . . There was however no evidence at all for my espionage activities. . . I complied with their demands because I thought that there was no evidence for the charges and truth would be disclosed in court, and because I could not bear the torture any more. But what I did for immediate survival turned out to be a great mistake. In court, I appealed for truth, which was in vain".*

Chong Yong's wife was held for 10 days and questioned about her husband's activities. She also said that she had been tortured and forced to give false information. In an appeal to the Supreme Court on 1 August 1984 she said:

*"The torture was too severe for me to bear, however. The investigators battered me, saying 'if you confess you will be released immediately. If not, however, you will be put into prison as well as Chong Yong.' Even though I said repeatedly these things are not true, as I could not resist the torture at last I admitted that they are all true as is said in Chong Yong's statements. . .".*

Chong Yong was found guilty and convicted, apparently on the basis of the confessions made by himself and by his wife. Chong Yong is held in Taegu Prison. He is apparently in poor health, suffering from eye problems and high blood pressure.

◆ Please send appeals expressing concern at reports that Chong Yong was convicted after an unfair trial, on the basis of confessions extracted under torture. Urge the authorities to investigate these reports and to review Chong Yong's conviction and sentence.

## Ham Ju-myong

함주명

**Businessman Ham Ju-myong, now aged 60, was arrested in 1983 under the National Security Law and sentenced to death. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment following his appeal to the High Court. He is a prisoner of conscience.**

Ham Ju-myong was born in what is now North Korea. He came to South Korea in the early 1950s and gave himself up to the US forces (the main component of the UN forces which assisted South Korea during the Korean War). He was tried, given a two-year suspended prison sentence and released. He settled in South Korea with his family but was subject to constant surveillance from the authorities and found it difficult to obtain permanent employment. He eventually set up a small sub-contracting company and a café.

On 18 February 1983 Ham Ju-myong was arrested by the Agency for National Security Planning and held incommunicado for over 60 days. He was accused of passing information to a woman in North Korea, who the authorities said he had married around 1950. He is alleged to have sent secret information to this woman from South Korea and to have received payment. Ham Ju-myong later claimed to have been subjected to electric shock and water torture and to have been beaten and deprived of sleep. He said that he was forced to sign a confession extracted under torture. In an appeal to the courts he wrote:

*"They told me to tell them about my combat experience, but I did not know what they were talking about. I told them truthfully that after I was released in 1954, I was reunited with my family and I did not perform any espionage activities, that I was merely working hard and minding my own business. . . After that they said that I must have communicated with North Korea through a newspaper advertisement, and the torture was resumed. . . Because I could not stand the torture, I falsely testified. . ."*

Ham Ju-myong's trial started in May 1983 and he denied the charges against him. Several of his friends who had also come from North Korea during the Korean War were called to give evidence. They are said to have been detained for several days before the trial and obliged to write statements testifying that Ham Ju-myong was a communist. This testimony and the prisoners' confession were the main evidence used to convict Ham Ju-myong.

Ham Ju-myong is held in Chonju Prison and is said to be in poor health, suffering from diabetes. Letters from supporters abroad have not been delivered to him.

◆ **Please send appeals urging the authorities to release Ham Ju-myong, imprisoned in South Korea since 1983.**





## Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon

김성만

황대권

Kim Song-man, now aged 35, and Hwang Tae-kwon, now aged 37, former political science students, were arrested in 1985 under the National Security Law. They are prisoners of conscience.

Kim Song-man was sentenced to death and Hwang Tae-kwon to life imprisonment. In a presidential amnesty in 1988 Kim Song-man's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and Hwang Tae-kwon's was reduced to 20 years' imprisonment. Several others were arrested on related charges, two of whom remain in prison today.

Kim Song-man studied physics at Yonsei University in Seoul and in 1982 he enrolled at the Western Illinois University in the USA to study political science. Hwang Tae-kwon studied agriculture at Seoul National University and also enrolled at Western Illinois University in 1982, where he met Kim Song-man. The following year he enrolled in the Political Science Department of the New School for Social Research in New York City. Both men were active in the student movement and both were critical of South Korean Government policy. During their studies abroad they became interested in the North Korean political system and met several people considered to be pro-North Korean.

After their arrest, the two men were held incommunicado for some 60 days by the Agency for National Security Planning and both say they were tortured. They were accused and convicted of engaging in "anti-state" activities, under instructions from North Korea. However the main evidence to support these charges were their confessions which, they claimed, were extracted under torture. During the first trial, the families did not engage human rights lawyers, apparently after intimidation from the authorities, and the prisoners mostly conducted their own defence.

In an appeal to the Supreme Court on 14 August 1986 Kim Song-man wrote:

*I am a person who wishes the independence of our nation and democracy. I think that this idea can be realized in a socialistic country. I was interrogated and tortured mercilessly at the Agency for National Security Planning. During the interrogation and torture I was even forced to write a suicide letter to my parents in order to disguise my possible death as a suicide. The press widely published my forced confession as though it was true."*

In 1988 Hwang Tae-kwon wrote from his prison cell:

*". . . after 60 days of torture and beatings in the basement of the Agency for National Security Planning and after three years of imprisonment for a crime I did not commit, having been silenced all those years, I hope my story will expose the crimes that were committed against me by the powers-that-be in order to extract my 'confession'. I am also hoping to restore my own human dignity which has been ruthlessly trampled upon during the interrogation and imprisonment."*

Kim Song-man is held in Kwangju Prison and is in poor health, apparently as a result of torture and stress suffered during his years under sentence of death. He has consistently refused to sign a statement of "conversion" renouncing his alleged communist beliefs and is believed to have suffered poor treatment as a result. He has not been permitted to send letters overseas, but in 1992 he managed to convey the following message to supporters: *"I really want to thank you for your deep and kind consideration. I will remember your kindness in my life for ever. Thank you!"*

Hwang Tae-kwon is held in Andong Prison. He is apparently permitted books and magazines from outside but is suffering from poor dental treatment. In January 1993 he wrote to supporters: *"Thank you very much for your warm concern and efforts for my release. I am not lonely as long as there are people like you. The fact that there are friends who worry about me on the opposite side of the globe inspires me with redoubled courage and hope."*

◆ Please send appeals urging the immediate and unconditional release of Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon, prisoners of conscience in South Korea since 1985.



Hwang Tae-kwon



Kim Song-man

## Kang Yong-ju

강용주

Former medical student **Kang Yong-ju**, now aged 32, was arrested in June 1985 and sentenced to life imprisonment under the National Security Law. His sentence was reduced to 20 years' imprisonment under a presidential amnesty in February 1993. He is said to have been convicted after an unfair trial and to have been tortured.

Kang Yong-ju studied medicine at Chonam University, but was expelled because of his political activities. He was said to have been involved in activities of the Christian Student Council and to have organized student demonstrations on anti-US themes.

Several other people were arrested along with Kang Yong-ju, including Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon, who have been adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience. Kang Yong-ju was accused of engaging in "anti-state" activities on the orders of North Korea. This included the organization of student demonstrations and the formation of underground student groups which allegedly listened to North Korean radio broadcasts.

Kang Yong-ju was held incommunicado during his interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning until 5 August. During this time he is said to have been tortured. He was tried along with several other prisoners arrested on related charges, all of whom were given long prison sentences or the death penalty. During the first trial, the prisoners' families were apparently intimidated into not engaging human rights lawyers and the prisoners mostly defended themselves. Kang Yong-ju denied the charges against him but was found guilty.

Kang Yong-ju is held in Taegu Prison. He has consistently refused to sign a statement of "conversion" renouncing his alleged communist beliefs and has apparently received poor treatment as a result. He is said to be in ill health.

◆ Please send appeals expressing concern at reports that **Kang Yong-ju** was convicted after an unfair trial and that he was tortured. Urge the authorities to investigate these reports and to review **Kang Yong-ju's** conviction and sentence.



## Chang Ui-gyun 장 의 군

**Publisher Chang Ui-gyun, now aged 42**, was arrested in 1987 under the National Security Law and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. His sentence was reduced to eight years on appeal in May 1988. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Chang Ui-gyun studied journalism at Sogang University and then established the Kaema publishing company which specialized in books on ancient Korean history. He also wrote short stories, poetry and songs. In 1982 his publishing licence was withdrawn after he published a book of poetry which was critical of the government. In 1985 he went to Japan to study ancient Korean history at Kyogo University. He used the opportunity of his stay in Japan to learn more about North Korea through attending lectures, reading books not available in South Korea and meeting members of pro-North Korean organizations.

In March 1987 Chang Ui-gyun returned to South Korea. He was arrested on 5 July, interrogated for 25 days and then sent to Seoul Prison. Apart from a brief meeting with his wife on 11 July, he was not permitted to see anyone until 29 August when he was formally charged. He was accused of passing classified information to pro-North Koreans in Japan under instructions for North Korea.

At his trial in November 1987 Chang Ui-gyun admitted giving information to people in Japan, none of which consisted of a state secret. He admitted reading about and taking an interest in North Korean affairs, but he denied all accusations of spying or supporting North Korea. He also said that he had been subjected to "the tortures everyone knows about". There was no evidence to suggest that he had access to state secrets or had passed such information to North Korea.

Chang Ui-gyun is held in Chonju Prison. He has consistently refused to sign a statement of "conversion" renouncing his alleged communist beliefs and has apparently received poor medical care as a result. In 1989 he published *Where is our children's country*, a collection of his letters from prison. After this the prison authorities refused to allow him to write.

◆ Please send appeals urging the release Chang Ui-gyun, a prisoner of conscience in South Korea since 1987.



Poem by Chang Ui-gyun

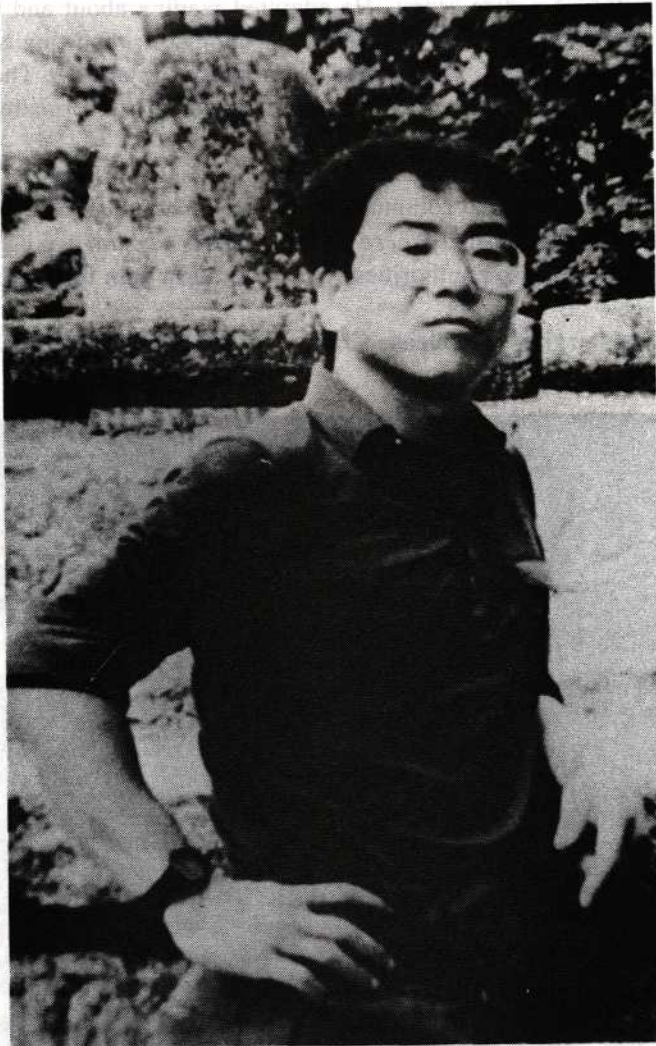
Mother Sky and Father Sky

Your sister Yeo-lim is beautiful, like the sky that changes colour  
Red in the morning, purple in the evening  
even in the rain, she keeps her rainbow smile

You, Joo-suk, are the bounteous sky curving above us  
all day long, massive, towering, clouds and pinwheel clouds breath smoke  
in no time a brave soldier becomes an aeroplane and flies away

The strength of the sky is your brother Joo-ho  
Your friends, the sun, the moon and the stars, like everything on the earth  
rain in summer, snow in winter  
are watching over you 365 days

Written on 18 August 1988, for his his five-year-old son on his birthday



## Suh Kyung-won and Pang Yang-kyun

서 경 원                      방 양 균

Parliamentarian Suh Kyung-won, now aged 55 and his secretary, 38-year-old Pang Yang-kyun, were arrested in 1989 under the National Security Law. Suh Kyung-won was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment and Pang Yang-kyun to seven. They are prisoners of conscience.

Suh Kyung-won was a farmer and in the early 1980s he became an active member of the Catholic Farmers Association. In 1988 he was elected to the National Assembly on behalf of the main opposition party at the time, the Party for Peace and Democracy. In August of that year he made an unauthorized visit to North Korea where he apparently met the North Korean President Kim Il-sung and other officials. Pang Yang-kyun was secretary to Suh Kyung-won.

The two men were arrested in mid-1989. Suh Kyung-won was accused of making an unauthorized visit to North Korea, of passing information to the officials he met there and of engaging in political activities under instructions from North Korea. Pang Yang-kyun was accused of failing to report Suh Kyung-won's visit to North Korea and of passing information to a North Korean agent in Germany.

Both men later reported that they had been tortured during interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning. Suh Kyung-won was denied access to his lawyers for 24 days. He later said:

*"Investigators punched me in the face and repeatedly landed crushing blows on my left foot about 10 days after I was taken into custody. The left side of my face was badly swollen and the inside of my mouth began bleeding. . . They forced me to remain awake for the first three nights."*

During his trial in September 1989, Suh Kyung-won told the court that he had been forced to make a false confession. He justified his visit to North Korea as motivated by his desire to see Korea reunified. He was, however, found guilty.

Pang Yang-kyun also said he had been tortured. During his trial he said that he had been subjected to beatings, death threats and sleep deprivation by interrogators. He denied passing information to a North Korean agent and he also denied knowledge of Suh Kyung-won's visit to North Korea. In its verdict the court said that: *"In Pang Yang-kyun's case the court cannot rule out the possibility that he was tortured while being interrogated by the Agency for National Security Planning . . ."*

In spite of this astonishing admission, Pang Yang-kyun was found guilty.

Pang Yang-kyun is held in Chonju Prison and has suffered from ill-health since his imprisonment, apparently as a result of the torture he suffered. He is married with two daughters, aged four and eight. Suh Kyun-won is held in Chinju Prison and is thought to be in good health. He is married and has four young children.

Both prisoners gain support and encouragement from the knowledge that friends and supporters are campaigning for their release. In April 1993 Pang Yang-kyun wrote to a supporter overseas: *"I don't know how to thank you and the committee members for watching over my family with thoughts of love. Your concern is greatly appreciated particularly because I am behind prison bars. . . ."*

◆ Please send appeals urging the immediate and unconditional release of **Suh Kyung-won and Pang Yang-kyun, prisoners of conscience in South Korea since 1985.**



Suh Kyung-won

## Baik Tae-ung 백 태웅

Former law student Baik Tae-ung, aged 31, was arrested in April 1992 and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment under the National Security Law. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Baik Tae-ung was arrested on 29 April 1992 by the Agency for National Security Planning and interrogated for 22 days. During his trial in July 1992 he told the court:

*"During the 22 days of ANSP interrogation, I was subjected to various types of torture such as sleep deprivation, drug injection and mob beating. Going through these rounds of torture I prepared myself for death three times . . ."*

Baik Tae-ung was accused of establishing and belonging to *Sanomaeng* (Socialist Workers' League) in 1989 and of being active in the organization until the time of his arrest. The South Korean authorities have labelled *Sanomaeng* as an "anti-state" organization and arrested its alleged members. They said that it was preparing for an armed uprising to establish a "people's government" and that it had links with North Korea. Since 1990 over 200 *Sanomaeng* members have been arrested and many have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms.

Although the aims of *Sanomaeng* do not appear to have been clearly defined, Amnesty International believes that there is no evidence to suggest that its members were seeking an armed uprising of the type described by the authorities. It is said to have had a large membership among students and workers and to have advocated a South Korean form of socialism, including the implementation of a mixed economy, electoral reform and greater efforts towards achieving Korean reunification. Some of its members, including Baik Tae-ung, have demonstrated that they were seeking peaceful and democratic change. During his trial, Baik Tae-ung told the court:

*"Politically, Sanomaeng aims at liberty and democracy, economic equality and a society not swayed by a handful of monopolistic business conglomerates and instead a society in which workers and small farmers become masters. I would like to ask: why is Sanomaeng an anti-state organization? Sanomaeng has never assumed the title of government. It has never purported to disturb or overthrow the State. Unlike the New People's Army in the Philippines or the Shining Path in Peru, Sanomaeng is not an organization of armed struggle. . ."*

*Sanomaeng cultivates its ability to exercise widespread influence and forms relationships with people in various walks of life, because it has a vision to transform our society, thoroughly, democratically, peacefully and in the manner guaranteed by the democratic institutions of our society . . ."*

*Sanomaeng aspires to build a party named the Socialist Workers' Party. We have a firm belief that it will not be long before Sanomaeng and the Socialist Workers' Party are legalized. We have been doing preparatory work in this connection. We have drawn out a solid plan wherein we will build the Socialist Workers' Party by the end of 1995 and get a group of socialist candidates successfully elected to the*



*1996 National Assembly election and let them triumphantly march into parliament. "*

Baik Tae-ung was sentenced to life imprisonment on 27 October 1992. When delivering the court's verdict, the judge is reported to have said that he should be segregated from society indefinitely because he had ignored the liberal democratic system and the market economy, upheld in the Constitution. He also said that Baik Tae-ung had not been sentenced to death in consideration of the fact that he had said he wanted to establish a legal political party using peaceful methods. Baik Tae-ung is held in Wonju Prison.

Since Baik Tae-ung's arrest, the authorities have continued to arrest *Sanomaeng* members on the grounds that it is an "anti-state" organization. Those detained include Baik Tae-ung's wife Chong Kyong-hee who is serving a three-year prison term. She is also a prisoner of conscience.

◆ Please send appeals urging the immediate and unconditional release of Baik Tae-ung, a prisoner of conscience in South Korea.



(c) Korea Herald

## Kim Nak-jung

김낙중

**Writer and activist Kim Nak-jung, aged 61,** was arrested in August 1992 under the National Security Law and sentenced to life imprisonment. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Kim Nak-jung is a well-known political activist who has pursued peaceful reunification of the divided Korean peninsula since the end of the Korean War (1953). These activities led to his arrest and imprisonment on both sides of the Korean peninsula. In 1955 he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment in North Korea when he submitted his own reunification plan to North Korean leaders. Returning to South Korea one year later he was arrested there on charges of spying for the North. After a series of trials he was released but he was arrested again in 1963 and served two years in prison for publicizing his visit to North Korea.

Kim Nak-jung obtained a master's degree in economics and lectured on economic history at Korea University. He belonged to a number of citizens' groups supporting reunification and established the Research Group for Peaceful Reunification. He has written numerous books and articles on the subject of reunification, the labour movement and economics. In 1990 he became co-president of the *Minjung* (People's) Party.

On 25 August 1992 Kim Nak-jung was taken from his home by officials of the Agency for National Security Planning who did not show a warrant of arrest. His wife and two daughters were also arrested and held incommunicado for 10 days. Kim Nak-jung was not permitted to see his lawyer until 7 September - 13 days after his arrest. He later revealed that he had been beaten and deprived of sleep during interrogation. He told relatives he had gone through "what no human being should be made to suffer".

Kim Nak-jung was one of 62 prisoners accused of involvement in a "spy ring" allegedly operated by the North Korean Government. He was accused of collecting state secrets through his activities in the *Minjung* Party and through meetings with North Korean agents. Kim Nak-jung admitted meeting the North Korean agents, but denied all charges of spying. He defended his actions as those of a peaceful activist who wished to help bring about the reunification of North and South Korea. He told the court:

*"I thought that it would be all right as far as I did not betray South Korea and did not cooperate with the activities which aimed at the destruction and overthrow of the South Korean Government. In reality, through contacts with the North Korean people, I held fast to such a position".*

There is no evidence to suggest that Kim Nak-jung passed classified information to North Korea. When delivering his verdict, the judge said that he understood Kim Nak-jung's passion and desire for reunification but added that he had to pass a guilty verdict because the defendant had broken the law.

During his first trial hearing, Kim Nak-jung made a lengthy statement about his aims, ideals and activities. He said:

*"I have lived here in South Korea for over 60 years. Through my life in South Korea, I have published numerous books and articles; delivered innumerable lectures and speeches; and appeared on many TV and radio interviews and debates. Not only the people who have had personal contacts with me but also those who have read my books or listened to my lectures, speeches or discussions are well aware that I have been an adamant pacifist opposing violent revolution and one-party dictatorship as well as a strong advocate of peaceful reunification of our nation . . . Since 1954 when nobody dared to talk about peaceful reunification I have argued that in order to achieve reunification, both North and South Korea should stop attempting to overthrow each other and instead try to recognize and respect the presence of each other, promising non-aggression, security, international guarantees and increasing exchange and cooperation. Through these measures, I have argued, we should be able to hand down a reunified Korea to our descendants. I have struggled to achieve this and I have kept this conviction for the past 40 years. But for both North and South Korea, who were obsessed with how to topple each other, my arguments were intolerable and as a result I had to face various kinds of serious persecution and repression. . . ."*



Kim Nak-jung is held in Seoul Prison

◆ Please send appeals urging the immediate and unconditional release of Kim Nak-jung, a prisoner of conscience in South Korea.



**amnesty  
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

**URGENT  
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/38/93  
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14 October 1993

Further information on UA 137/93 (ASA 25/17/93, 27 April 1993) and follow-up (ASA 25/20/93, 19 May 1993), Prisoner of conscience/fear of ill-treatment New Concern: Prisoner of conscience faces life imprisonment

SOUTH KOREA: Hwang Suk-yong, 50, writer



Hwang Suk-yong is currently on trial on charges under the National Security Law. The prosecution has asked for a life sentence and a verdict is expected before the end of October. Amnesty International is concerned that Hwang Suk-yong, whom it has adopted as a prisoner of conscience, now faces life imprisonment on charges which amount to no more than the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association. It considers his case to be a crucial test of the government's willingness to improve the human rights situation in South Korea. It is appealing to the authorities to drop all charges against Hwang Suk-yong and to release him immediately and unconditionally.

Hwang Suk-yong was arrested in April 1993 on his return to South Korea from a period of self-imposed exile abroad. He is accused of making an unauthorized visit to North Korea in 1989 and of contacting North Korean officials. He justified this visit as motivated by his desire to help achieve reunification of the two Koreas. Under the National Security Law his actions are defined as "espionage". This law has frequently been used to imprison people who were merely exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

Hwang Suk-yong is the best-known political prisoner to be tried since February 1993 when a new government took office, committed to reform and full human rights. Amnesty International believes that Hwang Suk-yong's conviction and imprisonment would also have a detrimental effect for other prisoners who are already serving lengthy prison terms on similar charges.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hwang Suk-yong is a well-known and popular writer who has written over 20 novels and essays which have been published and read throughout the world. He is a leading member of the South Korean Association of Writers for National Literature and the Korean Nationalistic Artists Federation. He returned to South Korea in April 1993 hoping to participate in the new government's reform program. He is now held in Seoul Prison.

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

- expressing concern that Hwang Suk-yong faces long-term imprisonment as a prisoner of conscience;
- urging the authorities to drop all charges against him and to release him immediately and unconditionally;
- expressing concern that Hwang Suk-yong's imprisonment would have a detrimental effect for the future protection of the rights to freedom of expression and association in South Korea.

☎ (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.**

## 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: + 822 720 2686**

**Salutation: Dear President Kim**

### 2) Minister of Justice

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**

## COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

### 1) Seoul District Court

Chief Judge

Seoul District Criminal Court

170-1 Socho-dong

Socho-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

### 2) Editor, Hankyoreh Daily

1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga

Seoul, Republic of Korea

**Faxes: + 822 710 0310, + 822 671 7797**

### 3) Committee for the Release of Hwang Suk-yong

c/o Association of Writers for National Literature

612-5 Ahyn-dong

Mapo-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

**Faxes: + 822 392 1838**

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 25 November 1993.

— 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 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.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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27 October 1993

Further information on UA 137/93 (ASA 25/17/93, 27 April 1993) - and follow-ups: (ASA 25/20/93, 19 May; ASA 25/38/93, 14 October). - Prisoner of conscience/fear of ill-treatment. New Concern: Prisoner of conscience sentenced to eight years' imprisonment

South Korea: Hwang Suk-yong, 50, writer

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On 25 October 1993 Hwang Suk-yong was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by Seoul District Criminal Court. He was sentenced under the National Security Law for making several unauthorized visits to North Korea and contacting North Korean officials. When handing down the court's verdict the judge is reported to have said that Hwang Suk-yong had fallen into a "propaganda trap" set by the North Korean Government. He said that "the defendant deserves to receive criticism because his rash acts brought about confusion in the South, as the North had intended".

Hwang Suk-yong, arrested in April 1993, justified his visits to North Korea as motivated by his desire to help achieve peaceful reunification of the two Koreas. Amnesty International has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience and his calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

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

- expressing concern that Hwang Suk-yong was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment on 25 October 1993;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

**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

Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) Minister of Justice

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

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**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

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

2) Editor, Dong-A Ilbo  
139 Sejongro Chongro-Gu  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: + 822 361 0434, + 822 361 0430

2) Committee for the Release of Hwang Sok-yong  
c/o Association of Writers for National Literature  
612-5 Ahyn-dong  
Mapo-gu  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: + 822 392 1838

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

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- 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:

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8 OCTOBER 1993

SOUTH KOREA: TORTURE AND UNFAIR TRIAL OF DOZENS OF LONG-TERM POLITICAL PRISONERS

Amnesty International is calling on the South Korean Government to urgently review the cases of dozens of long-term political prisoners who are serving prison terms of between seven years and life imprisonment under the National Security Law.

In a new report detailing specific cases of abuse which occurred between the mid 1970s and 1992, Amnesty International expressed concern that many of these prisoners have already spent years in prison for political charges which appear to have been fabricated. There are consistent reports that the prisoners were held incommunicado and tortured by the Agency for National Security Planning and that they were convicted after trials which did not conform to international standards.

South Korea's National Security Law defines "spying" very broadly and the courts have ruled that any information which might be useful to North Korea may be considered a state secret, even if it is already publicly available. Any unauthorized contact with a North Korean may also be interpreted as an act of espionage. Amnesty International believes that the National Security Law has frequently been used to silence government critics. It believes that the restrictions the National Security Law impose on the freedom of expression and association go far beyond the requirements of national security and have led to the imprisonment of prisoners of conscience.

Amnesty International's report highlights the cases of 16 prisoners arrested between the 1975 and 1993 on national security charges. They include cases which appear to have been fabricated. There are consistent reports that many of these prisoners were held incommunicado for up to 60 days after their arrest, that they were severely tortured and that they were convicted largely on the basis of coerced confessions made by themselves or others. Some of these prisoners have been denied the possibility of early release on parole because they have refused to sign a statement of "conversion" renouncing their alleged communist views.

Political science students Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon were both arrested in 1985 and accused of passing state secrets to North Korea. Both claim to have been tortured and there was no evidence to support the accusations of spying. They are now serving life terms and have been adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience. In April 1993 the United Nations (UN) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention also took up their cases, stating that their detention was in contravention of human

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



rights standards which have been ratified by the South Korean Government.

Businessman Ham Ju-myong was arrested in 1983 and held incommunicado for over 60 days. He claims to have been tortured and forced to write a false confession. He was later sentenced to life imprisonment. Another prisoner, Yu Chong-sik, has already served 18 years of a life sentence imposed in 1975. He is also said to have been tortured and denied a fair trial. For many years Amnesty International has called for a review of these cases.

In 1993, 13 people were sentenced to prison terms of between seven years and life for their alleged involvement in a "spy ring" operated by North Korea. Many of these prisoners were tortured and ill-treated during interrogation and denied access to lawyers. They include writer and political activist Kim Nak-jung who has been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience. He was held incommunicado and ill-treated during interrogation. He was later sentenced to life imprisonment, solely for his peaceful attempts to bring about reunification between North and South Korea.

In February 1993 a new government took office in South Korea and pledged itself to introduce greater democracy and freedom and to root out corruption. However, the government has as yet failed to investigate the cases of long-term political prisoners. Indeed, it has sought to convince the world that there are no human rights problems in South Korea. In June 1993 the Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. He said:

"As we gather here at the World Conference on Human Rights, I am happy to report to you 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, there are still over 300 political prisoners in South Korea, including some 80 long-term prisoners, serving sentences of between seven years and life imprisonment on national security charges. The authorities have consistently failed to investigate past human rights abuses which may have led to the unfair conviction of political prisoners. Detainees continue to be subjected to incommunicado detention and torture and to face long prison sentences under national security legislation which severely restricts the rights of freedom of expression and association.

ENDS/

# amnesty international news release

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R.C.O Box36

## 국제엠네스티 보도자료

1993. 10. 8

### 한 국 :

수십명에 달하는 장기 정치적 수인의 가혹행위와 불공정 재판

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- \* 이 자료의 보도를 요청합니다.
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TEL: (053) 426-2533 FAX: (053) 422-1956

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters throughout the world. It has formal relations with the United Nations, Unesco, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.

선묘호칭민국재주우 312-7330 북북북북시

출판물 : 수감되어 달하는 장기 정치범의 가혹행위의 싹공정 재판

국제엠네스티는, 국가보안법 하에서 7년에서 무기에 이르는 형기를 복역중인 장기 정치적 수인 수십명의 사례를 긴급히 재심해 줄 것을 한국 정부 당국에 촉구하고자 한다.

1970년대 중반에서 1992년까지 발생한 특정 인권침해를 다루는 본 최신 보고서에서 국제엠네스티는 이들 장기수인들이 조작된 것으로 보이는 정치적 혐의로 이미 오랜 세월동안 복역해온 사실에 우려를 표명한다.

장기수인들이 국가안전기획부에 의해 격리 구금 및 고문을 당했으며, 국제 인권규준에 미달되는 재판을 통해 유리판결을 받았다는 일관된 보고들이 존재한다.

한국의 국가보안법은 "간첩행위"를 매우 광범위하게 정의하며, 법정은 이미 공개된 것일지라도, 북한을 이롭게 할 수 있는 정보라면 국가 기밀로 간주되어야 한다는 판결을 내려왔다. 북한 주민과 무단 접촉하는 것 역시 간첩행위로 해석되곤 한다. 국제엠네스티는 국가보안법이 정부의 비판자들을 침묵시키기 위해 자주 사용되어 왔다고 본다. 또한 표현 및 결사의 자유에 대한 국가보안법상의 제재조치가 국가안보에 필요한 정도를 훨씬 넘어서고 있으며 양심수의 무용으로 이어지고 있다고 믿는다.

국제엠네스티의 본 보고서는 1975년에서 1993년사이 국가보안법 혐의로 체포된 16명의 수인들을 집중적으로 조명한다. 이 중에는 조작된 것으로 보이는 사례들도 있다. 이들 정치범들이 체포후 60일에 달하는 격리구금을 당하였고 심한 고문을 받았으며 그들 자신 또는 타인들에 대한 강압적인 자백에 주로 근거해 유리판결을 받았다는 일관된 보고들이 있다. 이들 중에는 소위 공산주의 사상을 버렸다는 "전향서"에 서인할 것을 거부했다고 해서 조기 가석방되지 못한 수인들도 있다.

정치학자인 지성만과 황대권은 1988년 체포되어 북한에 국가기밀을 넘겨준 혐의로 기소되었다. 두사람 모두 고문당한 사실을 주장하며, 간첩혐의를 입증할만한 증거도 없는 실정이다. 그들은 현재 무기형을 받고 복역중이며 국제엠네스티에 의해 양심수로 지정되었다. 1993년 4월, 자의적 구금에 관한 유엔 실무분과위원회 역시 이 사건을 의안으로 채택하면서 그들의 구금은 한국정부가 이미 비준한 국제인권법 규준에 위배된다고 천명한 바 있다.

사업가인 함주명은 1983년 체포되어 60여일 이상 격리구금을 당하였다. 그 역시 고문을 당했으며 허위진술서 작성을 강요받았다고 주장한다. 그는 무기형을 선고 받았었다. 또 다른 수인인 유정식 역시 1975년 무기형을 선고받고 18년간 복역중이다. 그 또한 가혹행위를 당했고 공정한 재판을 받지 못한 것으로 보인다. 국제엠네스티는 이 사례들을 재검토하도록 오랫동안 촉구해 왔다.

1993년, 13명이 북한의 지령을 받은 '간첩단' 사건에 연루되었다는 혐의로 7년에서 무기에 이르는 형을 선고 받았다. 이들중 상당수가 심문도중 고문과 가혹행위를 당했으며 변호인 접견이 거부되었다. 여기에는 국제앰네스티에 의해 양심수로 지정된, 는 객이며 정치활동가인 김낙중씨도 포함되어 있다. 그는 심문 기간중 격리 구급차에서 가혹행위를 당하였다. 그후 그는 남북한의 평화적 통일을 주도했다는 혐의로만 무기형을 선고 받았다.

1993년 2월 새 정부가 출범하면서 민주주의와 자유를 더욱 더 신장시키고 부정부패를 일소하겠다는 공약을 제시하였다. 그러나 정부는 아직 장기 정치범의 사례를 조사하지 않고 있다. 한국 정부가 자국내에 인권문제가 존재하지 않는다는 점을 전세계에 납득시키기 위해 노력해온 것은 사실이다. 1993년 6월 외무부장관은 비엔나에서 개최된 세계인권총회 석상에서 다음과 같이 발언하였다.

"세계인권총회 참석에 즈음하여 저는 한국에서 인권이 마침내 본 궤도에 올랐다는 점을 기쁘게 알려드리는 바입니다. 진실, 자유 그리고 민주주의가 드디어 승리한 한 나라와 그 국민을 대표해서 여러분 앞에 나온 것입니다."

이러한 말들에도 불구하고, 한국에는 아직도 300명이 넘는 정치적 수인이 있으며, 국가보안법에 저촉되어 7년에서 무기에 이르는 형기로 수감중인 80명 가량의 장기수인들이 있다. 관계당국은 정치적 수인의 불공정한 유죄판결이 내려졌을 수도 있는 과거의 인권침해 사례를 시종일관 조사하지 않고 있다. 구급자들은 거듭 격리구급과 가혹행위의 대상이 되고 있으며 표현 및 결사의 자유를 심대하게 제한하는 국가보안법하의 판결로 장기형에 직면하고 있는 것이다.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Bureau is a peace and human rights organization which is active in all-parties and disarmament issues and has been in a similar way since November 1975. It is a non-profit organization and is registered in the Republic of Korea. It was founded by Mr. Lee and Mr. Lee and has since then been active in the Secretary of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. In 1993, Amnesty International has received information that the government is continuing to their human rights activities.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, cables/grams/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language.

- expressing concern over the reports that you have been subjected to sleep deprivation and other forms of punishment.
- expressing concern that the two prisoners have been subjected to a series of arrests and held incommunicado for long periods.
- expressing concern that the two prisoners have been subjected to a series of arrests and held incommunicado for long periods.

Amnesty International is an independent organization which works for the promotion and protection of human rights. It seeks the release of all who are wrongfully imprisoned, tortured, or otherwise abused, regardless of race, language or religion, provided they have not been convicted of a crime.



# amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

# URGENT ACTION

AI Index: ASA 25/35/93  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 330/93 Ill-treatment/possible prisoners of conscience 17 September 1993

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

Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju, brother and sister, were arrested without warrants on 8 September by the Agency for National Security Planning and held incommunicado for two days. According to family members who were subsequently permitted brief access to the prisoners they have been beaten and deprived of sleep. Amnesty International is concerned that they could be subjected to further ill-treatment and that they may be coerced into making a "confession".

Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were detained on the afternoon of 8 September but members of their family and human rights groups were unable to find out where they had been taken until the afternoon of 10 September when the Agency for National Security Planning said that they were applying for arrest warrants. These were issued by Seoul District Criminal Court at 3.00pm, two full days after the prisoners were detained.

Family members reported that the two had been deprived of sleep during interrogation and that Kim Sam-sok had been beaten. They said that the prisoners appeared to be in a trance-like state.

The two prisoners are apparently detained under the National Security law on suspicion of having contacted a Korean resident in Japan who had been accused of involvement in a 1974 "spying" case. They may face charges of espionage for North Korea. Amnesty International is concerned about the very broad definition of espionage under the National Security Law which includes all unauthorized contacts with North Korea or pro-North Korean groups. The organization is concerned that the prisoners may face long-term detention as prisoners of conscience and an unfair trial on national security charges.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kim Sam-sok is a peace and human rights advocate who has been involved in anti-nuclear and disarmament issues, and Kim Un-ju is a Catholic youth movement activist. During 1992 Kim Sam-sok worked as a staff member of the Korean Alliance of Anti-Nuclear and Peace Movements. In 1993 he became Secretary General of the Pacific War Victims Committee and in this capacity he attended the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993. Amnesty International is concerned that their arrest may be connected to their human rights activities.

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

- expressing concern that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju have been deprived of sleep and beaten and urging the authorities to ensure that they are not subjected to further ill-treatment;
- expressing concern that the two prisoners were arrested without warrants of arrest and held incommunicado for two days;
- expressing concern that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju may be prisoners of conscience and urging the authorities to either grant them their full rights, in accordance with international standards, or to release them.

☎ (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.

1) President Kim Young (am)  
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 2686  
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 0310, + 822 671 7797

Editor, Chosun Ilbo  
61 Taepyongro 1-ka  
Jung-ku  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: +822 724 5390

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 30 October 1993.

— 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.



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1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

# URGENT ACTION

AI Index: ASA 25/36/93  
Distr: UA/SC

24 September 1993

Further information on UA 330/93 (ASA 25/35/93, 17 September 1993) -  
Ill-treatment/possible prisoners of conscience

South Korea: KIM Sam-sok, 28  
KIM Un-ju (female), 24

According to his lawyer, Kim Sam-sok tried to commit suicide on 20 September by hitting his head against a wall to the point where he lost consciousness. He was apparently traumatised by his interrogation and ill-treatment and said that he had been forced to admit to things he had not done. After he regained consciousness, he was again interrogated and threatened by a group of some 15 officials.

Kim Sam-sok's wife was permitted to visit him on 21 September. She reported that his neck was in a cast, his head was swollen and his face was badly bruised. He was unable to sit down because of a back injury.

Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that Kim Un-ju may have been forced under interrogation to make a confession.

Since 8 September Kim Sam-sok and his sister Kim Un-ju have been under interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP). They have been subjected to sleep deprivation and beatings. They are reportedly suspected of contacting a Korean resident of Japan who was allegedly involved in a 1974 "spying" case. The National Security Law gives a broad definition to "spying" which includes all unauthorized contacts with North Korea or pro-North Korean groups. Amnesty International is concerned that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju may face long prison terms as prisoners of conscience.

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

- urging the authorities to immediately transfer Kim Sam-sok to hospital and to suspend his interrogation until his state of health has been determined by medical doctors independent of the ANSP;
- expressing concern at reports that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were forced to make confessions under torture and ill-treatment and that these confessions may be used to sentence them to long prison terms on national security charges.
- urging the authorities to investigate publicly the circumstances in which Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were interrogated and to ensure that no further ill-treatment takes place;

**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: + 822 720 2686  
Salutation: Dear President Kim

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

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2) Minister of Justice

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) Agency for National Security Planning

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:**

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

Editor, Chosun Ilbo  
61 Taepyongro 1-ka  
Jung-ku  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Faxes: +822 724 5390

Human Rights Group:  
Minkahyop  
2F1, 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 5 November 1993.

— 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:

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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

**URGENT  
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/37/93  
Distr: UA/SC

11 October 1993

Further information on UA 330/93 (ASA 25/35/93, 17 September 1993) - and follow-up: (ASA 25/36/93, 24 September 1993) - Ill-treatment/possible prisoners of conscience

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

Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju, arrested on 8 September, were interrogated by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) from 8 to 22 September. They are now being questioned by prosecutors. They have not yet been formally charged. On 7 October Kim Sam-sok described to his lawyer the treatment he had been subjected to by the ANSP. He said that he had been stripped naked on several occasions and sexually assaulted. He was also repeatedly threatened and subjected to other verbal abuse. This treatment was used in order to force him to "confess" to charges which he says are false and to put his thumbprint on a statement which was not his own. He tried to avoid this by biting his thumb, but was not able to resist. On 20 September he attempted to commit suicide, apparently fearing that his signed statement would be used against him.

Although South Korean law forbids the use of a coerced confession as evidence in court, Amnesty International is concerned that this statement will now be used to convict Kim Sam-sok and to sentence him to a lengthy prison term. Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that Kim Sam-sok's sister, Kim Un-ju, was subjected to ill-treatment and may have been forced to make a confession.

Amnesty International fears that two prisoners may face an unfair trial and lengthy prison sentences as prisoners of conscience. They are held under the National Security Law on suspicion of passing military secrets to North Korea. They are also accused of passing copies of North Korean leader Kim Il Sung's memoirs to student groups in South Korea. Under the National Security Law, all unauthorized contacts with North Korea may be described as espionage. The law has frequently been used to imprison people for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning and that they were forced to make confessions;
- urging the authorities to order a full and public investigation into these reports of torture and ill-treatment and to ensure that the prisoners are not convicted on the basis of their own coerced confessions;
- urging the government to immediately suspend the ANSP's right to detain and interrogate prisoners until it has introduced measures which effectively protect the basic rights of detainees.

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