

Each Appeal Groups includes an opening paragraph explaining AI's concerns about the prisoners. This is followed by brief descriptions of each case. Some of the prisoners are described in the two main external circulars of the EGLA, but others are not.

Addresses and suggestions for appeals are included in each Appeals Group. An address list is provided with the circular. Photographs are also available and can be ordered using the Photograph Order Form which will be sent to sections and EGLA participants shortly.

A suggested format for the Appeals Circular is as follows:

- Title: "Students Imprisoned in South Korea"
- Background: Use background provided
- Appeals Cases: Use all or select cases provided in this circular.
- Photographs: Circulars may include photographs, both thematic and portrait, which are provided in the Photo Order Form or obtained from photo agencies or from other sources in your own country.
- Letter writing: Advice on letter writing is included in each Appeals Group
- Addresses: Suggested addresses for appeals are given in each Appeals Group. A list of addresses is included with this circular.
- Further information: Each circular should include a sentence saying that further information about human rights in South Korea can be obtained from documents available through the section office.

Important Note: New information on our concerns about prisoners in detention will continue to be received by the Research Department throughout the campaign as well as during the period between production of the circulars and the middle of January. It is inevitable that there will be a number of updates to the circulars with news of the sentences and, hopefully, of releases of prisoners who are currently awaiting trial, or who have had appeal court hearings, or who are released under amnesties. Therefore people responsible for preparing appeals circulars should be prepared to issue updates or phrase circulars to cover possible changes. Circulars should state that prisoner informatoin was up to date at the time of publication.

You may consider adding a short statement explaining some of the prisoners mentioned in your appeal may be freed by the time letters are received by the authorities. However, this does not effect AI's position that their imprisonment was in contravention of their rights to freedom of expression and association. Legal provisions remain in force in South Korea which allow for the detention of other prisoners of conscience on similar grounds.

Groups Participating in the EGLA who do not have a South Korean prisoner dossier

Groups who have opted into the EGLA who do not have South Korean prisoner dossiers, who have been working on behalf of a prisoner who was recently released or who are currently working for an "after-care" case may select a

prisoner or group of prisoners from the Appeals Cases circular as a focus of the recommended actions. When selecting the prisoner(s), groups should use the following criteria:

- Expertise within the group. Does the group have members from one of the professions or interest groups listed in the Appeals Circular who could use their own influence to gain releases?;
- Local Interest. Is there a particular interest in certain types of cases in your area. For instance, a university or active trade union;
- Previous contacts. Has your group had recently had successful contacts with members of your local community which you could use again. For instance a local member of parliament or church congregation.

In this way groups can choose a case for which they can best use their expertise and previous contacts, and subsequently have more success.

Greetings Cards to Prisoners

As mentioned in the EGLA Recommended Actions - Main Circular (ASA 25/38/89) section 9, letters may be sent to prisoners at their places of detention, where known. Members of professional and interest groups mentioned in the Appeals circular may also send greetings cards to prisoners if they wish. See page 9 of ASA 25/38/89 for recommended actions for letter-writing to prisoners and page 3 of the Address List in the same circular.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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## EXTENDED GROUP LEVEL ACTION ON POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT, TORTURE AND THE DEATH PENALTY IN SOUTH KOREA

### APPEAL CASES

#### • APPEALS GROUP I - Students

Target Sectors: Students, student organizations, universities, colleges and schools

#### Background

Over 300 students were formally arrested and charged between January and September 1989. Many of them were arrested for their involvement in violent demonstrations, but a substantial number were charged under the National Security Law for having contacted or attempted to contact North Korea or for expressing political views similar to or supportive of North Korea. Other students were arrested in May to July 1989 for promoting South Korean students participation in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students which was held in North Korea from 1-8 July.

A student arrested in April 1971, Soh Sung, is one of the longest serving prisoners of conscience in South Korea. He and two other students arrested in 1985, Yang Dong-hwa and Kim Song-man, spent their first years of detention under sentence of death, later commuted to life terms.

#### **Soh Sung - prisoner of conscience**

Soh Sung, now aged 44, was a sociology graduate student at Seoul National University when he was arrested in April 1971. He was sentenced to death for visiting North Korea and for allegedly instigating student demonstrations in Seoul. His sentence was subsequently commuted and reduced to 20 years' imprisonment. Soh Sung was severely injured in April 1971 when he attempted to commit suicide in order to escape torture. He sustained burns to over 45% of his body. Soh Sung is said to be still heavily scarred. He is detained in Taejon Prison.

#### **Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon - prisoners of conscience Yang Dong-hwa, Kang Yong-ju, Chong Kum-taek and Kim Chang-kyu - under investigation**

Yang Dong-hwa, aged 31, Kim Song-man, aged 32, and Hwang Tae-kwon, aged 34, were arrested in June 1985. They had been students at Western Illinois University in the USA in the early 1980s and were convicted of having met with North Koreans or Koreans who support North Korea while they were abroad and of receiving instructions from them to infiltrate student groups on their return to South Korea. Three other South Korean students, Kang

Yong-ju, 27, Chong Kum-taek, 28, and Kim Chang-kyu, 26, are still detained in this case. They have been convicted of involvement in anti-government student activities. Amnesty International has adopted Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon as prisoners of conscience. The other four prisoners may also be prisoners of conscience, but further information is required to confirm whether charges that they advocated the use of violence to achieve political change are founded.

Kim Song-man was sentenced to death. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment under an amnesty. He is held in Taejon Prison. Hwang Tae-kwon's life sentence was reduced to 20 years' imprisonment. He is held in Andong Prison. Yang Dong-hwa was also sentenced to death and his sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. He is detained in Taejon Prison. Kang Yong-ju is serving a life sentence at Taejon Prison. Kim Chang-kyu is serving a ten-year sentence in Chonju Prison. Chong Kum-taek is serving a ten-year sentence at Taegu Prison.

#### **Kang Hee-sul - prisoner of conscience**

Kang Hee-sul, aged 26, a student at Sungshin Women's University, is serving an 18-month sentence at Seoul Prison under the National Security Law. She was convicted in September 1989 of having read a declaration supporting South Korean student participation at the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in Pyongyang, and for having sold postcards, handkerchiefs and posters promoting the festival.

#### **Han Chan-su and Park Song-jin - prisoners of conscience**

Han Chan-su, aged 25, a post-graduate student at Korea University, and Park Song-jin, aged 21, and a student at Wonkwang University, were arrested on 23 June 1989 during a crackdown against editors of student newspapers and publishers of books "praising" North Korea. Both are editors of student newspapers at their universities. Fourteen other student editors were arrested the same day. It is not known if they are still detained.

#### **Han Jae-bom - under investigation**

Han Jae-bom, a 22-year-old student, was one of 38 students arrested on 2 July 1989 as they marched towards the De-Militarized Zone dividing North and South Korea. All the other students were released but Han Jae-bom was charged with activities "supporting" North Korea. He may also be charged with his alleged involvement in a violent demonstration in May 1989. Amnesty International is seeking further details of the charges and evidence against him

#### **Im Su-kyong - prisoner of conscience**

Im Su-kyong, aged 22, a language student, was arrested on 15 August 1989 as she crossed the demarcation line between North and South Korea at the armistice village of Panmunjom. She had secretly travelled to North Korea to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students as a representative of Chondaehyop (The National Council of Student Representatives), a dissident student organization. She is currently on trial and faces a possible sentence of life imprisonment for illegally visiting North Korea and making public statements critical of the authorities while she was there. She is held in Andong Prison.

**Kim Chi-son, Yu So-jong and Shin Hyon-kyong, Chong Jae-hon  
and Oh Yong-sik - prisoners of conscience**

Kim Chi-son, Yu So-jung, both aged 22, and Shin Hyon-kyong, aged 21. The three women are all students at Hanyang University in Seoul who were arrested on 31 July 1989 on charges of obtaining finances for Im Su-kyong's visit to North Korea. Chong Jae-hon, aged 22, a student at Yonsei University and member of Chondaehyop, was arrested around 1 July for his alleged role in planning Im Su-kyong's trip. Around 1 September two more members of Chondaehyop, Oh Yong-sik, aged 22, and Kim Nam-hoon, aged 23, were arrested on the same charges. As of November 1989, their trials had not been completed.

**Park Tae-hun - prisoner of conscience**

Park Tae-hun was a post-graduate student at the Illinois University in Chicago, USA from 1983-1989 and charged under the National Security Law with being a member of an "anti-state" organization. He had been a member of Korean Youth United in the USA whom the authorities said helped organize Im Su-kyong's trip to North Korea. He was charged for his activities for an organization of Korean youths living in the USA which has been critical of the South Korean government. He is currently awaiting trial. His place of detention is not known.

**Cho Chong-jin and Yo Un-jin - prisoners of conscience**

Cho Chong-jin, aged 22, and Yo Un-jin, aged 23, were both arrested at Kimpo Airport on 29 August 1989 and were charged with attempting to smuggle video-tapes about North Korea into the South. They are awaiting trial. Their places of detention are not known.

**Letter-writing**

Letters on behalf of students who are prisoners of conscience should call for their immediate and unconditional release. Letters on behalf of prisoners under investigation should express concern that these prisoners may be held for their peaceful political activities and should ask for further details of the charges and evidence against them.

Letters should be addressed to:

- President
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Education

See address list included with this circular.

• **APPEALS GROUP II - TEACHERS**

Target Sectors: Teachers, schools, colleges and universities

**Background**

Thousands of teachers were arrested between the middle of May 1989 and August 1989 for taking part in peaceful rallies and other activities to support their right to set up a trade union, the National Teachers' Union. Most were released without charge after a few days' detention. Amnesty International took up as prisoners of conscience over 30 who were formally charged. One remains detained. Amnesty International is also calling for the release of two former teachers and a professor who were arrested between April and June 1989 for their involvement with dissident organizations. It is also investigating the case of a university professor arrested in 1986 on broadly defined charges of "espionage".

**Lee Pyong-sol - under investigation**

Lee Pyong-sol, aged 51, was a professor of geography at Seoul National University when he was arrested in September 1986 on charges of being the leader of a "spy ring" on his university campus. He was accused of having incited anti-government labour and campus unrest under instructions from a North Korean agent whom he met in Japan. Amnesty International is seeking further information about the charges against Lee Pyong-sol. He is serving a 12 year prison sentence in Chonju Prison.

**Lee Chang-bok and Lee Jae-oh - prisoners of conscience**

Two former teachers, Lee Jae-oh, aged 44, and Lee Chang-bok, aged 51, were arrested on 1 April and 8 May 1989 respectively. They are both co-chairpersons of a dissident organization, Chonminnyon (National Coalition for Democratic Movement) and were tried for having attempted to set up a meeting in March 1989 between themselves and North Koreans to discuss reunification of the Korean peninsula. Lee Chang-bok was also charged with involvement in a labour dispute in March. He received an 18-month prison sentence. Lee Jae-oh is serving a one year sentence. Both are believed to be held in Seoul Prison.

**Kim Chun-ki - prisoner of conscience**

Kim Chun-ki, aged 51, was arrested on 28 June 1989 and charged with being a member of an "anti-state" organization. Kim Chun-ki is an associate professor of horticulture at Shingu Junior College. He is accused of being a member of Minjatong Council for National Independent Reunification), a dissident organization working for the reunification of the Korean peninsula. He is also accused of publishing a monthly magazine, Together with Farmers, which apparently criticized government economic policies and imports of goods from the United States. He is currently awaiting trial. His place of detention is not known.

**Yun Yong-kyu - prisoner of conscience**

Yun Yong-kyu, aged 53, was amongst over 30 members of the National Teachers' Union who were adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience after their arrests in June 1989. He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment in September 1989. Amnesty International has received reports that most of the teachers arrested in this case have been released on

suspended sentences. Yun Yong-kyu is the president of the National Teachers' Union. He is a teacher of physical education in Kwangju.

**Letter-writing**

Letters on behalf of teachers who are prisoners of conscience should call for their immediate and unconditional release. Letters on behalf of prisoners under investigation should express concern that these prisoners may be held for their peaceful political activities and should ask for further details of the charges and evidence against them.

Letters should be addressed to:

- President
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Education

• **APPEALS GROUP III - ACADEMICS**

Target Sectors: Academics, Political Analysts, Political Research Institutes, Academic Societies

**Background**

Amnesty International is calling for the release of ten people arrested in April and July 1989 for being members of independent institutes carrying out research into the issue of Korean reunification. One was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for possessing books which the authorities claim "praise" North Korea. The others are awaiting trial on charges of being members of an "anti-state" organization.

**Appeals**

**Cho Song-u - prisoner of conscience**

Cho Song-u, aged 38, is the director of the Peace Research Institute, which carries out research concerning the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula. He was arrested in 19 April 1989 and charged with a number of offences, including helping to arrange the unauthorized visit of a leading South Korean dissident, Rev Moon Ik-hwan, to North Korea in March, possession of pro-North Korean books, promoting a "pan-national conference" between North and South Koreans, inciting workers and students to stage anti-US demonstrations and possessing military secrets. At his trial on 28 September, all the charges against Cho Song-u, with the exception of possession of North Korean books, were dismissed. Cho Song-u argued that he had obtained the books for research purposes only. The judge ruled that the Institute had not obtained a government license to possess such material, which is available only at certain libraries and government research centres and is restricted to limited permit holders. The judge added that the Institute was considered to be "Not a pure academic research set-up, but a dissident think-tank devoted to revolution in the South". Cho Song-u was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and is held in Seoul Prison.

**Lee Hyon-su, Kim Chun-ki, Lee Sam-hyong, Yon Song-man, Lee Jong-lin, Park Chang-kyoon, Lee Chun-jae, Lee Kyu-yong, and Yu Shi-kyoon**  
- prisoners of conscience

On 25 July 1989 the Agency for National Security Planning announced the arrest of nine members of Minjatong (Council for National Independent Reunification) which it labelled an "anti-state" organization.

Minjatong is said to have been first set up in 1961 with the aim of promoting the withdrawal of the US military from the Korean peninsula and a reduction of armed forces in both North and South Korea. The council was shortlived and was dissolved in May 1961 when martial law was proclaimed. In June 1988 the former chairman of Minjatong, Lee Hyon-su, held an inaugural rally which was attended by some 120 dissidents at which the new Minjatong was inaugurated. Minjatong's methods are said to have been to gather support from student and labour movements and it was said to have set up branches at a number of universities in Seoul.

The persons arrested in this case are: Lee Hyon-su, aged 61, Minjatong chairman; Lee Jong-lin, aged 66, Lee Chun-jae, aged 57, Park Chang-kyoon, aged 63, and Lee Kyu-yong, aged 53, all leading members of Minjatong committees; Kim Chun-ki, aged 51, an associate professor at the



horticultural college of Shingu Junior College and publisher of a monthly magazine entitled Together with Farmers; Lee Sam-hyong, a journalist working for Together with Farmers; and Yu Shi-kyoon, aged 28, an employee at the Arirang Publishing company.

**Letter-writing**

Letters calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners of conscience mentioned above should be sent to:

- President
- Minister of National Unification
- Minister of Justice

See address list included with this circular.

Chang Ui-ho, 47, was arrested on 27 July 1989 and is being held in Taeyon Prison. He is a member of the National Democratic Party and has been active in the field of human rights. He met with the author in Seoul in 1988 and published a book on the situation of prisoners of conscience in Taeyon Prison.

Kim Chun-ki and Kim Chun-ki - prisoners of conscience

Kim Chun-ki, 47, was arrested on 27 July 1989 and is being held in Taeyon Prison. He is a member of the National Democratic Party and has been active in the field of human rights. He met with the author in Seoul in 1988 and published a book on the situation of prisoners of conscience in Taeyon Prison.

Im Sung-nam and Kim Chun-ki - prisoners of conscience

Im Sung-nam, 47, was arrested on 27 July 1989 and is being held in Taeyon Prison. He is a member of the National Democratic Party and has been active in the field of human rights. He met with the author in Seoul in 1988 and published a book on the situation of prisoners of conscience in Taeyon Prison.

Han Chung-mok - prisoner of conscience

On 3 September 1989, Han Chung-mok, the author of the book Oneness of the Fatherland, was arrested and is being held in Taeyon Prison. He is a member of the National Democratic Party and has been active in the field of human rights. He met with the author in Seoul in 1988 and published a book on the situation of prisoners of conscience in Taeyon Prison.

• **APPEALS GROUP IV - PUBLISHERS**

Target Sectors: Publishers and publishing companies, writers

**Background**

Publishers and writers of "subversive" books in South Korea have frequently been subject to harrassment and detention. In October 1989, the Director General of the National Police Headquarters stated that 190 people had been arrested since President Roh Tae-woo's inauguration in February 1988 for having issued publications which "support" North Korea. Most of those arrested were released after interrogation or when they received suspended sentences. Amnesty International has information on seven publishers believed to be still detained, all but one of whom were arrested in 1989. It believes that these prisoners are prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

**Chang Ui-gyun- prisoner of conscience**

Chang Ui-gyun, aged 38, is serving an eight-year sentence under the National Security Law. He was arrested in July 1987 and was convicted of being a North Korean "spy". Amnesty International believes that he has in fact been imprisoned for discussing Korean reunification with North Koreans he met while visiting Japan. Chang Ui-gyun is the owner of the Kaema publishing company which publishes books on Korean history. He is held in Taejon Prison.

**Kim Chun-ki and Yu Shi-kyoon - prisoners of conscience**

Kim Chun-ki and Yu Shi-kyoon were amongst nine people arrested in June 1989 for being members of Minjatong, an organization campaigning for Korean reunification. The authorities claim that Minjatong supports North Korean proposals for reunification and charged the prisoners under the National Security Law. All the prisoners are currently awaiting trial. Kim Chun-ki, 51, is the publisher of a monthly magazine, Together with Farmers. Yu Shi-kyoon, 28, is an employee of the Arirang publishing company. Their current place of detention is not known.

**Im Sung-nam and Kim Yong-hang - prisoners of conscience**

Im Sung-nam, 42, and Kim Yong-hang, 34, were arrested at the beginning of July 1989 during a month-long crackdown against publishers of "subversive" books. Hundreds of books were confiscated and at least 13 publishers, writers and editors of student magazines were arrested. Im Sung-nam is the president of the Tolbege publishing company and Kim Yong-hang is the owner of the Onnuri publishing company. Their trials are believed not to have been completed. Their places of detention are not known.

**Han Chung-mok - prisoner of conscience**

On 3 September 1989, the South Korean authorities announced the arrest of Han Chung-mok, the 32-year-old chairperson of the Association for National Reunification and Patriotic Youth. He is charged with having published a short book on the reunification of the Korean peninsula entitled For the Oneness of the Fatherland. Han Chung-mok is currently awaiting trial. His place of detention is not known.

Letter-writing

Appeals expressing concern about the prisoners of conscience mentioned above and urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released should be sent to:

- President
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Culture and Information

• **APPEALS GROUP V - WRITERS, POETS AND JOURNALISTS**

Target sectors: Writers, poets, journalists, and literary journals

**Background**

Amnesty International is calling for the release of eleven prisoners of conscience who are held either for their writings or for attempting to contact other writers in North Korea. The National Security Law provides terms of imprisonment of up to seven years for writings and activities which the authorities consider to "praise, encourage or side with" North Korea. It provides a similar term of imprisonment for people who attempt to contact North Koreans without authorization.

**Appeals**

**Koh Eun - prisoner of conscience**

Koh Eun, aged 57, a well-known poet and vice president of the Association of Writers for a National Literature (AWNL), was arrested on 1 April 1989 and charged with contacting the North Korean authorities. Although he was released on bail in June, he still faces trial and possible imprisonment. Amnesty International is calling for the charges against Koh Eun to be dropped. Koh Eun is charged with having written to the Central Committee of North Korean Writers in 1988 with a proposal that a meeting be held at the truce village of Panmunjom situated on the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea. Whereas at first the South Korean authorities appeared to agree to the meeting taking place and allowed correspondence between the two organizations, on 24 March 1989 they banned the meeting. Koh Eun was arrested following the AWNL's attempts to go ahead with the meeting despite the government ban.

**Lee Sam-hyong - prisoner of conscience**

Lee Sam-hyong, aged 24 and a student of agro-economics at Korea University in Seoul was arrested on 28 June 1989 for having written articles in a monthly magazine Together with Farmers. The authorities say that the articles encourage farmers to oppose government agricultural policy and food imports from the United States. Lee Sam-hyong is currently awaiting trial. His place of detention is not known.

**Yu Myung-hee - TV scriptwriter, Koh Young-soon - magazine employee, Paik Chin-kee and Oh Seung-joon - journalists, and Im Hyung-chin - poet - prisoners of conscience**

On 12 July 1989, six members of a literary club in Seoul were arrested for having written novels and poems about North Korea. Yu Myung-hee, a 24-year-old TV scriptwriter and literary critic, is specifically accused of having written articles described by the authorities to be "in line with the North Korean leader Kim Il-sung's theory of literature". One is known to have since been released. The others' trial are believed not to have been completed. Their places of detention are not known.

**Letter-writing**

Letters should be written to the addresses below urging that all prisoners detained for writings which do not advocate the use of violence for political change be immediately and unconditionally released.

Amnesty International's concern that Koh Eun faces a term of imprisonment for his peaceful attempts to meet with North Korean colleagues should also be raised with the South Korean authorities, who should be urged to ensure that the charges against him are dropped.

Letters should be written to:

- President
- Minister of Justice
- Minister for Culture and Information

• APPEALS GROUP VI - ARTISTS

Target sectors: Artists, art galleries and museums, art publications and art schools

Please see circular South Korea: Artists Claim Torture by Agency for National Security Planning (ASA 25/30/89) which provides an external circular and recommended actions for appeals on behalf of four artists arrested in July and August 1989 who have been adopted as prisoners of conscience.

The four artists are Kim Il-guk, Kim Il-guk, Kim Il-guk, and Kim Il-guk. They were arrested in July and August 1989. They are currently held in custody. They are considered prisoners of conscience.

Kim Il-guk, Kim Il-guk, Kim Il-guk, and Kim Il-guk. They were arrested in July and August 1989. They are currently held in custody. They are considered prisoners of conscience.

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• **APPEALS GROUP VII - RELIGIOUS PEOPLE**

Target sectors: Presbyterian and Catholic churches, Buddhist and Christian organizations

**Background**

Amnesty International is calling for the release of three Roman Catholic priests, a Presbyterian pastor and a Christian missionary who have been arrested either for going to North Korea or for having helped others to go there. It is also calling for the release of a businessman who accompanied a Presbyterian pastor on his visit. They have all been charged under the National Security Law which provides lengthy prison sentences for persons who visit North Korea without government permission or who help others to travel there. Amnesty International is also calling for the release of a Buddhist leader who was arrested for editing an article which the authorities claimed "praised" North Korea.

**Reverend Moon Ik-hwan and Yu Won-ho - prisoners of conscience**

Reverend Moon Ik-hwan, aged 71, a Presbyterian minister and long-standing political activist, and Yu Won-ho, a businessman aged 59, were both sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in October 1989 for having gone to North Korea without government authorization. In 1988, the North Korean authorities invited a number of leading South Korean dissidents to visit North Korea. All except Rev Moon refused the invitation. Rev Moon, accompanied by Yu Won-ho, travelled to North Korea via China in March 1989 and stayed there for about ten days. During their visit they met with the North Korean leader, Kim Il-sung, members of the Christian community and relatives. They returned to South Korea via Japan on 13 April and were immediately arrested as they got off the airplane. Both are detained in Seoul Prison.

**Father Moon Kyu-hyun - prisoner of conscience**

Father Moon Kyu-hyun, and a Roman Catholic priest aged 44, was arrested on 15 August 1989 with a 22-year-old foreign languages student, Im Su-kyong. They were arrested as they crossed the demarcation line between North and South Korea at the truce village of Panmunjom. They are currently on trial and face prison sentences of up to ten years' imprisonment. Ms Im secretly travelled to North Korea to attend the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students which was held in Pyongyang from 1 to 8 July. On 26 July Father Moon went to North Korea to accompany Ms Im in her bid to return to South Korea by crossing the demarcation line. Ms Im is held in Andong Prison. Father Moon's place of detention is not known.

**Father Nam Kuk-hyon and Father Park Byung-joon - prisoners of conscience**

Two members of the Catholic Priests Association for Justice (CPAJ), Father Nam Kuk-hyon, aged 40, and Father Park Byung-joon, aged 37, are detained for helping another priest to go to North Korea. They were arrested in Seoul on 28 July 1989, two days' after Father Nam had issued a press statement saying that the CPAJ had arranged for Father Moon Kyu-hyun to go to North Korea to accompany Im Su-kyong in her bid to return to South Korea (see above). Both are awaiting trial and face up to seven years' imprisonment. Their place of detention is not known.

### **Kim Chin-yop - prisoner of conscience**

Kim Chin-yop, aged 24, was arrested on 2 September 1989 on charges of having helped Im Su-kyong to go to North Korea. Kim Chin-yop a missionary of the World Mission Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia where he had lived since his parents emigrated there in 1976. He is a dentist and was sent to South Korea by the Uniting Church in April 1989 to work at the Comprehensive Maternal-Childcare Health Centre in Ilshin Christian Hospital in Pusan. Kim Chin-yop is accused of having met with members of a dissident student organization, Chondaehyop, and discussed with them Im Su-kyong's plans to visit North Korea. He is said to have then written to Koreans living in West Germany who have contacts with North Koreans asking them to help Ms Im with her travel arrangements to go to North Korea. He is currently awaiting trial in Seoul Prison.

### **Yo Ik-gu - prisoner of conscience**

On 24 October 1989 the trial of Yo Ik-gu, the chairperson of Minbulryun (the Minjung (People's) Buddhist Alliance), started. He had been arrested some three months earlier for having edited an article which was published in a Minbulryun publication which the government says "praised" North Korea. Yo Ik-gu's place of detention is not known.

### **Letter-writing**

Letters calling for the release of these prisoners of conscience should be sent to:

- President
- Minister of Justice
- Minister for National Unification



• **APPEALS GROUP VIII - LABOUR ACTIVISTS**

Target sectors: Trade unions

**Background**

Amnesty International is concerned about the cases of six labour activists who are detained in South Korea for their labour activities, writing articles critical of government economic policy or for not reporting on an illegal visit of an opposition politician to North Korea in 1988.

**Chong Kum-chaе - under investigation**

Chong Kum-chaе, aged 31, was amongst 30 labour activists arrested between 25 and 27 April 1989 during a government crackdown. Press reports suggest that the others arrested had been involved in protests which involved violent clashes between strikers and police. However, it appears from available information that Chong Kum-chaе, a labour counsellor at the Panwol Industrial Complex in Anyang, may be detained only for his peaceful involvement as advisor at labour disputes at Anyang Electronics and two other companies the previous year. Amnesty International is seeking details of the charges and evidence against Chong Kum-chaе, as well as confirmation that he is still detained.

**Lee Sam-hyong, Kim Chun-ki and Yon Song-man - prisoners of conscience**

Lee Sam-hyong, aged 24, a student of agro-economics, and Kim Chun-ki, aged 51, a professor of horticulture, were arrested on 26 June 1989 for publishing a monthly magazine, Together With Farmers. The authorities say that the magazine incited farmers to protest against government economic policy and agricultural imports from the United States. They are also accused of being members of Minjatong, a dissident group which works towards the reunification of the Korean peninsula and which the authorities consider to be an "anti-state" organization. Yon Song-man, aged 32, is the chairman of a workers' organization, Songminnoryon. He is accused of having been encouraged by Kim Chun-ki to set up Songminnoryon to work towards similar aims as those of Minjatong. All three prisoners are currently awaiting trial. Their places of detention are not known.

**Chong Song-hon and Lee Kon-u - prisoners of conscience**

Two members of the Catholic Farmers' Association (CFA) both face lengthy prison terms on charges under the National Security Law. Chong Song-hon, aged 47, the Secretary General of the CFA, and Lee Kon-u, aged 57, chairman of the CFA's Committee for National Reunification, were arrested in early July 1989 for failing to report to the authorities on the illegal visit of an opposition politician to North Korea in 1988. Both are currently on trial. Chong Song-hon was released on bail on 16 September for medical reasons, but still faces a sentence of up to seven years' imprisonment. Lee Kon-u is detained in Seoul Prison.

Letter-writing

Letters calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners of conscience mentioned above should be sent to the following addresses. Letters on behalf of Chong Kum-chaе who is under investigation should express concern that he may be detained for his peaceful involvement in labour disputes and request details of the charges against him, as well as confirmation that he is still detained.

Letters should be sent to:

- President
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Labour

• **APPEALS GROUP IX - POLITICAL ACTIVISTS**

Target Sectors: Politicians and political journalists

Since the inauguration of President Roh Tae-woo in February 1988, a number of dissident organizations have been set up and have played an increasingly prominent role in the political arena. Many of these organizations are headed by long-standing political activists who had been detained for their anti-government activities during the 1970s and 1980s. Amnesty International has adopted the prisoners mentioned below as prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release. All have been charged under the National Security Law for activities which the authorities consider to be in support of North Korea or having attempted to contact North Koreans without government authorization.

**Lee Bu-yong, Lee Chang-bok and Lee Jae-oh - prisoners of conscience**

Lee Bu-yong, aged 47, Lee Chang-bok, aged 51, and Lee Jae-oh, aged 44, are all co-chairpersons of Chonminnyon (the National Democratic Alliance of Korea), which the authorities consider to be a "seditious" organization. Chonminnyon was set up in January 1989 and works for democratic reforms, labour rights, the withdrawal of nuclear arms and the US military troops from South Korea, and a resumption of dialogue between North and South Korea. The authorities say that Chonminnyon's views on reunification and military withdrawal are similar to those of North Korea. Most of its leading members are in detention. The three prisoners were charged specifically with attempts made by Chonminnyon to contact the North Korean authorities, its alleged involvement in helping another leading dissident, Reverend Moon Ik-hwan to go to North Korea in March 1989, and involvement in labour disputes. Lee Jae-oh was arrested in April 1989 and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment in September; Lee Bu-yong who was arrested in April and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in October, and; Lee Chang-bok was arrested in May and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment in September. Their places of detention are not known.

**Koh Kyon-ju, Mun Pu-shik and Kim Yun-tae - prisoners of conscience**

Koh Kyon-ju, aged 27, a staff member of Chonminnyon, Mun Pu-shik, aged 30, a former political prisoner, and Kim Yun-tae, aged 25, a former student leader, were arrested on 30 July 1989. They are charged with planning to set up the "Korea-US Study Institute" in September. The authorities say that the objectives of the Institute was to "incite anti-American sentiment" and to "sympathize with North Korean propaganda". Ms Koh is also accused of having been an intermediary between the organizers of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students and other foreign organizations and a dissident student group, Chondaehyop. The Festival was held in North Korea in July and was illegally attended by a member of Chondaehyop, Im Su-kyong, who was herself arrested on her return to South Korea in August. All three members of the Institute are currently awaiting trial. Their places of detention are not known.

**Kim Hyon-jang and Kim Yong-ae - prisoners of conscience**

Kim Hyon-jang, aged 39, was arrested with his wife, Kim Yong-ae, aged 32, on 30 August 1989. They are charged with membership of Chonminnyon, of which Kim Hyon-jang is International Relations Officer, and in particular for receiving funds from an organization of dissident Koreans living in Japan. They may also be charged with membership of the "Korea-US Study



• **APPEALS GROUP X - PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Target Sectors: Parliamentarians

**Background**

On 28 June 1989, Suh Kyong-won, an opposition member of the National Assembly, was arrested for making an unauthorized trip to North Korea in August 1988. Eight other people face prison terms on charges of failing to report his trip to the authorities. Amnesty International considers all eight people to be prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

**Suh Kyong-won - prisoner of conscience**

In August 1988, Suh Kyong-won, aged 34 and a member of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, went to North Korea via Czechoslovakia on the occasion of a visit to Europe. During his stay he reportedly met with the North Korean leader, Kim Il-sung, and other leading members of the North Korean government. On 25 June 1989, Suh Kyong-won reported on his trip the previous year to the South Korean authorities, on advice of the PPD (which subsequently expelled him). He was interrogated until 17 July when he was transferred to Seoul Prison where he is currently awaiting trial. He claims that during his interrogation he was beaten and deprived of sleep to force him to confess to charges that he had visited North Korea more than once and that he had received money from the North Korean authorities.

**Kim Yong-nae, Pang Yang-kyun and Lee Kil-jae - prisoners of conscience**

Three other members of the PPD are detained in this case for not reporting Suh Kyong-won's trip to the authorities. They are: Kim Yong-nae, aged 38, an aide to Suh Kyong-won arrested on 2 July; Pang Yang-kyun, aged 34, Suh Kyong-won's secretary who was also arrested on 2 July, and; Lee Kil-jae, chairman of the PPD's International Relations Committee, who was arrested on 3 July.

**Chong Song-hon and Lee Kon-u - prisoners of conscience**

Two leading members of the Catholic Farmers' Association face sentences for failing to report Suh Kyong-won, who is a former president of the Association: Chong Song-hon, aged 47, CFA chairman was arrested on 2 July, and Lee Kon-u, aged 47, chairman of the CFA's Committee for National Reunification was arrested on 21 July. Chong Song-hon was released on bail for medical treatment in September. Chong Song-hon is still in prison.

**Koh Kum-suk, Lee Hi-woo and Oh Tong-chol - prisoners of conscience**

A relative, a close friend and the chauffeur of Suh Kyong-won were also arrested for not reporting Suh Kyong-won's trip to the authorities. Ms Koh, aged 38, was arrested on 3 July. Suh Kyong-won's brother-in-law, Lee Hi-woo was arrested on 4 July and is also accused of managing Suh's finances for the trip. His chauffeur, Oh Tong-chol was also arrested around the same time. All three were released on bail pending their trial in November 1989.

All the prisoners are believed to be held in Seoul Prison. Amnesty International has received reports that some of the prisoners have claimed that they had been beaten and deprived of sleep during their interrogation in order to force them to confess to the charges.

Letter-writing

Letters calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners arrested in the Suh Kyong-won case should be sent to the addresses below. Concern should also be raised about reports that some of the prisoners allege that they had been subjected to ill-treatment during their interrogation. Letters should urge the South Korean authorities to initiate full and independent investigations into these allegations and to punish any official found guilty of such actions as provided by law.

Letters should be sent to:

- President
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of National Unification

• **APPEALS GROUP XI - ESPIONAGE CASES: UNFAIR TRIAL**

Target Sector: Lawyers and legal professionals

**Background**

Around 200 prisoners are currently serving long sentences of imprisonment after they were convicted of being North Korean "spies" or "agents". In most cases little information about the reasons for their arrest is available. Amnesty International is seeking more information about them because of the broad definition given to the offence of espionage by the courts and because in a few well-documented cases prisoners of conscience have wrongly been convicted of such charges after unfair trials.

Amnesty International groups are working for the release or investigating the cases of 14 of these prisoners whose cases are listed below. In all cases there is concern that the prisoners have been convicted on evidence solely or partly based on confessions which were allegedly extracted by torture.

**Soh Sung - prisoner of conscience**

Soh Sung, now aged 44, was a sociology graduate at Seoul National University when he was arrested in April 1971. He was sentenced to death for visiting North Korea and for allegedly instigating student demonstrations in Seoul. His sentence was subsequently commuted and reduced to 20 years' imprisonment. Soh Sung was severely injured in April 1971 when he attempted to commit suicide in an attempt to escape torture. He sustained burns, some of them severe, to over 45% of his body. Soh Sung is said to be still heavily scarred. He is detained in Taejon Prison.

**Kang Chul-soon - under investigation**

Kang Chul-soon, aged 55, was arrested in July 1972 on charges of meeting with pro-North Koreans in Japan while he was living there from 1950 to 1963. He claims to have been tortured into confessing that he had received espionage training while in Japan. He is serving a 20 year sentence in Chonju Prison.

**Dr Lee Sung-hee, Choi Kyu-sik, Kim Yong-gwon and Soh Hwa-su - under investigation**

In February 1974 over 47 people were arrested on charges of being members of the "Ullando Spy ring". Several are accused of having gone to North Korea to receive training and to have recruited members to the spy ring in Japan and Korea, and of having infiltrated dissident organizations in South Korea. Three of those arrested were executed; other defendants received lengthy terms of imprisonment. Four prisoners in this case remain detained: Dr Lee Sung-hee, aged 59, Choi Kyu-sik, aged 52 and Kim Yong-gwon, aged 55, all serving sentence of 20 years' imprisonment, and Soh Hwa-su, a fisherman, who is serving a life sentence. Lee, Choi and Kim had all gained veterinary or agricultural degrees at Japanese universities in the mid-1960s.

**Choi Chol-kyu, Chin Tu-hyon, Paik Ok-kwan and Park Ki-rae - prisoners of conscience**

Amnesty International has adopted as prisoners of conscience four Korean businessmen who are normally resident in Japan. They were all accused of

carrying out espionage on behalf of North Korea. Amnesty International believes that they were convicted after unfair trials and are detained for having met with pro-North Koreans when they were living in Japan. Choi Chol-kyu, aged 58, was arrested in April 1974 and was sentenced to death. His sentence was subsequently reduced to life then 20 years imprisonment. He is in Taegu Prison. Chin Tu-hyon, aged 61 and Park Ki-rae, aged 62, were arrested in September 1974. Park Ki-rae is serving a life sentence. Chin Tu-hyon is serving a 20-year sentence. Both are held in Chonju Prison. Paik Ok-kwan is serving a 20-year sentence at Andong Prison.

#### **Koh Chang-pyo and Ham Ju-myong - under investigation**

Koh Chang-pyo, aged 56, was arrested in December 1983 and convicted of having received instructions to carry out espionage from two alleged North Korean spies while he was on a business trip to Japan in 1981. He is serving a 15-year sentence in Chonju Prison. Ham Ju-myong, aged 56, was arrested in February 1983. Ham, who was born in North Korea and defected to the South in 1952, was accused of contacting his relatives in North Korea and of passing on military secrets to them. He is serving a life term at Chonju Prison.

#### **Chang Ui-gyun- prisoner of conscience**

Chang Ui-gyun, aged 38, is serving an eight-year sentence under the National Security Law. He was arrested on 5 July 1987. He was convicted of being a North Korean "spy" but Amnesty International believes that he has been imprisoned for discussing Korean reunification with North Koreans he met while visiting Japan. Chang Ui-gyun is the owner of the Kaema publishing company which publishes books on Korean history. He is held in Taejon Prison.

#### **Kim Hyung-gyu - under investigation**

Kim Hyung-gyu, aged 38, is a Korean resident of West Germany. He was arrested in October 1987 while visiting South Korea. He was convicted of having met with North Korean agents in West Germany and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. His sentence was reduced on appeal to 9 years. He is held in Taejon Prison.

#### **Letter-writing**

Letters calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners of conscience mentioned above should be sent to:

- President
- Minister of Justice

Letters seeking further details of the charges and evidence used to convict the prisoners under investigation by AI should be sent to:

- Minister of Justice

Letters expressing concern that all these prisoners were convicted after trials which fell short of international standards of fairness should also be sent to the President and Minister of Justice. Particular concern should be expressed that all these prisoners claim that they had been tortured or otherwise ill-treated to force them to confess to the charges against them and that these confessions were used to convict them. Urge that an immediate and impartial investigation be made into all allegations of torture and that the prisoners' cases be the object of judicial review or retrial



• **APPEALS GROUP XII - WOMEN**

Target Sector: Women's organizations, well-known women political activists, writers, etc.

**Background**

Amnesty International is working for the release of nine women who are detained for their non-violent political activities. They include students, writers and political activists. All are detained under the National Security Law which prohibits non-authorized visits to North Korea or helping others to go to North Korea, and for writings or activities which the authorities consider to be "praising, benefiting or encouraging" North Korea.

**Appeals**

**Kang Hee-sul - prisoner of conscience**

Kang Hee-sul, aged 26, a student at Sungshin Women's University, is serving an 18-month sentence at Seoul Prison on charges under the National Security Law. She was convicted of having read a declaration supporting South Korean student participation at the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in Pyongyang, and for having sold postcards, handkerchiefs and posters promoting the festival.

**Koh Kum-suk - prisoner of conscience**

Koh Kum-suk, aged 38, a close friend of an opposition politician, Suh Kyung-won, was arrested on 3 July for not reporting his illegal trip to North Korea in 1988. Six other parliamentary aides and associates of Suh Kyung-won were arrested on the same charges. She currently awaiting trial in Seoul Prison.

**Yu Myung-hee and Koh Young-soon - prisoners of conscience**

On 12 July 1989, six members of a literary club in Seoul were arrested for having written novels and poems about North Korea, two of whom are women. Ms Yu Myung-hee, a 24-year-old TV scriptwriter and literary critic, is specifically accused of having written articles described by the authorities to be "in line with the North Korean leader Kim Il-sung's theory of literature". All are currently awaiting trial. Their places of detention are not known.

**Koh Kyon-ju - prisoner of conscience**

Koh Kyon-ju, aged 27, a staff member of the dissident organization Chonminnyon, and two others were arrested on 30 July 1989. They are charged with planning to set up the "Korea-US Study Institute" in September. The authorities say that the objectives of the Institute was to "incite anti-American sentiment" and to "sympathize with North Korean propaganda". Ms Koh is also accused of having been an intermediary between the organizers of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students, and other foreign organizations and a dissident student group, Chondaehyop. The Festival was held in North Korea in July and was illegally attended by a member of Chondaehyop, Im Su-kyong, who was herself arrested on her return to South Korea in August. All three members of the Institute are currently awaiting trial. Their places of detention are not known.

### **Im Su-kyong - prisoner of conscience**

Im Su-kyong, aged 22, a language student, was arrested on 15 August 1989 as she crossed the demarcation line between North and South Korea at the armistice village of Panmunjom. She had secretly travelled to North Korea to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students as a representative of Chondaehyop (The National Council of Student Representatives), a dissident student organization. She is currently on trial and faces a possible sentence of life imprisonment for illegally visiting North Korea and making public statements critical of the authorities while she was there. She is held in Andong Prison.

### **Kim Chi-son, Yu So-jung and Shin Hyon-kyong - prisoners of conscience**

Kim Chi-son and Yu So-jung, both aged 22, and Shin Hyon-kyong, aged 21, are students at Hanyang University in Seoul who were arrested on 31 July 1989 on charges of obtaining finances for Im Su-kyong's visit to North Korea.

### **Kim Yong-ae - prisoner of conscience**

Kim Yong-ae, aged 32, was arrested with her husband, Kim Hyon-jang, on 30 August 1989. They are charged with membership of Chonminnyon, of which Kim Hyon-jang is International Relations Officer, and in particular for receiving funds from an organization of dissident Koreans living in Japan. They may also be charged with membership of the "Korea-US Study Institute" and with helping Im Su-kyong go to North Korea. Both are currently awaiting trial. Their places of detention are not known to Amnesty International.

### **Letter-writing**

Letters calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners mentioned in this appeals circular should be sent to:

- President
- Minister of Justice

• **APPEALS GROUP XIII - YOUTHS**

Target sectors: Youth organizations and clubs

**Background**

Many young people are arrested in South Korea for their involvement in political activities. Most are students who organize or take part in anti-government demonstrations. Others have been arrested for illegally going to North Korea or helping others to go there. Young people have also been arrested for their writings criticizing government policies. Some of them face lengthy prison sentences. Many have claimed that they were beaten, subjected to sleep deprivation and other forms of physical and psychological abuse in order to force them to confess to the charges against them. Reports that these and other prisoners have been denied access to their families and lawyers are also common.

**Appeals cases**

**Park Song-jin - prisoner of conscience**

Park Song-jin, aged 21, a student at Wonkwang University, was arrested on 23 June during a crackdown against editors of student newspapers and publishers of books "praising" North Korea. He is the editor of his university's student newspaper. Fifteen other student editors were arrested the same day. It is not known if they are still detained. Park Song-jin is believed to be currently on trial. His place of detention is not known.

**Im Su-kyong - prisoner of conscience**

Im Su-kyong, aged 22, a language student, was arrested on 15 August 1989 as she crossed the demarcation line between North and South Korea at the armistice village of Panmunjom. She had secretly travelled to North Korea to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students as a representative of Chondaehyop (The National Council of Student Representatives), a dissident student organization. She is currently on trial and faces a possible sentence of life imprisonment for illegally visiting North Korea and making public statements critical of the authorities while she was there. She is held in Andong Prison.

A number of students have been arrested for allegedly helping to arrange Im Su-kyong's visit to North Korea. Amnesty International has information on six of them and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release. All are awaiting trial and face sentences of up to seven year's imprisonment. Their places of detention are not known. They are:

**Kim Chi-son, Yu So-jong, Shin Hyon-jong, Chong Jae-hon, Oh Yong-sik and Kim Nam-hoon - prisoners of conscience**

Kim Chi-son, Yu so-jung, both aged 22, and Shin Hyon-kyong, aged 21, all students at Hanyang University in Seoul who were arrested in July on charges of obtaining finances for Im Su-kyong's visit to North Korea. Chong Jae-hon, aged 22, a student at Yonsei University and member of Chondaehyop, was arrested around 1 July for his alleged role in planning Im Su-kyong's trip. In September two more members of Chondaehyop, Oh Yong-sik, aged 22, and Kim Nam-hoon, aged 23, were arrested on the same charges.

**Cho Chong-jin and Yo Un-jin - prisoners of conscience**

Cho Chong-jin, aged 22, and Yo Un-jin, aged 23, were both arrested at Kimpo Airport in August 1989 and were charged with attempting to smuggle video-tapes about North Korea into the South. They are awaiting trial. Their places of detention are not known.

**Letter-writing**

Letters calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the young people mentioned above should be sent to:

President  
Min of Justice

1. President  
 2. Min of Justice  
 3. Min of Education  
 4. Min of Culture and Information  
 5. Min of National Defense  
 6. Min of Foreign Affairs  
 7. Min of Home Affairs  
 8. Min of Health and Welfare  
 9. Min of Labor and Social Affairs  
 10. Min of Environment and Natural Resources  
 11. Min of Science and Technology  
 12. Min of Transportation and Communications  
 13. Min of Treasury and Finance  
 14. Min of Unemployment Insurance and Social Security  
 15. Min of Veterans Affairs  
 16. Min of Women's Affairs  
 17. Min of Youth Affairs  
 18. Min of Sports and Recreation  
 19. Min of Cultural Heritage  
 20. Min of Disaster Relief and Safety

External

ASA 25/41/89

## ADDRESS LIST FOR APPEALS

NAME AND ADDRESSSALUTATION

President ROH Tae-woo  
The Blue House  
1 Sejongno  
Chongno-gu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea

"Your Excellency"

Mr HUH Hyong-koo  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon  
Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea

As above

Mr CHOE Byung-yul  
Minister of Culture and Information  
Ministry of Culture and Information  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea

As Above

Mr CHUNG Won-shik  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
77 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea

As above

Mr CHOI Young-choul  
Minister of Labour  
Ministry of Labour  
94-1 Yongdungpo-gu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea

As above

Mr LEE Hong-koo  
Minister of National Unification  
National Unification Board  
8 Yejang-dong  
Chung-gu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea

As above



인권 자료실		
등록일	분류기호	자료번호
		24-56

사단방 자료



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

# SOUTH KOREA

## THE 1985 "WESTERN ILLINOIS CAMPUS SPY RING" CASE

September 1989

SOUTH KOREA

THE 1985 "WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SPY RING" CASE

September 1989

SUMMARY

AI Index: ASA 25/24/89

DISTR: SC/GR/CO

In September 1985 the South Korean military and civilian security agencies jointly announced the arrest of 20 people, mostly students, on charges of being North Korean agents and instigating campus unrest under North Korean instructions. The three main defendants, Yang Dong-hwa, Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon had studied at Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois, United States of America in 1982-1983 and met there. During their stay in the USA they are said to have read widely about political science and the political system in North Korea. The authorities accused them of having been influenced by the publisher of a Korean language newspaper in New York whom the authorities described as a North Korean "collaborator". The publisher allegedly showed them video films about North Korea and arranged for Yang Dong-hwa to visit Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, and for Kim Song-man to meet North Korean officials in Hungary and East Berlin. After their return to South Korea in 1983 and 1984, Yang Dong-hwa and Kim Song-man renewed contact with student activists. Both are said to have set up small study circles and to have supplied North Korean literature to students. In addition, Kim Song-man wrote articles on the political situation. Hwang Tae-kwon was accused of having received his "espionage" training from the New York publisher and was arrested when he returned to South Korea on vacation.

The importance of the case lay primarily in the fact that two of the main defendants had had illegal contacts with North Korea, but also in the fact that they provided a new theoretical foundation for the South Korean student movement. This emphasized the role of the US in Korean politics and other views which are also promoted by the government in North Korea.

Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon have claimed that they were tortured during their interrogation and it is believed that the other prisoners in this case may also have been tortured. Six other prisoners remain detained in this case, serving sentences ranging between life and 15 years' imprisonment.

Amnesty International adopted Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon as prisoners of conscience as it believes that there is no evidence of them having carried out espionage activities or having used or advocated the use of violence to effect political changes. Although the other four prisoners may also be prisoners of conscience, further information is required to confirm that the charges of conspiracy to carry out violent activities against them are unfounded.

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#### SOUTH KOREA

#### THE 1985 "WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SPY RING" CASE

In September 1985 the South Korean military and civilian security agencies jointly announced the arrest of 20 people, mostly students, on charges of being North Korean agents and instigating campus unrest under North Korean instructions. The three main defendants, Yang Dong-hwa, Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon, had studied at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois, United States of America in 1982-1983, where they met, and had later moved to New York. During their stay in the USA they are said to have widely read in political science and about the political system in North Korea. When announcing the arrests the security authorities reported that the three had attended some events on the Western Illinois University campus such as the showing of a film on the Kwangju insurrection of May 1980 and a public talk by a visiting Quaker leader, Hahm Sok-hon. They accused them of having been influenced by the publisher of a Korean language paper in New York whom the South Korean authorities described as a North Korean "collaborator". The paper Haeuminbo (Overseas Korean News) reportedly gave wide coverage to human rights violations and dissidents' activities in South Korea and called for the withdrawal of US troops from South Korea and the reunification of the Korean peninsula. The publisher, a Korean who holds US nationality, allegedly showed the three students video films of North Korea and arranged meetings with Yang Dong-hwa and Kim Song-man and North Korean officials, in Hungary and East Berlin, in the case of Kim Song-man, and in Pyongyang itself, the capital of North Korea, in the case of Yang Dong-hwa. During these meetings, the South Korean authorities said, they received political indoctrination and instructions to engage in anti-government activities, and passed to the North Koreans information on the student movement in the south. Hwang Tae-kwon is alleged to have received "espionage" training directly from the publisher in New York. After their return to South Korea, separately, in 1983 and 1984, Yang Dong-hwa and Kim Song-man renewed contact with activist students, some of whom were also arrested in this case. Both are said to have set up small study circles and to have supplied North Korean literature to students. Kim Song-man also wrote theoretical articles on the political situation. Hwang Tae-kwon was arrested at Kimpo airport as he was returning from a vacation in June 1985.

All the arrests are believed to have taken place in June or July 1985, after the arrest of many student leaders in May. The prisoners were held incommunicado during their interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) until 5 August and were reportedly tortured.

is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.



Their trial started in October 1985. Yang Dong-hwa, Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon were accused of being the "ring leaders" of "anti-state" organizations (that is, student groups) and of having engaged in subversive activities under instructions from North Korea. The others were accused of having been recruited by the "ring leaders" and of carrying out various anti-government activities under their orders, such as listening to North Korean broadcasts, organizing violent demonstrations, taking part in study groups and giving to the "ring leaders" pamphlets and documents on the student movement which the latter allegedly subsequently gave to North Korean officials or agents abroad. The importance of the case lay primarily in the fact that two of the main defendants had had illegal contacts with North Korean officials and the third with an alleged pro-North Korean agent, but also in that they had provided a new theoretical foundation for the student movement. This emphasized the role of the USA in Korean politics and other views which are also held by the government of North Korea.

The first trial was before the Seoul District Criminal Court with courtroom access limited mostly to family members and lawyers. According to several sources, the prisoners' families were intimidated into not engaging human rights lawyers for the first trial and the prisoners were represented by state-appointed lawyers. Observers at one of the hearings noted that the students spoke in their own defence in the absence of the state-appointed lawyers. On 20 January 1986 the court sentenced Yang Dong-hwa and Kim Song-man to death. Hwang Tae-kwon and Kang Yong-ju, a student leader from Kwangju, were given sentences of life imprisonment; nine others were sentenced to terms ranging from two to ten years and four were released with suspended sentences. The sentences were upheld by the Seoul High Court on 31 May 1986 and by the Supreme Court on 3 December 1986. Most of the prisoners had their sentences reduced under a presidential amnesty in December 1988: the death sentences were reduced to life imprisonment, the life sentences to 20 years imprisonment and the other sentences reduced. Six prisoners remain in detention in this case.

From 1986 to 1988 Amnesty International campaigned for the commutation of the death sentences on Yang Dong-hwa and Kim Song-man. It made inquiries about the prisoners with the authorities and other sources of information. In the case of Kim Song-man and Hwang Tae-kwon Amnesty International has now been able to collect enough information to show that they are prisoners of conscience, detained for their peaceful political activities and opinions and that they did not engage in "espionage". In the case of the other prisoners, further inquiries about the charges and evidence against them as well as about their political activities prior to their arrests are required.

**KIM Song-man** was born in 1957 and graduated in physics from Yonsei University in Seoul in February 1981. He comes from a Christian family and his grandfather founded the Evangelical Church in Korea. In his student days he was involved in political activities and was a member of the Christian Student Association. He went to the USA in June 1982 and enrolled at Western Illinois University to study political science. The following year he moved to New York and, according to some reports, contributed articles to Haeuiminbo (Overseas Korean News). In June 1983 he visited Europe and stayed at the North Korean embassy in Budapest, Hungary, for three days, and discussed the student movement and the political situation in South Korea. He received \$5000 as travel expenses from the embassy staff.

According to the indictment Kim Song-man was encouraged by the North Koreans he met to engage in anti-government activities and given instructions such as to encourage student activists to enter the Korean Military Academy. Kim Song-man has denied receiving any instructions or carrying them out; the only evidence to support the accusation is his confession which he claims he made under torture. He has said that he met North Koreans to learn more about North Korea and to find out about the possibilities for Korean reunification.

Kim Song-man returned to South Korea in July 1983 and worked in the language laboratory of a private foreign language institute. He again became involved in the student movement and, according to the authorities, formed a group called Chonminjunghoe (The Entire People Association) in the Seoul area. In May 1984 he wrote a pamphlet entitled "Subordination and Battle Cry". The pamphlet described the USA as "imperialists" and anti-communism as a "Cold War theory to prolong the territorial division [of Korea]" and, the authorities say, was widely quoted by anti-government student publications. Kim Song-man is also accused of having hung a wall poster in Tongguk University, in Seoul, which claimed that the presence of (US) nuclear weapons in South Korea could lead to a world crisis, and of having distributed leaflets supporting the occupation of the US Information Centre in Seoul by students in May 1985.

Kim Song-man had, it seemed, remained in contact with the publisher of Haeuiminbo in New York who apparently facilitated his visit to East Germany in November 1984. On this occasion Kim spent three or four days in East Berlin and gave to the North Korean embassy staff copies of his pamphlet "Subordination and Battle Cry" and of another leaflet entitled "Criticism of Night School - A study on the political conscientization of workers". This gave rise to the charges in the indictment that he had passed national secrets to North Korea. Again the discussion seems to have focussed on the general trends of the South Korean student movement. Kim was reportedly invited to join the Workers' Party but refused and, according to him, expressed strong criticisms of the North Korea "juche" (self-reliance) philosophy. Again he was reportedly given and accepted \$10,000 as travel expenses. He also arranged to receive North Korean publications, material which was banned in South Korea.

Kim Song-man was arrested on 6 June 1985. In an appeal to the Supreme Court on 14 August 1986, he wrote: "I am a person who wishes the independence of our nation and democracy. I think that this ideal 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 addressed 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. I only long for the day we can enjoy our independence from under slavish submission to a foreign power. Even if all the world does not believe me I know that God knows the truth."

Kim Song-man was sentenced to death by the courts. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment under the December 1988 presidential amnesty. He is currently held in Seoul prison.

Amnesty International has adopted Kim Song-man as a prisoner of conscience as it believes that there is no evidence of his having carried out espionage activities or having used or advocated the use of violence. It is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

HWANG Tae-kwon graduated in agriculture from Seoul National University in February 1982 and entered Western Illinois University in August 1982. The following year he enrolled in the Political Science Department of the New School for Social Research, New York City. He is believed to have contributed articles on the South Korean student movement or which reflected anti-government and anti-US views in Haeuiminbo (Overseas Korean News). He was arrested on 4 June 1985 at Seoul's Kimpo international airport as he was returning for a vacation with his wife and one-month-old son. He was then 30 years' old. In appeals to the courts and other documents he has denied knowingly meeting North Koreans or North Korean agents and admits only to having been involved in the student movement, of having been critical of the South Korean government and of having been influenced by his Marxist readings, but he rejects the accusation that he is a communist. The main evidence to support the charges of "espionage" consisted of the confession he made during his interrogation. This, he claimed, was extracted from him under torture.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment and his sentence was commuted to 20 years under the December 1988 presidential amnesty. He is currently in Andong Prison.

In a letter written in prison last year Hwang Tae-kwon described his interrogation and explained his political views:

"... 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.

"In Korea, once someone is branded as a North Korean agent or sympathizer, he is no longer human. Not only the public, but also friends, neighbours and even family members shun him away. My wife recently applied for a teaching position in a private college and was accepted, but later was denied the job after a security check. Not only an ordinary citizen is made into a spy, but his wife has to be denied a livelihood... I am married and have a four-year-old son. My son does not know who his father is, as I was taken away when he was only one-month-old ...

"I was not allowed to sleep for the first three days... I believe it takes only three days of this... for a human being to be left with no will of his own... Even someone from the powers-that-be would not be able to withstand this dehumanization and would finally have to admit to being a spy... After three days without water and sleep, I was asked to write my autobiography covering literally all my daily activities since I entered university. This writing of biographical notes continued with beatings interspersed until I wrote to their satisfaction ...

"Ironically, the only document submitted to the court as conclusive evidence that I was a spy was drafted by myself and later revised by the interrogator in charge, then copied by myself, word by word. This is so-called conclusive evidence that a democratic court uses in a democratic country! I not only memorized the whole document because of repeated re-writings, but the papers I have accumulated were reaching the ceiling, and the number of ball-pens I went through were twelve! ...

"The most painful part of the interrogation in the basement cell was when I was forced to admit a visit to North Korea. I was repeatedly tortured by a method they called binyuggoki (barbecue chicken) with verbal abuse such as 'your life is not worth anything. We may just have to report that you died during the interrogation.' I finally capitulated and agreed to allow them to make up a story of my visit to North Korea... The following day I told the interrogator that my admission was false and that I was ready to die but could not endure more torture ...

"After failing to prove that I had visited North Korea, they were determined to make me a tool of alleged North Korean agent Mr X. This linkage would conclusively prove my contact with North Korea. Mr X is a well-known figure in New York for his activism and his newspaper. If viewing some North Korean videotapes makes one a North Korean agent, there would be thousands and thousands of such agents in the USA... I had borrowed one or two videotapes on North Korea from Mr X and had brought him some books from [South] Korea on my previous visit home. But this simple exchange of materials was made to look like espionage activity during the interrogation ...

"The investigator relentlessly demanded that I admit to being Mr X's follower. After at first steadfastly resisting, I had to give in again. The interrogator had me lie flat on the floor and beat me with a bat. After receiving 10 or more blows, I stood up with my legs trembling and yet felt relieved, and felt for the first time in a long time, human. I involuntarily thanked the interrogator... This process was repeated whenever they did not feel satisfied with my response ...

"I was not an innocent apolitical citizen. I was active throughout my university years in the anti-dictatorship movement and, after graduation, wanted to study more systematically the problems our homeland faced. I wished that my knowledge would be used positively to achieve the reunification and democratization of our homeland. I did not even entertain the idea that becoming a North Korean agent would be one way of achieving these goals. I have acted according to the conscience dictated by my love for my country and the people. North Korea stemmed from my desire to get a vision on reunification of the country divided in half, and not from a desire to follow the dictates of one side over the other. But the Agency for National Security Planning made my actions and political inclinations look like those dictated for North Korea. More specifically, I and others became the victims of the government's propaganda which linked North Korea with the growing anti-imperialist sentiment that swept the country from early 1985, which activated the student movement ...

"I am telling the story of my torture in spite of the danger that it will be repeated again because everyone, including my family, is being influenced by the government's propaganda and does not trust me ...

"If there is any false charge in the above statement which the state bureaucracy finds intentional, and for which I might receive another life sentence, I will not hesitate to serve the sentence.

"I write this in isolation and with fear of being found by guards, on... 1988."

YANG Dong-hwa, 31, was expelled from Chosun University in the southwestern city of Kwangju in May 1980 because of his political activities. This was the time when martial law was imposed nationwide and

when an insurrection took place in the city in reaction to mass arrests. He went to the USA and enrolled at Western Illinois University in August 1983. He did not complete his studies and went to New York where he is said to have been in contact with the publisher of Haeuiminbo ("Overseas Korean News").

Apparently with the help of this publisher he travelled to North Korea via Vienna, Moscow and Peking and stayed in Pyongyang from 29 August to 8 September 1984. The authorities accused him of having received intensive indoctrination and of having joined the Workers' Party as well as receiving instructions to infiltrate the South Korean student movement, incite anti-US sentiments and mobilize students to stage a second "Kwangju Incident". (On 18 May 1980 student protests against martial law were violently dispersed and clashes between the army and the students continued in the following days until the demonstrators were virtually in control of the city. On 27 May troops retook the city with great brutality. Official statistics indicate that around 200 people were killed but other sources claim the number was much higher. Although the US government has denied any involvement in the repression of the insurrection, dissidents claim that the US general who was the commanding officer of the combined US and South Korean Forces must have agreed to the release of troops to retake Kwangju). On his way back from North Korea Yang Dong-hwa allegedly visited the North Korean embassy in Vienna where he is purported to have been given \$6000 for his travel expenses.

Yang Dong-hwa returned to South Korea in September 1984. Amnesty International has no independent information about his activities between that time and his arrest in mid-1985. He was charged with recruiting a small group of people, mainly students, and giving them instructions. One of those he allegedly recruited was Kang Yong-ju, a student leader in Kwangju. Yang Dong-hwa is accused of having influenced Kang Yong-ju into giving an anti-US and pro-North Korean slant to students' activities and of having instructed him to recruit other students to bomb the US Cultural Centre in Kwangju. An air stewardess whom Yang Dong-hwa allegedly recruited is said to have taken some anti-government documents produced in South Korea to the publisher of "Overseas Korean News" in New York. Another charge against Yang Dong-hwa is that he obtained information about Kwangju airport - which is partly used by the military - from US soldiers and that he intended to pass this information to North Korea.

Yang Dong-hwa was sentenced to death by the courts. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in December 1988. He is at present held in Seoul prison.

Amnesty International is concerned that Yang Dong-hwa may have been tortured or ill-treated to force him to falsely admit the charges of inciting others to carry out violent activities. So far it has not been able to collect enough information to show whether these accusations are grounded or false and it is continuing to seek further information on the grounds for Yang Dong-hwa's arrest in order to establish whether he is a prisoner of conscience.

**KANG Yong-ju**, 27, entered the Medical School of Chonnam National University in Kwangju in 1982 and was expelled from it in February 1985 because of his political activities. He was a high school student at the time of the May 1980 "Kwangju Incident"; was apparently involved in the events but it is believed that he was not arrested at that time.

In his case too Amnesty International has little independent information on his political activities before his arrest. Kang Yong-ju knew Yang Dong-hwa and apparently had met him frequently. According to press reports based on the statement issued by the Agency for National Security Planning and the Military Security Command when the arrests were reported in September 1985, Kang Yong-ju was at first involved in activities of the Christian Students Council and in November 1984 was elected chairman of the student group Mintu (People's Struggle). In early 1985 he organized a campaign for the boycott of the February parliamentary elections (student groups and other dissidents were divided at the time between boycotting the elections or helping a newly-formed opposition party). After he was expelled from the university in February he reportedly organized student demonstrations - some of which may have involved violent clashes between the students and the riot police - on anti-US themes. With other students he allegedly formed underground groups called "Under I" and "Under II" and listened to radio broadcasts from North Korea. He is also accused of having travelled to Seoul with Yang Dong-hwa and another defendant to look for books on how to make bombs. In court he denied the charges and some people who knew him thought from his appearance that he had been ill-treated or tortured.

Kang Yong-ju was sentenced to life imprisonment by the courts and apparently did not benefit from a reduction of his sentence under the December 1988 presidential amnesty. He is currently detained in Taejon prison.

Amnesty International has been unable to ascertain whether Kang Yong-ju has been involved in organizing or planning acts of political violence and is continuing to seek information on his case in order to establish whether he is a prisoner of conscience.

**CHONG Kum-taek**, 28, a graduate student of Kookmin University in Seoul and **KIM Chang-kyu**, 26, a senior student at Sung Kyun Kwan University in Seoul were originally sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by the courts. Their sentences were reduced to 10 years' under the December 1988 amnesty. Chong Kum-taek is currently held in Taegu Prison and Kim Chang-kyu in Chonju Prison.

Amnesty International has no detailed information on the charges and evidence against the two prisoners or on their political activities prior to their arrests. It is continuing to seek such information.