

*** Main Events concerning protests of civil society against the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK), Mr. Hyun**

1 Nov: Resignations of Standing Commissioner Ms. Kyung-Ran MOON and Standing Commissioner Mr. Nam-Young YOU

4 Nov: Press Conference of Human Rights NGOs, which calls for resignation of Chairperson, Mr. Hyun and the beginning of a sit-in demonstration on the 7th floor of the NHRCK's building

5 Nov: Statement of associations of NGOs for the disabled, which calls for Chairperson's resignation

8 Nov: Press Conference of "NGO's Urgent Coalition calling for resignation of Mr. Hyun, the Chairperson of the NHRCK" (*this organization was established in 2010 to deal with the urgent affairs concerning the resignation of the Chairperson of the NHRCK*)

8 Nov: Press Conference of Fifteen Former Commissioners of the NHRCK, which shows serious concern about the current situations of the NHRCK

8 Nov: Chairperson's Comments to refuse to resign from his post at the 16th Meeting of the NHRCK

9 Nov: A mass meeting at the National Assembly, which calls for Chairperson's resignation (more than 100 of member of the National Assembly and NGO activists participated in the meeting)

9 Nov: Parliamentary inspection of the NHRCK (Chairperson mentioned again that he will not resign from his post)

10 Nov: Statement of "NGO's Urgent Coalition calling for resignation of Mr. Hyun, the Chairperson of the NHRCK", which criticized the Chairperson's speech at the National Assembly

10 Nov: Press Conference of NGOs in Gwangju (one of metropolitan cities in Korea)

10 Nov: Resignation of a non-permanent Commissioner, Mr. Kuk Cho

10 Nov: Press Conference of 19 persons of former Staff members of the NHRCK, which calls for resignation of the Chairperson

10 Nov: Press Conference of 36 NGOs for Women, which calls for resignation of the Chairperson

10 Nov: Press Conference of lawyers, which calls for resignation of the Chairperson (334 law professors and attorneys-at-law signed the Statement to call for resignation of the Chairperson)

10 Nov: 6 experts for social rights announced the refusal to go to the Symposium which is held by the NHRCK.

10 Nov: Appointment of Ms. Heay Young KIM as standing commissioner of the NHRCK by the President

10 Nov: Statement of "The Special NGO's Coalition to call for resignation of the Chairperson of the NHRCK", which criticized the President who has ignored human rights

10 Nov: Resignation of a non-permanent Commissioner, Mr. Kuk Cho

11 Nov: NGOs in Ulsan, Jeonbuk, Daegu, Busan (metropolitan cities in Korea), which calls for resignation of the Chairperson

11 Nov: Statement of 660 NGOs throughout the country, which calls for resignation of the Chairperson

12 Nov: Statement of "Conscience in Action" (a corporate juridical person to cherish the memory of Former Korea President Dae-jung Kim), which calls for resignation of the Chairperson

12 Nov: Statement of "Korea Teachers and Education Workers' Union", which calls for resignation of the Chairperson

15 Nov: Resignation of 61 members of the expert's committees and advisory committees of the NHRCK

*** History of the NHRCK after Mr. Hyun took his office**

- 17 July 2009: Mr. Hyun's assumption of office - *many human rights NGOs and human rights experts including law professors against this appointment because he does not have any experiences and knowledge about human rights. In fact, he had been working as a law professor; he mainly studied private law and do not have any publications relating to human rights.*

- 11 Aug 2009: Mr Hyun's Comments: "In my opinion, National Security Act should not be abrogated" (interview with Chusunilbo, a daily newspaper) - *National Security Act is regarded as one of bad laws which are against human rights in Korea; UN Human Rights Committee made recommendations to correct this act in 1999*

- 18 Sep 2009: Mr. Hyun's comments at the National Assembly: "The NHRCK belongs to the Government" - *this means that the NHRCK is one of the organs of the Government so that it is not an independent institution.*

- 30 Sep 2009: An order to leave one of staff from his post and to wait for further action - *this action was conducted according to the request of the Government, without consultations with standing Commissioners; he were employed from civil society; he was working as the head of a section, but in the long run, he were dismissed from the NHRCK; strong protest of labor union against this action*

- 5 Oct 2009: Mr. Hyun appointed Mr. Kim as a Secretary-General - *more than half of Commissioners are opposed to this appointment and human rights NGOs also stated that he is not an appropriate person for a Secretary-General because he does not have any experiences relating to human rights.*

- 28 Dec 2009: The NHRCK's committees tried to express their opinions about the case of Yongsan (5 persons and 1 policeman were put to death in the process of suppressing the sit-down demonstration), but final decisions could not be made because the Chairperson arbitrarily closed the committee. He said that "I don't care if this is dictatorship." This led to resignation of one of staff who had helped to prepare for opinions about the case of Yongsan.

- Feb 2010: Chairperson provided an opinion about North Korean Human Rights Act to some Assemblymen, but this opinion had not been resolved by the Commission

- 26 April 2010: The Commission decided that it would not provide an opinion about Mr. Park's case - *this case was that the Government raised a lawsuit against Mr. Park (he is an important figure in Korean NGOs) because of his comments about the illegal actions of National Security Agency; many human rights NGOs stated that this lawsuit is threatening freedom of expression; in the long run, Mr. Park won the case at the first trial.*

- May 2010: When Mr. Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression visited Korea, Chairperson

prevented Standing Commissioners from having a meeting with him - *In the long run they failed to meet him.*

- 25 Oct 2010: Submission of a draft amendment to the NHRCK's managerial regulations to the Plenary Committee of the NHRCK - *this was intended to strengthen the power of the Chairperson and this lead to resignations of Standing Commissioner Ms. Kyung-Ran MOON and Standing Commissioner Mr. Nam-Young YOU*

- 28 Oct 2010: the Constitutional Court decided that the NHRCK does not have any power to make a constitutional lawsuit against other state organs because the NHRCK was not established by the Constitution - *this lawsuit was made that the NHRCK insisted that the Government violate the independence of the NHRCK when the Government ordered the reduction of the organization of the NHRCK in 2009*