

URGENT ACTION

STUDENT RELEASED BY NORTH KOREA

South Korean student Joo Won-moon has been released by the North Korean authorities and has returned to South Korea.

Joo Won-moon, a 21-year-old South Korean student, was dropped off in the border village of Panmunjom on 5 October, and safely crossed into South Korea. He was detained by North Korean authorities on 21 April after crossing into the country on foot near Dandong, China.

Joo Won-moon spoke positively of the treatment that he was given in North Korea in several interviews following his arrest. .

Three other South Korean men are currently detained in North Korea. **Kim Jung-wook** and **Kim Kuk-gi**, who are both missionaries, and a businessman, **Choe Chun-gil**, are all serving life sentences. Kim Jung-wook was detained on 8 October 2013 and received his sentence on 30 May 2014. The other two received their sentences on 23 June this year, after being detained by North Korean authorities on 26 March 2015. All three men “confessed” during media interviews to “anti-state crimes” including “conspiracy of subversion” and espionage. The North Korean authorities have not released any information about the content of any trials or the evidence presented. The South Korean authorities have denied contracting these men to work as spies in North Korea.

Many thanks to all those that took action. We continue to monitor the situation of the three detained men and may take other forms of action, but no more action is required from the UA network.

This is the first update of UA 158/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa24/2075/2015/en/>

Name: Joo Won-moon
Gender m/f: Male

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