

# URGENT ACTION

## SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL MR YU X RELEASED

North Korean authorities released South Korean national **Yu X** ( his full name is deleted for safety reasons) on 13 August 2009, after nearly five months in detention. Yu X is an employee of Hyundai Asan Corporation and his release followed a visit by Hyundai Asan Chairperson Hyun Jeong-eun to Pyongyang on 10 August.

Yu X was arrested on 30 March at the Kaeseong Industrial Complex in North Korea, where he was working. Yu X was detained for criticizing North Korea's government and trying to persuade a woman from North Korea to leave her country and go to South Korea. He was held incommunicado since then. Amnesty International issued a UA on 26 June 2009 (AI Index: 24/009/2009; UA 168/09) expressing concern that his incommunicado detention put him in risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Yu X's release follows the release of two American journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee on 5 August 2009 after former U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to North Korea where he met Kim Jong-il. North Korean agents arrested the two journalists on 17 March 2009 near the Tumen River, which forms North Korea's border with China. On 8 June, the two journalists were convicted of an unspecified "grave crime" against the nation and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

**Many thanks to all those who sent appeals on his behalf. No further action is requested by members.**

This is the first update of UA 168/09.

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Further Information on UA: 168/09 Index: ASA 24/010/2009 Issue Date: 13 August

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