

25/09/99



## ***AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEAL***

### **PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE: AHN JAE-KU**

Ahn Jae-ku, aged 65 and former Professor of mathematics, was arrested by the Agency for National Security and Planning (South Korea's intelligence service) in June 1994 and claims to have been deprived of sleep and threatened during 20 days' questioning. He was convicted under the National Security Law of establishing an organization called *Kukukchonui* to spy for North Korea. Ahn Jae-ku admitted an interest in learning about North Korea's political ideology but denied committing espionage or attempting to overthrow the South Korean Government. He said that *Kukukchonui*, was "an organization for independence, democracy and reunification, but not one designed to violently or unlawfully change or undermine the Republic of Korea". Ahn Jae-ku was sentenced to life imprisonment, but Amnesty International believes he was convicted for the non-violent exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association. Ahn Jae-ku had already spent nine years in prison, between 1979 and 1988, for political activities. He is in poor health, suffering from arthritis, rheumatism and high blood pressure. Amnesty International welcomed the reduction of Ahn Jae-ku's sentence to 20 years' imprisonment in a prisoner amnesty last year, but continues to call for his unconditional release.

#### **Please send letters, faxes or e-mails to the South Korean President and Minister of Justice:**

- ◆ State that Amnesty International believes Ahn Jae-ku to be a prisoner of conscience. Call for his immediate and unconditional release.
- ◆ Register concern about Ahn Jae-ku's poor state of health and urge the government to provide him with appropriate medical treatment pending his release.
- ◆ Call for an immediate halt to abuses under the National Security Law.
- ◆ Urge the authorities to amend the National Security Law in line with international human rights standards or abolish it.

#### **Addresses:**

<b>President Kim Dae-jung</b> The Blue House 1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu Seoul Republic of Korea <b>Fax: (82 2) 770 0253/0344</b> <b>e-mail: webmaster@cwd.go.kr</b>	<b>Mr Park Sang-cheon</b> Minister of Justice Ministry of Justice 1 Chungang-dong Kwachon City Kyonggi Province Republic of Korea <b>Fax: (82 2) 504 3337</b>	<i>Copies to:</i> <b>Mr Hong Sun-yong</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs 77 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu Seoul Republic of Korea <b>Fax: (82 2) 720 2686</b>
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***Please remember to copy your letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your own country***

#### **Please also send cards or letters of support to Ahn Jae-ku at the following address:**

Ahn Jae-ku  
 Taegu Prison

Hwawon Post Office, Dalseong-kun  
 Kyongbuk-do 711-830

PO Box 1

Republic of Korea