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# *amnesty international*

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## £SOUTH KOREA

### @Appeal on behalf of Park Dong-oon

**JUNE 1992**

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**DISTR: SC/CO/GR**

Park Dong-oon is serving a term of life imprisonment for alleged espionage activities on behalf of North Korea. Amnesty International believes that Park Dong-oon may have been convicted on the basis of confessions made under torture. It is urging the South Korean authorities to review his case.

Park Dong-oon lived with several family members on Chin Island and was employed by the Chindo Myon Agricultural Cooperative. In March 1981 he and several other members of his family were arrested under the National Security Law on charges of belonging to the "Chindo Permanent Spy Ring" and of spying for North Korea. Park Dong-oon was accused of making two visits to North Korea where he is alleged to have met members of the North Korean workers' party and to have received espionage training. The authorities claimed that he met his father who had been missing since the Korean War and is alleged to have returned to South Korea as a North Korean spy and to have met with members of his family.

Park Dong-oon was sentenced to death but this was later commuted to life imprisonment. Three other family members were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three and a half years' to seven years' imprisonment and have now been released.

Park Dong-oon's family say that several family members were tortured for 60 days to force them to make a false confession stating that Park Dong-oon had gone to North Korea and engaged in espionage activities. They said that witnesses at the trial were intimidated by intelligence agencies into not supporting Park Dong-oon's alibi for the dates he was accused of travelling to North Korea. The only evidence of contacts between Park Dong-oon and his father were the statements made by other family members during their interrogation.

Several members of Park Dong-oon's family have written appeals about the case. Park Dong-oon's uncle wrote:

"My household, which consists of five family members including me was forcefully taken . . . without our having committed any crimes and without knowing why. For sixty days, we were illegally detained and went through horrible murderous torture and terror."

Park Dong-oon's brother wrote:

"With the help of endless torture the security department transformed the whole family into spies over 60 days. Instead of catching spies, they were creating spies. . . All of my family went through humiliation and pain and I cannot find words to describe them. How long do you think a human being can put up with torture? One month, two months or several months? It is only a matter of time. Nobody can endure it forever."

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Please write appeals to the South Korean Minister of Justice expressing concern that Park Dong-oon may have been convicted after an unfair trial and urging the authorities to review his case.

### **Address**

Mr Kim Ki-choon, Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon  
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Kyonggi Province  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

<b>KEYWORDS:</b> LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT / ESPIONAGE / CONFESSIONS /
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TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / TRIALS / WITNESSES / PEASANTS / FAMILIES / POLICE /  
PHOTOGRAPHS /

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