

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 78/94 (ASA 25/12/94, 1 March 1994) and follow-ups (ASA 25/14/94 of 25 March and ASA 25/16/94 of 28 March) - Mass Arrests/Fear of Ill-Treatment/Legal concern

SOUTH KOREA:New Arrests:

Ho Myong-soon (f), aged 26
Ahn song-hae (f), aged 23
Choi Kyong-ah (f), aged 25

Still held:

Lee Sang-yeop (f)
Lee Yoon-jung (f)

and three others

Three more members of the singing troupe *Heemangsae* (Bird of Hope) were arrested under the National Security Law on 15 April. Ho Myong-soon, musical director of *Heemangsae*; Ahn Song-hae, singer and Choi Kyong-ah, employee of Haneum Publishing (musical publishers) were arrested early in the morning at their homes by a group of plain clothes police officers who also confiscated books and music tapes.

Like those arrested earlier, the three prisoners are reportedly accused of planning to stage a musical based on a book which the authorities said praised North Korea and for distributing information about the musical on a computer network. A police officer reportedly told lawyers that the *Heemangsae* members should have curtailed their activities after the arrests of their colleagues.

Amnesty International believes that all eight detained *Heemangsae* members are prisoners of conscience, held in violation of their right to freedom of expression. Their detention appears to be an attempt to prevent them from staging their musical, scheduled to take place this month.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern at the further arrests of *Heemangsae* members, Ho Myong-soon, Ahn Song-hae and Choi Kyong-ah in violation of their right to freedom of expression.
- urging the authorities to ensure that the three prisoners are protected from ill-treatment in police custody;
- urging the authorities to release all eight detained *Heemangsae* members immediately and unconditionally and to account publicly for the situation of, and charges against, those detained in mass arrests since February 1994.

APPEALS TO:

1) President Kim Young-sam
The Blue House
1 Sejong-no

Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telexes: 24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K

Faxes: + 822 720 0253

Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) Mr KIM Doo-hee
Minister of Justice
1 Chungang-dong
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun
Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyongi Province, Republic of Korea

Telexes: 24757 MOJUST K

Faxes: + 822 504 3337

Salutation: Dear Minister Kim

3) Mr KIM Hwa-nam
Director
National Police Administration
209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Director, National Police Administration, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: +82 2 720 2686 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Editor, Hankyoreh Daily
1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga
Seoul, Republic of Korea
Faxes: + 822 710 0310, + 822 671 7797

Human Rights Group:
Minkahyop
2F1, 592-7
Changsin-2-dong, Seoul, Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 May 1994