

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 25/19/95

1 September 1995

Further information on UA 193/95 (ASA 25/18/95, 2 August 1995) - Health concern / Fear of ill-treatment / Prisoner of conscience

REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA) Park Yong-gil (f), aged 76

On 1 September 1995, Park Yong-gil spent her 76th birthday in Seoul Detention Centre.

Since her arrest on 31 July for making an unauthorized visit to North Korea, Park Yong-gil has been questioned by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP, South Korea's intelligence agency) and the prosecution. She has not yet been charged.

Activists in South Korea are concerned about her health as she suffers from heart disease and has apparently had two attacks of chest pain since her imprisonment. Doctors from outside the prison have not been allowed to visit her and meetings with family and supporters have reportedly been restricted.

Amnesty International considers Park Yong-gil to be a prisoner of conscience and continues to call for her immediate and unconditional release.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The National Security Law provides up to ten years' imprisonment for those who make unauthorized visits to North Korea. Suspects held under the National Security Law may be held for up to 50 days without charge and during this time access to lawyers and family members is sometimes restricted. Medical facilities in prisons are generally inadequate and prisoners are often denied access to outside medical attention.

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

- expressing continued concern about Park Yong-gil's health;
- urging the Ministry of Justice and prison authorities to ensure that she is given adequate medical care;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Park Yong-gil.

APPEALS TO:

1) President Kim Young-sam

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Chongno-gu, Seoul

Republic of Korea

Faxes: +822 770 0253

Telegrams: President Kim Young-sam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Salutation: Dear President

2) Minister of Justice

Mr Ahn Woo-man

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Shihung-gun

Kyonggi-do

Republic of Korea

Faxes: +822 504 3337

Telegrams: Justice Minister Ahn, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, South Korea

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Director, Seoul Detention Centre

San 18-11, Poildong

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Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Director, Seoul Detention Centre, Kyonggi Province, South Korea

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

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Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of Republic of Korea (South Korea) accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 October 1995.