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1) INTRODUCTION

Amnesty International's concerns about prisoners in South Korea centre around the use of national security legislation. Of the 200 prisoners reported to be currently held on national security grounds Amnesty International believes that some 30 are prisoners of conscience, that is people detained for their non-violent political activities and views. Amnesty International is also concerned about some 30 other prisoners who have been convicted on similar grounds after trials which are believed to have been unfair because the main evidence against them consisted of confessions which the prisoners said had been extracted from them under torture or because of other procedural irregularities.

This document outlines the cases of 35 prisoners and members of two "anti-state" groups who were arrested under national security legislation between 1975 and early 1991. Many were convicted of belonging to "anti-state" organisations, of supporting North Korea or spying for North Korea on the occasion of unauthorized visits to the north or when meeting alleged North Korean agents abroad. Amnesty International has been appealing or making inquiries about these cases with the South Korean authorities for a number of years. The authorities have replied to Amnesty International that the arrests were justified on national security grounds and have provided details on the charges against some prisoners. Amnesty International has taken this information into account in the description of the cases in this document. Some prisoners who had been serving long sentences on national security grounds have been released in amnesties in the last two years; among them were several Amnesty International regarded as prisoners of conscience.

Two laws have been applied in cases of state security : the Anti-Communist Law and the National Security Law. The Anti-Communist Law was abrogated in December 1980 and most of its provisions were then included in the National Security Law. The National Security Law was last amended in May 1991 to restrict its application but there is concern that it could continue to be used to detain people for the non-violent exercise of their rights of freedom of expression or association.

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1.1 Division between North and South Korea

Korea was a unified state from the seventh century until the imposition of Japanese colonial rule in 1910. At the end of World War II the country was divided into two military zones at the 38th parallel line, the northern part occupied by the USSR and the southern part occupied by the USA. In 1948 governments were established in the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). The Korean war (June 1950 to July 1953) ended with the signing of an armistice agreement which created a four-kilometre-wide demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the country near the 38th parallel. Since then the country has remained divided with both sides maintaining large standing armies. Talks involving the various parties to the conflict have continued unsuccessfully since 1953 to bring the war to a formal conclusion through the agreement of a peace treaty. Talks between the two Korean governments aimed at the reunification of the country have been initiated at various times but have made little progress, and contacts between citizens of the North and South have been severely limited.

1.2 The Prospects for Reunification

The prospects for reunification appeared to improve in September 1990 when the Prime Ministers of the two states met for the first time in Seoul. This was followed by two further meetings in October in Pyongyang and December in Seoul but the talks appeared to make little progress. North Korean proposals have included the signing of a non-aggression declaration, the suspension of the annual joint military exercises conducted by the USA and South Korea and the release of South Koreans imprisoned for making illegal visits to the North. South Korea has instead proposed an agreement on inter-Korean relations, including the reopening of communications and trade between the two countries. A fourth round of talks scheduled for February 1991 was cancelled by the North Korean Government to protest the annual "Team Spirit" military exercises but was later rescheduled for August 1991.

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Delegates of North and South Korea shake hands prior to first round of prime ministerial talks, 5 September 1990.

(c) Reuters

In August 1990 the South-North Exchange and Cooperation Law came into force in South Korea. Under this new law the government can authorize its citizens, upon application, to visit North Korea, to invite North Koreans to the South and to trade and engage in joint ventures with them.

1991 saw an increased number of contacts between citizens of North and South Korea. In February the sports officials of both countries agreed to form the first unified sports teams to compete in the World Table Tennis Championships in April and the World Youth Soccer Championships in June. In March 1991 two South Korean dissidents were able to meet with North Koreans during a symposium held at Berkeley in the USA and 15 members of the Korea Research Foundation were allowed to meet North Koreans in France when they attended a conference organized by the Association for Korean Studies in Europe. In April 1991 the President of the Korea Travel Trading Corporation was allowed to invite a North Korean to attend the Third Overseas Travel Fair which took place in Seoul in June.

In April 1991 the South Korean Government approved the first direct trade with North Korea, allowing a South Korean company to exchange rice for North Korean coal and cement. Between 29 April and 4 May 1991 a delegation of 25 South Koreans comprising legislators, aides and journalists attended the annual conference of the Interparliamentary Union which was held in Pyongyang. However, talks between the Red Cross societies of both countries, which were broken off in 1985, have not been resumed. It is estimated that ten million Koreans are separated from other immediate family members as a result of the division of the country for more than 45 years.

In June 1991 the National Unification Board said it had approved 500 out of 593 requests from private citizens to contact North Koreans. It added that 172 applications had been approved for South Koreans to meet with their relatives in North Korea. (The National Unification Board is a government appointed body which undertakes research, conducts surveys and provides public information on the issue of reunification).

The South Korean Government insists that it should be the main party to negotiations about reunification with North Korea and it regards initiatives by private citizens or non-governmental organizations, particularly those critical of government policy, to have such discussions with the North as disruptive and liable to favour North Korea. It therefore has refused to grant authorization to people deemed to be dissidents to meet with North Koreans.

In November 1990 the National Unification Board rejected an application for three members of the dissident organization Chonminnyon (National Coalition for Democratic Movement) to meet North Koreans during the inaugural meeting of Pomminnyon (Pan-National Alliance for the Reunification of Korea). Pomminnyon was inaugurated in November 1990 in Berlin at a meeting attended by delegates

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from North and South Korea and from overseas. The organization has stated as its main objectives the achievement of peaceful national reunification, independence and national unity. Reverend Cho Yong-sul, Cho Song-woo and Lee Hae-hak attended the meeting in Berlin where they met with the Vice-Chairman of the North Korean Committee for the Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland. The three men were arrested upon their return to South Korea.

Reverend Cho Yong-sul is arrested
At Kimpo Airport, 30 November 1991

(c) Reuters

2) NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

Two laws have been applied in cases of state security: the Anti-Communist Law and the National Security Law.

The Anti-Communist Law, enacted in 1961 and abrogated in December 1980, was intended to "strengthen the anti-communist posture...[and] block the activities of the communist organizations that endanger the national security..." (Article 1). Many of its provisions were similar to those contained in the National Security Law and after its repeal offences concerning pro-communist activities were covered by the National Security Law.

The National Security Law was first enacted in 1960. Its declared purpose is to "control anti-state activities which endanger the national security, so that the safety of the State as well as the existence and freedoms of citizens may be secured" (Article 1). The last two occasions where it was amended were in December 1980 to include provisions formerly in the Anti-Communist Law and more recently in May 1991.

2.1 The National Security Law (1980)

The National Security Law prescribes long sentences of imprisonment or the death penalty for anti-state activities and contacts with anti-state organizations. Over the years the law has been widely used to imprison people who visited North Korea without government authorization, people who met North Koreans or alleged North Korean agents abroad and people who expressed support for North Korea or whose views were similar to positions also taken by the North.

The main provisions of the National Security Law which have been applied to the prisoners whose cases are described in this document are:

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Article 2 (*anti-state organization*): "(1) The term "anti-state organization" as referred to in this Act shall be construed to mean such an association or group within the territory of the Republic of Korea or outside of it, as organized for the purpose of assuming a title of the government or disturbing the State. (2) Such a domestic and foreign association or group that operates along the line of the communists in order to achieve the purpose mentioned in paragraph 1 shall be deemed to be an anti-state organisation."

Article 3 (*formation of anti-state organisation*): Forming or participating in an "anti-state" organization, or preparing or conspiring to do so. Sentences on conviction range from two years' imprisonment to the death sentence for ringleaders. An "anti-state" organization is defined as an organization whose purpose is to "assume a title of the government or disturb the state". Organizations which have been defined as "anti-state" have included dissident groups or workers, students and political activists. The definition also extends to the North Korean Government.

Article 4 (*acts of treason, espionage or sabotage under instruction from an anti-state organisation*): "If a component of an anti-state organisation or a person who had been under instruction from such an organisation has committed any acts designed to perform such objectives, he or she shall be punished... [followed by six paragraphs specifying acts of treason, espionage, sabotage, etc]"

Article 6 (*escape and infiltration*): Illegal travel to North Korea and re-entry into South Korea, or preparing or conspiring to do so, under instructions from North Korea or in order to benefit it. Sentences on conviction range from two to 10 years' imprisonment. Amnesty International considers that the mere fact of travelling to North Korea without evidence either of espionage activities or of the use or advocacy of violence cannot justify imprisonment.

Article 7: (*praise, encouragement, etc.*) Benefiting North Korea by praising it, encouraging it, siding with it or through other means, or preparing or conspiring to commit such an offence. Sentences on conviction range from one to seven years' imprisonment. This provision has been used to imprison people who have written or disseminated material about the North Korean system of government, or which criticized the South Korean Government or the presence of US armed forces in South Korea.

Article 8 (*meetings, communication, etc.*): Meeting, liaising or communicating with members of an anti-state organization for its benefit, or preparing or conspiring to do so. Sentences on conviction range from one to seven years' imprisonment. This provision has been used against dissidents who have sought to contact North Koreans without the authorization of the South Korean Government.

Article 10 (*failure to inform*): Failing to inform the authorities about a person who has committed an offence under the National Security Law. The maximum sentence on conviction is five years' imprisonment.

2.2 May 1991 Amendments to the National Security Law

On 10 May 1991 the ruling Democratic Liberal Party unilaterally passed amendments to the National Security Law in spite of protests from opposition National Assembly members. Talks on amending the law had been held among representatives of the main political parties for more than two years without reaching agreement.

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A document issued by the government on the amendments highlights the following points:

A new provision (Article 1(2)) was introduced aimed at restricting the use of the law: "The interpretation and application of this law shall be confined to the minimum extent necessary to achieve its purpose. The law shall not be loosely interpreted or otherwise misapplied to unreasonably restrict the basic human rights of citizens."

The definition of "anti-state" organisation in Article 2(1) has been changed to require that it be "equipped with a command and control system".

Article 2 (2) which regarded all communist groups as "anti-state" was withdrawn. The law therefore no longer forbids contact with communist organizations or governments in countries other than North Korea. Provisions of Article 6, 7 and 8 which provided penalties for people praising or communicating with communist parties or governments were also repealed, so that contacts with communist countries are now permitted, except with North Korea.

Article 4 was amended to distinguish between cases where espionage involved "facts, objects or knowledge, access to which is allowed to a limited number of people only in order to prevent grave disadvantages" that their disclosure would "inflict on national security" and cases of espionage involving "lesser secrets". The revised law provides for sentences ranging from a minimum of seven years' imprisonment to the death penalty.

Article 7 was amended so that acts of praising, encouraging or showing sympathy to an anti-state organisation will be punishable only when committed "with the knowledge that it will endanger national security and survival and the free and democratic basic order." The vague expression "or otherwise give aid and comfort to an anti-state organisation" was deleted but the law now specifically makes it an offence to agitate for or incite subversion of the State when this is done knowing that it will "endanger national security and survival and the free and democratic basic order".

Article 2 (2) and Articles 6 and 8 were revised so that acts of giving or receiving goods or money to or from a member of an anti-state organisation, or communicating with a member of an anti-state organisation or someone acting under its instructions, or escaping from or to the territory of an anti-state organisation will be punishable only when committed with "the knowledge that it will endanger national security and survival and the free and democratic basic order."

Under the 1980 law failure to report violations of the law to the authorities was punishable by imprisonment. The 1991 amendments retain failure to report a crime only for violations of Article 3 (formation or affiliation with an antistate organisation), Article 4 (acts of treason, espionage or sabotage by a member of an anti-state organisation) and Article 5 (willing provision of material and assistance to anyone violating Article 4). When this offence is committed by a relative punishment is now to be lessened or waived.

Preparing or conspiring to commit National Security Law offences is now punishable only with respect to some of the offences, while under the 1980 law preparations or conspiracies to commit offences under Article 3 to Article 8 were all punishable.

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The 1991 amendments give discretion to a judge to decide whether or not to suspend the civil rights of a person convicted under the NSL; such a suspension (post-imprisonment) was provided in all cases under the previous versions of the law.

Amnesty International welcomes the amendments made to the National Security Law in so far as they define offences more precisely. However, it would appear that the law will continue to allow for the imprisonment of people who support North Korean ideology and seek to contact North Koreans without government permission. Courts trying prisoners under the older versions of the National Security Law have ruled that any information, even if it was available in the public domain, which could be useful to North Korea, qualified as a "state secret". It remains to be seen whether the courts will convict of espionage people accused of passing to North Koreans or (alleged) supporters of North Korea information which is not actually classified as state secrets by the government. The application of the law in actual cases will provide a test of whether it continues to be used to detain government critics merely for the peaceful exercise of their rights of freedom of expression or association.

3) PRISONERS HELD UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

Little information is available about prisoners arrested on national security grounds before 1970 although reports suggest that most may have been sent as spies by North Korea or were partisans fighting the US and South Korean forces in the late 1940s or around the time of the Korean War.

The prisoners whose cases are described in this document and whom Amnesty International believes are prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience or whom it believes may have been convicted after unfair trials were arrested between 1975 and early 1991 and fall into the following categories:

1) South Koreans who visited Japan for study, business or family meetings and who were arrested after returning to South Korea. Some have been accused of having met members or officials of Chongnyon (the General Federation of Korean Residents in Japan, a pro-North Korean organisation) and of giving them information on South Korea. Others are accused of having visited North Korea with the help of Chongnyon members. The following prisoners fall into this category:

Yu Chong-sik: arrested in 1975

Cho Sang-nok: arrested in 1978

Shin Kui-yong: arrested in 1980

Lee Jang-hyong: arrested in 1983

Koh Chang-pyo: arrested in 1983

Nah Jon-in: arrested in 1985

Lee Pyong-sol: arrested in 1986

Chang Ui-gyun: arrested in 1987

Kang Hui-chol: arrested 1987

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2) South Koreans who did not report visits from relatives who normally live in North Korea and whose clandestine visits to the south were alleged to be for spying purposes. The following prisoners fall into this category:

Park Dong-oon: arrested in 1981
Ham Ju-myong: arrested in 1983
Park Chan-u: arrested in 1984
Lee Chang-guk: arrested in 1984
Lee Joon-ho: arrested in 1985

3) South Korean nationals resident in Japan who were arrested when visiting South Korea and are alleged to have visited North Korea with the help of members of Chongnyon. The following prisoner falls into this category:

Lee Hon-chi: arrested in 1981

4) South Koreans who made illegal visits to North Korea or other countries where they are alleged to have met North Korean officials or Korean exiles said to support North Korea and to have passed information to them about the political situation in South Korea. The following prisoners fall into this category:

Kim Song-man: arrested in 1985
Hwang Tae-kwon: arrested in 1985
Kang Yong-ju: arrested in 1985
Yang Dong-hwa: arrested in 1985
Kim Yun-su: arrested in 1985
Suh Kyong-won: arrested in 1989
Pang Yang-kyun: arrested in 1989
Yu Won-ho: arrested in 1989
Im Su-kyong: arrested in 1989
Father Moon Kyu-hyun: arrested in 1989
Cho Song-woo: arrested in 1990
Lee Hae-hak: arrested in 1990

5) South Koreans who were accused of "praising and benefiting" North Korea. Some of these prisoners have been accused of sending information to alleged North Korean sympathizers in other countries. Others were accused of publishing and disseminating pro-North Korean materials in South Korea or of attempting to establish a pro-North Korean organization. Prisoners in this category include:

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Hong Song-dam: arrested in 1989

Kim Hyon-jang: arrested in 1989

Oh Tong-yol: arrested in 1989

Kim Keun-tae: arrested in 1990

Jang Myung-guk: arrested in 1990

An estimated 40 members of Sanomaeng: arrested in 1990

An estimated 30 members of Chamintong: arrested in 1990

Lee Chang-bok: arrested in 1991

Kim Hi-taek: arrested in 1991

Reverend Hong Keun-soo: arrested in 1991

4) PRISONER CASES

Yu-Chong-sik

Arrest: April 1975

Charge: Contacting pro-North Korean organization in Japan

Sentence: Life imprisonment, held in Andong Prison

Yu Chong-sik was born in Seoul around 1940. He was arrested in 1975 and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was accused of having contacted the pro-North Korean organization Chongnyon when he was a student in Japan. He claims to have been tortured during his interrogation by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency and is said to be suffering from anxiety and heart problems. Amnesty International does not have any other information about his case. It is seeking further information about the reasons for his arrest and the charges and evidence against him. It is calling on the authorities to investigate the claims that he was tortured and convicted on the basis of a confession obtained under torture.

Cho Sang-nok

Arrest: 15 January 1978

**Charge: Contacting alleged North Korean agent
in Japan**

Sentence: Life imprisonment, held in Taejon Prison

Cho Sang-nok

Cho Sang-nok was born in 1945. He graduated from Chungang University in Seoul and went to Japan in 1976 where he obtained a post-graduate degree in politics. While in Japan he is said to have been outspoken about his political views. He reportedly participated in a campaign calling for the revision of Japanese history books which glossed over atrocities committed by the Japanese military forces in Korea and China during World War II. He is understood to have been opposed to communism but also to have been critical of the government of then President Park Chung-hee. Cho Sang-nok was arrested in January 1978. In 1990 Cho Sang-nok wrote the following in a letter from prison:

"They asked me to meet with them outside, and as I was walking toward a driver of a black passenger car, two strangers suddenly poked revolvers into my waist from behind and told me to get in the car quietly. They took me in that car to an unknown location, covering my eyes, and they tortured me in every possible way."

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He was held for interrogation in an unidentified location for 17 days before he was transferred to Seoul Detention Centre. When a relative met him some time after his arrest, he said that he had been beaten and tortured; his ears were bleeding and he appeared very tired. Cho Sang-nok was charged with having contacted a North Korean agent in Japan and receiving money and instructions to set up an underground organization. He is also accused of having sought information on security arrangements at the presidential palace from a neighbour and of having praised North Korea openly on several occasions. In May 1978 he was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Seoul District Court. Amnesty International is seeking further information on the charges and evidence against Cho Sang-nok and is calling on the authorities to conduct an impartial inquiry into the claims that he was tortured and the possibility that he was not given a fair trial.

Shin Kui-yong

Arrest: February 1980

Charge: Meeting his brother (who is said to be a member of a pro-North Korean organization in Japan) and passing information to him on South Korea Sentence: 15 years' imprisonment, held in Taejon Prison

Shin Kui-yong's parents moved from Korea to Japan in 1925 to work as farm labourers and while in Japan gave birth to four sons and two daughters. The whole family, except for one of Shin Kui-yong's brothers, moved back to Korea in 1947 and in 1965 Shin Kui-yong became a merchant seaman. In February 1980 Shi Kui-yong, then aged 43, was arrested and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. He was accused of visiting his brother in Japan seven times during his ship's stop-overs in that country. The authorities claim that Shin Kui-yong's brother, who is said to be a member of the pro-North Korean organization Chongnyon, recruited him as a spy and gave him money to fund his espionage activities. Shin Kui-yong admitted receiving a small amount of money from his brother on each visit but claimed that this money was passed on to his mother for her upkeep. He also admitted receiving a larger sum of money from his brother after their mother died but claimed that this was to cover funeral expenses. Shin Kui-yong also reportedly confessed to passing his brother information he had learned about the military during his military service some 17 years earlier, but later claimed that he had made this confession under torture. His family say that he was held incommunicado for 70 days by an anti-communist intelligence unit. Amnesty International is urging the authorities to investigate the claims that Shin Kui-yong was tortured and unfairly convicted. It is seeking further information about the charges and evidence used to convict him.

Lee Hon-chi

Arrest: 9 October 1981

Charge: Visiting North Korea

Sentence: Death penalty, commuted to life imprisonment, later commuted to 20 years' imprisonment, held in Chonju Prison

Lee Hon-chi, now aged 39, was a Korean resident of Japan. In 1977 he went to work as an electronic technician for a Japanese company in Seoul, and on 9 October he was arrested together with Lee Ju-

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kwang, a student at Korea University. The two men were charged with leading an espionage ring which had instigated worker unrest and student demonstrations in an attempt to overthrow the government. They were also charged with sending industrial secrets to North Korea. Lee Hon-chi was specifically accused of visiting North Korea in December 1974 where he allegedly received espionage training and joined the North Korean Workers' Party. He is then said to have been assigned to a North Korean agent based in Japan, who instructed him in December 1977 to gain employment in Seoul. The authorities allege that from this date until his arrest he visited Japan on a number of occasions and passed industrial and military information to a North Korean agent. He was also accused of recruiting three other Koreans working for the same company in Seoul with the aim of establishing an espionage network.

Lee Hon-chi was sentenced to death by the courts. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment (date not known) and commuted to 20 years' imprisonment under a presidential amnesty in December 1988. His wife was also arrested and accused of collaborating with her husband. She was pregnant at the time and gave birth during interrogation. In February 1982 she was given a suspended prison sentence and released. Lee Hon-chi was reportedly denied access to a lawyer and to his family for over four months from his arrest until his first trial in February 1982. In letters to his wife and brother, he claims that the charges of espionage against him were fabricated. He says that he was forced to confess to visiting North Korea and of espionage after ill-treatment and threats from his interrogators. In one of his letters to his wife he says:

"I went through all kinds of abuse, including sleep deprivation, threats, lies, beating. Events in the next few days were a threat to my, your and Sung-o's [their son] life and I gave up everything. I kept telling them from the very beginning that I would cooperate if only they would let me see you. Finally they took me to you at the [army] hospital. Afterwards, I had to cooperate . . ."

Amnesty International is concerned that Lee Hon-chi may have been wrongly convicted after an unfair trial and is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against him. It is calling on the authorities to investigate the claims that he was ill-treated.

Park Dong-oon

Arrest: March 1981

Charge: Visiting North Korea; organizing a pro-North Korean spy ring

Sentence: Death, commuted to life imprisonment, held in Kwangju Prison

Park Dong-oon and several relatives, who have now been released, were convicted of belonging to the "Chindo Permanent Spy Ring" and accused of spying for North Korea. Park Dong-oon was charged with visiting North Korea in 1965 and 1971 where he is alleged to have met members of the Korean Workers Party and to have received espionage training and instructions to set up a spy ring in South Korea. The authorities also claimed that on several occasions Park Dong-oon met his father who had been missing since the Korean War and is alleged by the authorities to have returned to South Korea as a North Korean spy and to have met with members of his family.

One of Park Dong-oon's uncles, also arrested in this case, claims that they were convicted on the basis of confessions they made under torture. He said:

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"My household, which consists of five family members including me was forcefully taken . . . on or about March 9, 1981 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.

It was absolutely impossible to bear the torture both physically and mentally. If there were any way to end my life I would have done so, so that I would not have had to go through all these sufferings".

Witnesses at the trial were reportedly intimidated by intelligence agencies into not supporting Park Dong-oon's alibi for the dates he was accused of travelling to North Korea and the only evidence of contacts with Park Dong-oon's "father/spy" were the statements made by the defendants during their interrogation.

Park Dong-oon was sentenced to death by the courts. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. Amnesty International is urging the authorities to investigate the claims that Park Dong-oon was tortured to force him to confess to espionage activities. It is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against him and the possibility that he may have been convicted after an unfair trial.

Lee Jang-hyong

Arrest:15 June 1983

Charge:Meeting his uncle in Japan who is a member of a pro-North Korean group

Sentence:Life imprisonment, held in Chonju Prison

Lee Jang-hyong, now aged 57, is said to have visited Japan on a business trip and while there to have met with his uncle who is a member of the pro-North Korean organization Chongnyon. On 15 June 1983 he was arrested and accused of meeting members of Chongnyon with the purpose of carrying out espionage on behalf of North Korea. He is reported to have been tortured during interrogation in order to force him to confess to the espionage charges against him. Amnesty International is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against Lee Jang-hyong and is urging the authorities to investigate his claims of torture and the possibility that he was convicted after an unfair trial.

Ham Ju-myong

Arrest:18 February 1983

Charge:Visiting North Korea and sending information to North Korea

Sentence:Life imprisonment, held in Chonju Prison

Ham Ju-myong was born in what is now North Korea. In 1952 he moved to the south and gave himself up to the US forces which were the main component of the United Nations Command which assisted the Republic of Korea during the Korean War. On 18 February 1983 Ham Ju-myong was arrested and

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accused of passing information to a woman in North Korea whom the authorities said he married between 1950 and 1952. She is said to be the daughter of the manager of the boarding house where he stayed during those two years, and to now be a middle-school teacher. Ham Ju-myong was accused of having sent this alleged wife information about traffic check-points around Kanghwa Island, which is close to the North Korean border, and about Taegu City Airport.

At his trial Ham Ju-myong denied having married in North Korea and spying for the North Korean Government. He admitted visiting Kanghwa Island but said the purpose of his trip was to visit his parents' tomb. Several of his friends who had also come from the north during the Korean War were called to give evidence against him. Before they appeared in court they are said to have been detained for a few days and obliged to write statements testifying that Ham Ju-myong was a communist. In court, one of the witnesses is said to have contradicted his written statement that Ham Ju-myong was not a communist. At that point, the prosecution is reported to have asked for the hearing to be adjourned. At the next hearing, all the witnesses confirmed their written statements, including the witness who had retracted it at the previous hearing. Ham Ju-myong was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Ham Ju-myong claims that he was severely tortured during his three months' interrogation. Although he was arrested in February, his South Korean wife was not allowed to see him until May. At her first visit he was unable to talk because of the pain he said was caused by having been beaten on his chest. He told his wife that electric shocks had been applied on his hands and feet, that he had been repeatedly submerged under water, hung upside-down and strapped to a board and beaten. He commented that he knew when he was to be tortured because he would not be given food that day to stop him from choking during the torture.

Amnesty International is urging the authorities to investigate the claims that Ham Ju-myong was tortured to confess to espionage activities and to review his case in the light of evidence that he was not given a fair trial.

Prisoner of Conscience: Koh Chang-pyo

Arrest:1 December 1983

Charge:Meeting pro-North Koreans in Japan

Sentence:15 years' imprisonment, held in Chonju Prison

Koh Chang-pyo, aged 58, served in the military until his retirement in 1979 when he started a business. After his business began to fail he is reported to have come into contact with businessman Kim Byung-ju who lived in the Japanese town of Matsusaka. In 1981 he travelled to Japan at the invitation of Kim Byung-ju to attend a trade fair. In December 1983 Koh Chang-pyo was arrested and accused of being recruited and paid by Kim Byung-ju to carry out espionage activities such as gathering information on members of the military and leading businessmen in his home town, and on military sites along the east coast of the Korean peninsula.

At his trial Koh Chang-pyo stated that he was unaware of Kim Byung-ju's reported pro-North Korean activities. He denied going to Japan to receive espionage training and said that the money he received from Kim Byung-ju was a loan to help his failing business. Koh Chang-pyo alleges that he was tortured in order to make him confess to being a North Korean spy. Koh Chang-pyo's defence lawyers argued that the information he is accused of gathering was openly known to the local community and could not be considered a national secret.

Koh Chang-pyo was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. Amnesty International believes there is insufficient evidence that Koh Chang-pyo carried out espionage and is concerned at reports that he was tortured to force him to confess. It has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Park Chan-u

Arrest:July 1984

Charge:Attempting to visit North Korea

Sentence:15 years' imprisonment, held in Chonju Prison

Park Chan-u was arrested in July 1984 by the Military Security Command on charges under the National Security Law. Sources say that he was arrested after attempting to go to North Korea, although he had no definite plans about what he would do if he got there. Park Chan-u was reportedly separated from his family when he was young and was considered an orphan. He left school early, after his second year at primary school, and earned his living as a labourer. Amnesty International believes that Park Chan-u may be detained solely for his attempt to go to North Korea and is seeking further details of the reasons for his arrest and evidence used to convict him.

Lee Chang-guk

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Arrest: 1 May 1984

Charge: Visiting North Korea and passing information to a brother, said to be a North Korean spy

Sentence: 15 years' imprisonment, held in Andong Prison

Lee Chang-guk was convicted of having been recruited as a spy by his brother who went to North Korea during the Korean war and is said to have come to South Korea on several occasions after 1962 as a North Korean spy. He was also accused of visiting North Korea in 1962 and 1973 where he is alleged to have received espionage training, joined the Korean Workers Party and passed "state secrets".

Lee Chang-guk ran a stationery shop in Incheon and is a devoted Christian. Because his older brother and sister went to North Korea during the Korean war he was under regular police surveillance and his family denied that he ever met his brother after the war or visited North Korea. The main evidence against him was the confession he made during 77 days of interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning, which he denied in court. Lee Chang-guk is said to have confessed under torture and to have attempted suicide to avoid further torture. He is now 70 years old and is said to be in poor health.

Amnesty International is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against Lee Chang-guk and is urging the authorities to investigate the claims that he was tortured and the possibility that he was convicted after an unfair trial.

Prisoner of Conscience: Kim Song-man

Arrest:6 June 1985

Charge:Meeting and passing information to North Koreans

Sentence:Death sentence, reduced to life imprisonment, held in Taejon Prison

Kim Song-man

Kim Song-man was born in 1957. He comes from a Christian family; his grandfather founded the Evangelical Church in Korea. When a student of physics at Yonsei University in Seoul he was active in the Christian Student Association. In June 1982 he went to the United States and enrolled at the Western Illinois University to study political science. During his studies at the Western Illinois University he met Hwang Tae-kwon and Yang Dong-hwa (see below). The three men are said to have been widely read in political science and about the political system in North Korea. The following year Kim Song-man moved to New York and according to some reports contributed articles to Haeuiminbo (Overseas Korean News). In June 1983 he visited Europe and stayed at the North Korean embassy in Budapest, Hungary, for three days and discussed the student movement and the political situation in South Korea. He returned to South Korea in July 1983 and is said to have renewed contact with the student movement, formed a group Chonminjunghoe (The Entire People Association) and written pamphlets calling for the withdrawal of US troops from South Korea. In November 1984 he visited East Berlin and is said to have given North Korean embassy staff copies of the pamphlets he had written. On 6 June 1985 Kim Song-man was arrested. According to the indictment he was encouraged by the North Koreans he met to engage in anti-government activities and given instructions such as to encourage student activists to enter the Korean Military Academy. Kim Song-man was sentenced to death by the courts, but this sentence was reduced to life imprisonment under a presidential amnesty in December 1988. In his appeal to the Supreme Court in August 1986 Kim Song-man wrote:

"I am a person who wishes the independence of our nation and democracy. I think that this ideal can be realized in a socialistic country. I was interrogated and tortured mercilessly at the Agency for National Security Planning. During the interrogation and torture I was even forced to write a suicide letter addressed to my parents in order to disguise my possible death as a suicide. The press widely published my forced confession as though it was true. I only long for the day we can enjoy our independence from under slavish submission to a foreign power. Even if all the world does not believe me I know that God knows the truth."

Amnesty International has adopted Kim Song-man as a prisoner of conscience as it believes he is detained solely for his beliefs and that there is no evidence of his having carried out espionage activities or having used or advocated the use of violence.

Prisoner of Conscience: Hwang Tae-kwon

Arrest: June 1985

Charge: Meeting and passing information to pro-North Koreans abroad

Sentence: Life imprisonment, reduced to 20 years, held in Andong Prison

Hwang Tae-kwon

Hwang Tae-kwon, now aged 36, graduated from Seoul National University in agriculture in February 1982 and then joined Western Illinois University. He is believed to have contributed articles on the South Korean student movement or which reflected anti-government and anti-US views to Haeuiminbo (Overseas Korean News). In June 1985 he was arrested at Seoul's Kimpo international airport as he returned for a vacation. In appeals to the courts and other documents he has denied knowingly meeting North Koreans or North Korean agents. He admits to having been involved in the student movement and having been critical of the government but rejects the accusation that he is a communist. Hwang Tae-kwon was sentenced to life imprisonment, but this sentence was reduced to 20 years under a presidential amnesty in December 1988. In a letter written from prison in 1988, Hwang Tae-kwon described his interrogation as follows:

". . . after 60 days of torture and beatings in the basement of the Agency for National Security Planning and after three years of imprisonment for a crime I did not commit, having been silenced all those years, I hope my story will expose the crimes that were committed against me by the powers-that-be in order to extract my 'confession'. I am also hoping to restore my own human dignity which has been ruthlessly trampled upon during the interrogation and imprisonment."

Amnesty International has adopted Hwang Tae-kwon as a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Yang Dong-hwa

Arrest: June 1985

Charge: Meeting and passing information to North Koreans abroad

Sentence: Death sentence, commuted to life imprisonment, held in Taejgu Prison

Yang Dong-hwa

Yang Dong-hwa was expelled from Chosun University in the southwestern city of Kwangju in May 1980 because of his political activities. He went to the USA and enrolled at Western Illinois University in 1983. He did not complete his studies and went to New York where he is said to have been in contact with the publisher of Haeuiminbo (Overseas Korean News). Apparently with the help of this publisher he travelled to North Korea where he stayed from 29 August to 8 September 1984. The South Korean authorities accused him of having received political indoctrination there and of having joined the Korean Workers' Party, as well as receiving instructions to infiltrate the South Korean student movement, incite anti-US sentiments and mobilize students to stage a second "Kwangju Incident". On his way back from North Korea Yang Dong-hwa allegedly visited the North Korean embassy in Vienna. He returned to South Korea in September 1984. Amnesty International has no independent information about Yang Dong-hwa's activities between that time and his arrest in mid-1985. He was charged with recruiting a small group of people, mainly students, and giving them instructions. One of those he allegedly recruited was Kang Yong-ju (see below). Yang Dong-hwa is accused of having influenced Kang Yong-ju into giving an anti-US and pro-North Korean slant to students' activities and of having instructed him to recruit other students to bomb the US Cultural Centre in Kwangju. An air stewardess whom Yang Dong-hwa allegedly recruited is said to have taken some anti-government documents produced in South Korea to the publisher of Haeuiminbo in New York. Other charges against Yang Dong-hwa are that he obtained information about Kwangju airport - which is partly used by the military - from US soldiers and that he intended to pass this information to North Korea and that he travelled to Seoul to look for information on how to make bombs.

Yang Dong-hwa was sentenced to death by the courts. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in December 1988. Amnesty International is concerned that Yang Dong-hwa may have been tortured or ill-treated to force him to falsely admit to charges of inciting others to carry out violent activities. So far it has not been able to collect enough information to show whether these accusations are grounded or false and it is continuing to seek further information on the reasons for Yang Dong-hwa's arrest in order to establish whether he may be a prisoner of conscience.

Kang Yong-ju

Arrest: 9 June 1985

Charge: Meeting and passing information to a North Korean agent

Sentence: Life imprisonment, held in Taejon Prison

Kang Yong-ju

Amnesty International has little information about **Kang Yong-ju's** political activities prior to his arrest in June 1985. He entered the Medical School of Chonnam National University in Kwangju in 1982 and was expelled from it in February 1985 because of his political activities. He is said to have been involved in activities of the Christian Student's Council and in November 1984 was elected chairman of the student
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group Mintu (People's Struggle). In February 1985 he is reported to have organized student demonstrations on anti-US themes. He is accused of having given information to Yang Dong-hwa about the student movement and of having travelled to Seoul with him to look for books on how to make bombs.

Kang Yong-ju denied these charges in court and some people who knew him thought from his appearance that he had been ill-treated or tortured. Kang Yong-ju, now aged 30, was sentenced to life imprisonment by the courts and did not benefit from a reduction of his sentence under the December 1988 presidential amnesty, as did his co-defendants. Amnesty International has been unable to ascertain whether Kang Yong-ju was involved in organizing or planning acts of political violence and is continuing to seek further information on his case in order to establish whether he may be a prisoner of conscience.

Lee Joon-ho

Arrest: May 1985

Charge: Passing information to North Korea

Sentence: Seven years' imprisonment, held in Taejon Prison

Lee Joon-ho was arrested around May 1985 and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. The authorities say that he was recruited as a spy for North Korea in 1972 by his uncle, Lee Han-su, who had gone to North Korea after the Korean war. Lee Joon-ho was accused of collecting information on military installations along the west coast of Korea which he passed on to North Korea and of giving the North Korean leader, Kim Il-sung, presents on his 60th birthday. Lee Joon-ho's mother, who was arrested with him, was released in October 1988 after completing her sentence.

Lee Joon-ho, now aged around 40, is said to be a devout Christian and is reported to have refused to sign a statement of conversion to anti-communism, saying that his religion does not allow him to compromise with injustice. Amnesty International is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against Lee Joon-ho.

Kim Yun-su

Arrest: 24 June 1985

Charge: Visiting and sending information to North Korea

Sentence: 15 years' imprisonment, held in Chonju Prison

Kim Yun-su, now aged around 57, was arrested on 24 June 1985. The authorities accused him of having been recruited as a spy in 1978 by a female colleague when he worked at a driving school in Seoul. He was accused of visiting North Korea via Japan, Austria and Moscow in May 1981 and of allegedly receiving espionage training and orders to set up an underground espionage ring in South Korea. At his trial Kim Yun-su admitted visiting North Korea and Moscow but said that he only did so as a tourist. He is said to have become interested in North Korea and other communist countries after seeing a video of

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the 1980 "Kwangju Incident" during a visit to Japan. When Kim Yun-su viewed the video information about the incident was only available through underground dissident movements in South Korea or abroad.

Amnesty International is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against Kim Yun-su.

Nah Jong-in

Arrest: 27 April 1985

Charge: Visiting and sending information to North Korea

Sentence: 15 years' imprisonment, held in Taegu Prison

Nah Jong-in, now aged 54, graduated in electronic engineering from Seoul National University. In 1971 he set up the Samhwa Engineering Company and made frequent business trips to Japan. He was arrested on 27 April 1985 and accused of visiting North Korea illegally in 1961 and 1964 and of receiving espionage training while there. The authorities claim that Nah Jong-in was recruited as a spy in 1961 by his sister who had gone to the North around the time of the 1950-1953 Korean War. They allege that he established the Samhwa Engineering Company as a cover for his espionage activities and that he passed military and industrial secrets to a North Korean agent during his business trips to Japan.

Nah Jong-in's wife was questioned about her husband's activities and says she was ordered to confess that she knew that her husband was a spy, something she denied. When she saw her husband after his arrest she noticed that he appeared to be in great pain and appeared unable to walk. He reportedly told her:

"They [The Military Security Command] took me and tortured me in all kinds of ways, and I confessed everything. My confession was quite honest and sincere, but they do not take it seriously".

Nah Jong-in admitted to having visited North Korea in 1961 but denied that he received espionage training while there. He also claimed that the charges that he went to the North in 1964 and that he passed national secrets to an agent in Japan had been fabricated. At his high court appeal hearing the judge accepted Nah Jong-in's claims that he was tortured but upheld his sentence.

Amnesty International is calling on the authorities to investigate the claims that Nah Jong-in was tortured and may have been convicted after an unfair trial.

Lee Pyong-sol

Arrest:7 July 1986

Charge:Meeting and passing information to pro-North Koreans in Japan

Sentence:15 years' imprisonment, reduced on appeal to 12 years, held in Andong Prison

Lee Pyong-sol
(c) Korea Times

Lee Pyong-sol, now aged 53, was a professor at Seoul National University when he was arrested in September 1986 on charges of being the alleged leader of a "spy ring". He was accused of having incited campus and labour unrest and of having organized underground cells among students, workers and teachers.

The authorities claimed that he had been recruited by a North Korean agent based in Tokyo when he was studying there in 1975 and that he became a member of the Korean Workers' Party in February 1976. Lee Pyong-sol was accused of visiting Japan on five occasions between August 1980 and February 1986 in order to report back on his espionage activities to North Korean agents. During these trips he is alleged to have passed on "military and social information" on South Korea collected by his recruits, including over 200 maps. Other sources have told Amnesty International that they believe that Professor Lee Pyong-sol may have been arrested because he is believed to have corresponded with his brother who lives in North Korea.

Lee Pyong-sol denied the accusations against him and claims that he was tortured into making a false confession. In January 1987 he was sentenced by the Seoul District Court to 15 years' imprisonment. In May 1987 his sentence was reduced on appeal to 12 years' imprisonment. Amnesty International is concerned that Professor Lee Pyong-sol may have been convicted after an unfair trial. It is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against him.

Prisoner of Conscience: Chang Ui-gyun

Arrest: 5 July 1987

Charge: Meeting and passing information to pro-North Koreans in Japan

Sentence: 15 years imprisonment, reduced on appeal to eight years, held in Taejon Prison

Chang Ui-gyun

Chang Ui-gyun, now aged 40, graduated in journalism from Sogang University in 1980 after several interruptions for his military service and to work in order to finance his studies. When at university, he was involved in political and labour issues. After graduating, he set up the Kaema publishing company which specialized in books on ancient Korean history. In 1982, his publishing licence was withdrawn after he published a book of poetry which was critical of the government.

In April 1985 he went to Japan and registered as a part-time student of ancient Korean History at Kyoto University. He also used the opportunity of his stay in Japan to learn more about North Korea, as documents from North Korea and books supportive of the north were forbidden in South Korea. He is said, for instance, to have met a journalist working for Chongnyon and to have visited the pro-North Korean Choson University, where he borrowed books and attended lectures. Among his other known political activities in Japan was the organization of a meeting in May 1986 on the issue of Korean reunification. The meeting is said to have brought together Korean residents in Japan who supported either North or South Korea.

Chang Ui-gyun returned to South Korea in March 1987 and was arrested on 5 July. He was interrogated for 25 days and was transferred to Seoul Detention Centre on 30 July. Except for a brief encounter with his wife on 11 July, he was not allowed to see anyone until he was indicted on 27 August. He told his wife that he had been subjected to the "tortures everybody knows about". It is believed that he was not allowed to sleep for the first ten days after his arrest and allowed to sleep only two or three hours for the next 15 days.

Chang Ui-gyun was accused of having submitted a sworn statement of loyalty to Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader, in order to attend a class on North Korean ideology in Japan. The main charges against him were that under instructions from a North Korean agent he passed information on the anti-government movement and opposition parties (considered state secrets by the court because this information is considered useful to North Korea) and sought to infiltrate the dissident movement. Chang Ui-gyun's aim, it was alleged, was to disrupt the Olympic Games and the presidential elections at the end of the year. Chang Ui-gyun's arrest had come a few days after the government had conceded to opposition demands for more democracy following weeks of nationwide protests.

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At his trial, which started in November 1987 before Seoul District Court, Chang Ui-gyun admitted meeting a journalist of Chongnyon and visiting Choson University, but denied the charges of espionage and of acting under instructions from North Korea and of having received money from North Korea. He admitted reading books on North Korea's Juche philosophy but said that he did not support it and had criticized it. When he visited Choson University he had been invited to visit North Korea but he had declined the offer, saying that he would go when the country was reunified.

It would appear that Chang Ui-gyun did pass information on the activities of the main South Korean opposition political parties and dissidents to a South Korean dissident who lives in Japan. This information is said to have included descriptions of political rallies, including one held in Incheon on 3 May 1986 at which many leading dissidents were arrested, and information on the setting up of the National Council for a Democratic Constitution which organized mass demonstrations in support of a revision of the presidential election system in June 1987. Amnesty International was informed that the South Korean dissident was planning to set up a research centre in Japan and that the information passed on by Chang Ui-gyun was to go to this centre.

In December 1987 Chang Ui-gyun was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. His sentence was reduced to eight years on appeal in May 1988. Amnesty International has adopted Chang Ui-gyun as a prisoner of conscience as it believes that he was arrested for his political views and activities and that there is no evidence of him being involved in espionage or of using or advocating violence. Amnesty International is also urging the authorities to investigate Chang Ui-gyun's claims that he was tortured during his interrogation.

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Kang Hui-chol

Arrest:1987

Charge:Meeting and passing information to pro-North Koreans in Japan

Sentence:Life imprisonment, held in Taegu Prison

Kang Hui-chol, now aged 34, was arrested in 1987 and sentenced to life imprisonment for spying for North Korea. He is alleged to have travelled illegally to Japan where he enrolled in a high-school associated with the pro-North Korean organization Chongnyon. Kang Hui-chol claims that he was forced to confess to the carrying out espionage activities under duress. Amnesty International does not have any further details about the case of Kang Hui-chol and is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against him.

Prisoner of Conscience: Suh Kyung-won

Arrest:28 June 1989

Charge:Visiting North Korea

Sentence:15 years' imprisonment reduced on appeal to 10 years, held in Chinju Prison

Suh Kyung-won
(c) Korea Times

Suh Kyung-won, now aged 54, an opposition member of the National Assembly, was arrested on 28 June 1989 for making an unauthorized trip to North Korea on 19-21 August 1988. He had travelled to North Korea via Czechoslovakia on the occasion of a visit to Europe. During his stay in Pyongyang he reportedly met the North Korean leader, Kim Il Sung, and Ho Dam, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Committee on Reunification of the Fatherland. On 20 December 1989 Suh Kyong-won was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. His sentence was reduced to ten years' imprisonment following an appeal to the High Court on 25 April 1990.

During the 24 days he was interrogated by the Agency for National Security Planning Suh Kyung-won was prohibited from meeting his lawyers and for one month after his arrest he was not allowed to meet his relatives. When he eventually met his lawyers for the first time on 22 July for 40 minutes, he complained that he had been ill-treated. Press reports quoted him as follows:

"ANSP investigators punched me in the face and repeatedly landed crushing blows on my left foot about 10 days after I was taken into custody. The left side of my face was badly swollen and the inside of my
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mouth began bleeding. They provided me with medical treatment soon thereafter... They forced me to remain awake for the first three nights."

One of the lawyers who met him on 22 July confirmed that his face was still swollen. Suh Kyung-won met his lawyers for a second time on 20 August for one hour and in the presence of four prison guards. He reportedly reiterated that he had been forced to make a false confession to prosecutors as a result of exhaustion. One of his lawyers quoted him as saying:

"For the past 54 days since my arrest, I remember having been allowed to sleep for four days. I slept two or three hours each of these days."

The senior prosecutor in charge of the case denied Suh's claims: "[The interrogators] never kept Suh from sleeping or exercised any other physical means to make him confess."

At his trial Suh Kyung-won justified his visit to North Korea and his discussion with North Korean officials as motivated by his desire to see Korea reunified. He denied acting as North Korean spy. He is alleged to have received 50,000 US Dollars from the North Korean authorities, which he is said to have used to buy a business, support activities of the farmer's movement and finance his local Party chapter; this has not, however, been independently confirmed.

Suh Kyung-won testified in court to having been ill-treated during his interrogation. According to press reports, when delivering the court's verdict the judge dismissed Suh Kyung-won's claims that he made false statements under duress and allegedly said that "overnight interrogation was inevitable because of the importance of the case". The court found that "the content of Suh Kyung-won's conversation with North Korean leader Kim Il Sung does not appear to have contained what could be called top secrets vital to national security." Because of this and because the government was now promoting reconciliation with North Korea, the judge imposed a lesser sentence of 15 years' imprisonment, although the prosecution had asked for life imprisonment.

Suh Kyung-won was born in 1937 and was a farmer. He has been active in the Catholic Farmers' Association since 1971, was its vice-president in 1982-1984 and its president in 1984-1987. He became famous in the mid-1970s for successfully negotiating compensation from the government for farmers who had switched to producing sweet potatoes on the advice of the authorities but who could not sell their crops as a result of a glut of this product on the market. In the April 1988 parliamentary elections he was elected on the Party for Peace and Democracy ticket for Hampyong-Yonggwang, a district in southwestern Korea.

Amnesty International believes that the mere fact of travelling to North Korea without evidence either of espionage activities or of the use or advocacy of violence does not justify imprisonment. It has adopted Suh Kyung-won as a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate release. It is also concerned at reports that he was ill-treated during his interrogation and is calling on the authorities to conduct an investigation into these allegations.

Prisoner of Conscience: Pang Yang-kyun

Arrest: 2 July 1989

Charge: Failing to report Suh Kyung-won's visit to North Korea and passing information to North Korea

Sentence: Seven years' imprisonment, held in Chonju Prison

Pang Yang-kyun, now aged 36, and secretary to Suh Kyung-won, was arrested on 2 July 1989 and charged with failing to report Suh Kyung-won's illegal trip to North Korea and passing state secrets to an alleged North Korean agent in Frankfurt in December 1988. On 20 December 1989 Pang Yang-kyun was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. He is said to be in poor health.

Pang Yang-kyun also claimed that he was ill-treated during his interrogation. A lawyer of the Party for Peace and Democracy who met him on 23 August 1989 said that Pang Yang-kyun's left eye was swollen and that the right side of his face was bruised. During his trial, Pang Yang-kyun alleged that he had been subjected to beatings, death threats and sleep deprivation by the ANSP and the prosecution. He also said that he had been forced under torture to sign a statement agreeing not to disclose his ill-treatment by the ANSP. In its verdict the court conceded that:

"In Pang Yang-kyun's case the court cannot rule out the possibility that he was tortured while being interrogated at the Agency for National Security and Planning. But it cannot be viewed that such duress continued while he confessed to prosecutors."

Pang Yang-kyun was accused of passing national secrets on Suh Kyung-won's behalf to a North Korean agent in West Germany in December 1988. The secrets are said to include a report prepared by Suh Kyung-won and anti-government leaflets. Pang Yang-kyun admitted having collected US \$10,000 for Suh Kyung-won but rejected the prosecution's claim that this person was a North Korean agent and that he had passed state secrets to him. He also denied that he had known of Suh Kyung-won's visit to North Korea.

Amnesty International has adopted Pang Yang-kyun as a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate release. It is also calling on the authorities to carry out an investigation into his claims that he was ill-treated during his interrogation.

Prisoner of Conscience: Yu Won-ho

Arrest: 13 April 1989

Charge: Unauthorized visit to North Korea information

Sentence: Ten years' imprisonment, reduced on appeal to seven years, held in Taejon Prison

Businessman **Yu Won-ho**, now aged 61, and Presbyterian minister Moon Ik-hwan were arrested as they returned from a visit to North Korea. Both men were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment on 5 October 1989, reduced to seven years' imprisonment following an appeal to the High Court in February 1990. Reverend Moon Ik-hwan was released on parole in October 1990 but was re-arrested in June 1991.

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Yu Won-ho and Reverend Moon Ik-hwan visited North Korea from 25 March to 3 April 1989. They travelled via Japan and China and their arrival in Pyongyang took many people by surprise. Reverend Moon Ik-hwan was the first person to take up an invitation Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader, had extended in his New Year message to seven South Korean public figures to visit Pyongyang to discuss reunification.

Yu Won-ho was charged under the National Security Law with organizing Reverend Moon Ik-hwan's visit to North Korea and with spying for North Korea. At his trial before Seoul District Court, Yu Won-ho explained that he went to North Korea with Reverend Moon Ik-hwan to advance reunification and because he did not consider North Korea to be an "anti-state organization" as defined in the National Security Law since President Roh Tae-woo had announced that his government would try to ease tensions with the North. Delivering his judgement the judge acquitted the two men of praising and sympathizing with North Korean leaders. He accepted that their visit had been motivated by their commitment to reunification of the country but said that they had fallen victims to a North Korean propaganda ploy and in so doing had harmed the interests of the South. Yu Won-ho was acquitted of the charges of taking instructions from North Korea and acting in collusion with North Korea.

Amnesty International has adopted Yu Won-ho as a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Prisoners of Conscience: Im Su-kyong and Father Moon Kyu-hyun

Arrest: 15 August 1989

Charge: Unauthorized visit to North Korea

**Sentence: Im Su-kyong: Ten years' imprisonment,
reduced on appeal to five years,
held in Chongju Prison**

**Moon Kyu-hyun: Eight years'
imprisonment, reduced on appeal
to five years, held in Kongju Prison**

Im Su-kyung and Fr Moon-kyun
(c) Popperfoto

Ms Im Su-kyong, now aged 24, and a student of French literature at Hankuk Foreign Languages University, travelled to North Korea via Japan and West Germany to attend the 13th World Festival of AI Index: ASA 25/25/91 Amnesty International September 1991

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Youth and Students which took place in Pyongyang from 1 to 8 July 1989, as a representative of Chondaehyop (The National Council of Students Representatives). Chondaehyop had been banned by the South Korean authorities from sending a delegate to the festival. The festival has been organized every four years in various locations since World War II by the International Union of Students.

After the festival ended Im Su-kyong joined North Koreans and foreigners in a symbolic "peace march" which she hoped would take her across the length of the peninsula from Mt Paektu in the north to Mt Halla in the south. She announced her determination to return to South Korea on 27 July by crossing the border at the armistice village of Panmunjom.

On 26 July the Catholic Priests Association for Justice announced that they had sent Father Moon Kyu-hyun to North Korea to join Im Su-kyong in her attempt to cross the border. They had made this decision, they explained, because Im Su-kyong is a Roman Catholic and "to show support for the cause of patriotic students yearning for reunification of their Fatherland." Father Moon Kyu-hyun, now aged 46, is the former head of the Education Department of Chongju diocese and was then studying at the Maryknoll seminary in New York, USA. He previously visited Pyongyang in June when he celebrated a mass and discussed reunification with local Christians.

The United Nations Command which controls the armistice village of Panmunjom refused to authorize Im Su-kyong and Father Moon Kyu-hyun to cross the border in the absence of agreement from the South Korean authorities. Im Su-kyong and Father Moon Kyu-hyun went on hunger-strike from 29 July to 2 August to press their demand to be allowed to cross the demarcation line. On 15 August they were able to cross the border and were immediately taken into custody by the South Korean authorities.

Im Su-kyong, who was suffering from exhaustion, was first sent to Seoul National University Hospital where she stayed until 18 August. She was transferred to the custody of the Agency for National Security Planning. The Agency subsequently told the press that during her interrogation it had arranged for Im Su-kyong to meet several defectors from North Korea in an attempt to have her change her views of North Korea, but said she refused to do so. Her lawyers were denied access to her and on 6 September obtained a court order requiring the Agency to let them meet her. Her family was not allowed to see her until 8 September when her case was transferred from the Agency for National Security Planning to the prosecuting authorities and she was moved to Anyang Prison. She was accused of illegally visiting North Korea, informing North Korean officials about the student movement in the South, praising North Korea and criticizing South Korea's unification policy.

Father Moon Kyu-hyun was interrogated by the National Police Headquarters and was allowed to meet his lawyers and relatives for the first time on 31 August. He was accused of illegally visiting North Korea, praising North Korea and giving speeches blaming the United States and South Korea for the division of the country and saying that South Korea did not want reunification.

Both prisoners were tried before the Seoul District Criminal Court on 13 November 1989. Im Su-kyong denied having praised North Korea and having given speeches that had been written by North Korean officials. She said she had written her own speeches and recalled having been criticized by a North Korean official for expressing the view that North Korea was not making genuine efforts to reunify the country. On 5 February 1990 both were found guilty. Im Su-kyong was given a prison sentence of ten years' imprisonment and Father Moon Kyu-hyun was given a prison sentence of eight years. When

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delivering the court's verdict, the presiding judge said that "by providing the north with information on the South Korean dissident and opposition movement, they had helped the North militarily". Im Su-kyong and Father Moon Kyu-hyun had their sentences reduced to five years' imprisonment following an appeal to the High Court in June 1990.

Amnesty International considers Im Su-kyong and Father Moon Kyu-hyun to be prisoners of conscience held for their peaceful political views and activities. It is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

Prisoner of Conscience: Hong Song-dam

Arrest:31 July 1989

Charge:Benefiting North Korea

Sentence:Seven years' imprisonment, reduced to three years, held in Anyang Prison

Hong Song-dam

Dissident artist Hong Song-dam was arrested in July 1989 and accused of praising and benefiting North Korea through his paintings and articles in an art magazine and of spying for North Korea by sending books to an alleged North Korean agent in Germany. The South Korean authorities claim that his paintings support North Korean propaganda. Hong Song-dam and other artists had created a large mural entitled History of the People's Liberation Movement of which he sent photographic slides to North Korea to be displayed at the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Pyongyang in July 1989. The South Korean authorities said that the panel The Kwangju Struggle, painted by Hong Song-dam, echoed North Korea's propaganda describing the Kwangju Incident of May 1980 as a people's movement to resist a military dictatorship supported by the USA.

Hong Song-dam was the publisher of an art magazine, Art Movement. The South Korean authorities accuse Hong Song-dam of promoting a Marxist-Leninist revolution by the publication of articles which emphasize that artists should contribute to social reforms and must master Marxist-Leninist views on art.

Hong Song-dam had sent books and magazines to a Korean exile in Germany. The authorities claim that the exile is a North Korean agent and that Hong Song-dam's sending of these books amounted to passing state secrets, since knowledge of the political situation in South Korea can help North Korea in its propaganda and other activities.

Hong Song-dam, now aged 36, graduated in Fine Arts in 1980 from Chosun University in Kwangju and is a winner of the Korean National Fine Arts Competition. He is best known for his woodblock prints depicting traditional dance and musicians, scenes of anti-government and anti-United States protest, and

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images from the 1980 Kwangju Incident in which several hundred people were killed by the military. He is the Director of the Institute of Visual Art in Kwangju and the chairman of the Kwangju chapter of the Korean Nationalistic Artists Federation, an organization of dissident writers, artists, craftspeople, musicians, film-makers, dancers, photographers and architects.

Hong Song-dam was interrogated for three weeks, during which time he was denied access to his lawyer. When he met his lawyer on 24 August he claimed that during his interrogation he had not been allowed to sleep for more than one to three hours a day, that he had been stripped naked and beaten around his head and on his hands to make him confess that he had visited North Korea. Hong Song-dam alleged that his interrogators had stamped on his hands and his lawyer observed during the prison visit that his client's knees were still heavily bruised. During Hong Song-dam's trial before Seoul District Court in September 1989 a forensic pathologist told the court that he had carried out a medical examination of the defendant and had ascertained that he still bore bruises that were the direct results of "battery and kicking".

On 30 January 1990 Hong Song-dam was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. In September 1990 the Supreme Court dismissed the charges of espionage and returned the case to a lower court. In January 1991 Hong Song-dam was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for producing material benefiting North Korea. Amnesty International has adopted Hong Song-dam as a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Woodcuts by Hong Song-dam

Prisoner of Conscience: Kim Hyon-jang

Arrest: 20 August 1989

Charge: Benefiting North Korean activities

Sentence: Seven years' imprisonment, held in Seoul Prison

Kim Hyon-jang and Kim Yong-ae

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Kim Hyon-jang, now aged 41, and his wife Kim Yong-ae, leading members of Chonminnyon (National Coalition for Democratic Movement), were arrested on 20 August 1989. Both had been in hiding from police since April 1989 when a number of leading Chonminnyon members were arrested for their political activities. They were charged with involvement in the setting up of the "Korea-US Research Institute" (KURI) which was formally established in June 1989. The authorities claimed that KURI's aims were to publish materials which would "incite anti-American sentiment" and support North Korea. Kim Hyon-jang was also accused of sending a facsimile message to the overseas pro-North Korean group Hanmintong and other human rights organizations abroad in June 1989 appealing for support for Chonminnyon's campaign for an investigation into the death of student activist Lee Chol-kyu who was found dead in May 1989. In response to this appeal the authorities allege that Kim Hyon-jang received the sum of 176,200 Japanese yen (approximately 1,250 \$US) from a pro-North Korean organization. Kim Hyon-jang is also accused of sending information on a Chonminnyon meeting to the Council of Korean People in Europe in West Germany, which the authorities regard as a pro-North Korean organization.

In February 1990 Kim Hyon-jang was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and this sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court in October 1990. Kim Yong-ae was also sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and was freed on bail in June 1990.

Amnesty International has adopted Kim Hyon-jang as a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Oh Tong-yol

Arrest: 15 October 1989

Charge: Leading an "anti-state" organization

Sentence: Three years' imprisonment, reduced to two-and-a-half years on appeal, held in Anyang Prison

Oh Tong-yol was arrested on 15 October 1989, along with 14 other members of the dissident labour organization Inminnyon (Federation of Democratic Labour Unions in the Incheon area). Inminnyon was set up in Incheon in 1987 to provide support for workers in the region. It published two magazines, *The Way of Workers* and *The Socialist*. The organization also ran a counselling service and gave advice to local trade unions.

The 15 prisoners were charged under the National Security Law for membership of an "anti-state" organization and involvement in a number of labour disputes. They were accused of spreading socialist ideas among workers and of advocating the overthrow of the government and the establishment of a "people's government". The charges are believed to be based on articles in the group's magazines and minutes of meetings which were confiscated by the authorities. Inminnyon claims that it merely sought to transform society in a peaceful way through the existing political system. The prisoners were also accused of organizing a number of strikes which became violent. As far as Amnesty International is aware, the prosecution did not produce any evidence in court to substantiate its claims that the group had

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used or advocated the use of violence. Minutes of the group's meetings were not made available to defence counsel in court.

In April 1990 the 15 prisoners were tried before Seoul District Court. Seven prisoners were released and the remaining eight received prison terms of between one and three years. Oh Tong-yol was sentenced to three years imprisonment, reduced to two-and-a-half years following an appeal to the High Court in August 1990. Amnesty International is seeking further information about the charges and evidence against Oh Tong-yol as it believes he may be imprisoned for his peaceful political activities.

Prisoner of Conscience: Kim Keun-tae

Arrest: 14 May 1990

Charge Producing and distribution pro-North Korean material, organizing anti-government demonstrations

Sentence Three years' imprisonment, reduced on appeal to two years, held in Heongsong Prison

Kim Keun-tae is

arrested, 14 May 1991

(c) Korea Times

Kim Keun-tae, a leading dissident and co-chairperson of Chonminnyon, (National Coalition for Democratic Movement) was arrested on 14 May 1990. He was charged under the National Security Law with making anti-government statements at a number of public meetings, including the inauguration rally of Chonminnyon in January 1989, and with producing and distributing anti-government documents. These statements and documents include the expression of views about the South Korean Government, reunification and relations with foreign states. Although calling for a change of government, none of these statements advocate the use of violence to achieve political changes.

Kim Keun-tae was also charged under the Law on Assemblies and Demonstrations for organizing five demonstrations without informing the police in advance. Two of these demonstrations took place in January and February of 1989, over one year before his arrest. The three other meetings took place in the first half of 1990. Although the charges do appear to be legitimate, Kim Keun-tae was the only leader of Chonminnyon prosecuted for organizing these demonstrations. A third charge was made under the Law on Punishment of Violent Acts for the injuries to police officers and damage to property which took place at three demonstrations in 1990. Although many anti-government demonstrations result in violence, many are peaceful and there is no evidence to suggest that Kim Keun-tae organised or incited violence during the three rallies he took part in.

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In September 1990 Kim Keun-tae was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Following an appeal to the High Court in January 1991 his sentence was reduced to two years and this sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court in April 1991. Amnesty International regards Kim Keun-tae as a prisoner of conscience with respect to the charges under the National Security Law and the Law on Punishment of Violent Acts. It urges the authorities to release him after he has served that part of his sentence related to his conviction under the Law on Assemblies and Demonstrations.

Kim Keun-tae, now aged 44, was adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience during his detention from 1985 to 1988 for his involvement in the National Youth Alliance for Democracy and for organizing demonstrations against the then president Chun Doo-hwan. On 30 January 1991 four policemen were sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to five years for torturing Kim Keun-tae after his arrest in 1985.

Jang Myung-guk

Arrest: 19 June 1990

Charge: Publishing pro-North Korean material;

Advising third parties in labour disputes

Sentence: Two years' imprisonment, reduced on appeal to 18 months, held in Anyang Prison

Jang Myung-guk graduated in economics from Seoul National University in 1970 and has since taken an active interest in the trade union movement. In 1988 he set up the Suktap (Stone Pagoda) Labour Counselling Centre and the Suktap Publishing Company. At the counselling centre he conducted seminars on subjects such as labour laws, the work of trade unions and their position in Korean society. The Suktap Publishing Company published the periodical Dawn to which Jang Myung-guk contributed articles on labour issues. Jang Myung-guk's best known publication is Explanation of Labour Laws, published in 1982, which is said to have sold over 400,000 copies.

Jang Myung-guk was arrested on 19 June 1990. He was charged under the National Security Law with writing articles benefiting North Korea. These charges are believed to arise from ten articles that he wrote for the periodical Dawn. The central ideas in his articles are that South Korea's economy is subordinated to the USA and Japan and that South Korean workers must become a leading force in a movement to realise national independence, set up a democratic government and reunify with North Korea. The prosecution authorities accused Jang Myung-guk of posing a threat to the country's national security by promoting a revolutionary ideology which is similar to North Korean propaganda.

Jang Myung-guk was also charged under Article 13-2 of the Labour Dispute Mediation Act for advice he reportedly gave to workers of the Taxi Drivers Union in Seoul, the Daewoo company, The Seoul Subway Union, Hyundai and Poongsan Heavy Materials Company. Under the Labour Dispute Mediation Act, third parties, that is people who have no direct link with the workplace where a trade dispute is taking place, are banned from intervening in the dispute and may be sentenced to up to five years' imprisonment or a fine. In 1988 Jang Myung-guk is said to have successfully negotiated with the management of a Daewoo company at the request of the trade union, ending a strike after 58 hours. In

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July 1988 he also advised trade union leaders at Daewoo Defence Industries over the forced resignation of their union president. In 1989 he is reported to have advised leaders of the Seoul Taxi Drivers Union, at their request, on whether they could legally organise a strike, in view of the fact that they are prohibited from doing so because they are regarded as a public service.

In December 1990 Jang Myung-guk was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, reduced to 18 months following an appeal to the High Court in April 1991. Amnesty International is seeking further information about the charges against Jang Myung-guk.

Arrests of "Anti-State" Groups: Reports of Torture and Ill-Treatment

Sanomaeng (Socialist Workers' League)

On 30 October 1990 the South Korean authorities announced the arrests of 40 members of Sanomaeng under the National Security Law. At least nine other members of Sanomaeng were arrested in March 1991, including its alleged leader Park Ki-pyong, aged 34, a well-known dissident poet.

Sanomaeng was established in November 1989 in Seoul with an initial membership of approximately 400 which grew to over 1,600 members, a large proportion of whom are said to be students and workers. At its inauguration rally in Seoul the organization reportedly claimed to maintain friendly links with the North Korean Workers Party and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The authorities described Sanomaeng as an "anti-state" organization planning to overthrow the government and replace it with a people's democratic government. They say it published and circulated a number of leaflets and documents advocating the establishment of a socialist society and that it advocated the use of violence to achieve political change. Among these are Eight Tasks of South Korean Socialists in 1990 which sets out eight steps which are needed to achieve a socialist revolution, and several issues of *Wind at Dawn* which discusses the concept of a socialist revolution and the role of the student movement. The prosecution has alleged that 5,000 copies of each issue of *Wind at Dawn* were produced. Sanomaeng is also accused of infiltrating a number of trade unions and factories and planning the manufacture of armed weapons. The authorities claimed to have confiscated a number of weapons and publications from the organization.

Several prisoners among those arrested in the Sanomaeng case claim to have been ill-treated following their arrest. Families of some of the prisoners and local human rights groups claim that the prisoners were denied visits by family members and lawyers for some time after their arrests. Following protest from the families one visit was permitted after a 20-day period. Lee Song-su, a 27-year-old ex-student of Sung Kyun-kwan University, and Hyon Yon-dok, also aged 27, reportedly told their lawyers that they had been ill-treated. On 23 October 1990 Lee Song-su told his lawyer that he had been beaten by his interrogators because he had refused to answer their questions. On 1 November Hyon Yon-dok reported to his lawyer that he had been kept awake for three consecutive nights, stripped and beaten soon after his arrest. Park Ki-pyong claimed that he too had been beaten and denied sleep for several nights during his interrogation in March 1991.

Amnesty International is seeking further information about the arrests of members of Sanomaeng to determine whether any of those arrested are prisoners of conscience. It is calling on the authorities to conduct an investigation into the prisoners' claims that they were tortured and ill-treated.

Chamintong (Independent National Unification Group)

In December 1990 the authorities announced the arrests of some 30 members of Chamintong. The authorities allege that Chamintong was established in 1988 and supported North Korea's proposals for reunification. It claimed that the organization used and controlled the student body Chondaehyop

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(National Council of Student Representatives) as a "front for revolutionary movement". The group is also accused of instigating a number of violent anti-government demonstrations under orders from the overseas pro-North Korean group Hanminjun. Evidence of the connection between Chamintong and Hanminjun was allegedly found in documents showing that they had a similar structure, used the same radical slogans and had the same aims. Chondaehyop representatives have denied the link between the two groups. The authorities claimed to have confiscated 700 items from the organization, including computer disks, recordings of North Korean broadcasts and a detailed program for achieving national reunification under communism by 1995.

Prisoners and their families have claimed that Chamintong does not exist and had been fabricated by the authorities and many of the prisoners claim to have been forced to confess to the above accusations. Families of some of the prisoners said that they were stripped and beaten with wooden bars, and kicked and stepped on while made to kneel down on the floor. Kim Yo-sop, a 25-year-old graduate of Hanrim University and another former student, Cho Won-guk, told their lawyers that they had been stripped and beaten. Kim Gi-su, a student at Kyung-hee University, is reported to have written to his family saying that he had been repeatedly slapped and kicked during his interrogation. Kim Dong-kyu, a 24-year-old student, said that he was deprived of sleep for several days after his arrest and was beaten with sticks and kicked. Huh Jung-sook, a 24-year-old female graduate of Kyung-hee University also claimed that she was beaten.

Amnesty International is seeking further information about the arrests of members of Chamintong. It is urging the South Korean authorities to conduct an immediate investigation into the claims that some of the prisoners were ill-treated to force them to confess.

Prisoners of Conscience: Cho Song-woo and Lee Hae-hak

Arrest:30 November 1990

Charge:Unauthorized Meeting with North Koreans

Sentence:18 months' imprisonment, held in Seoul Prison

Cho Song-woo, aged 40, and Lee Hae-hak, aged 48, staff members of the dissident organization Chonminnyon (National Coalition for Democratic Movement) and Reverend Cho Yong-sul were arrested at Kimpo International Airport on 30 November 1990 as they were returning from a trip to Berlin where they had participated in the inaugural meeting of Pomminnyon (pan-national conference for the reunification of Korea). They were charged under the National Security Law with making an unauthorized trip to Berlin to meet with North Korean officials. In May 1991 Cho Song-woo and Lee Hae-hak were sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. Reverend Cho Yong-sul was released on parole.

The three men travelled to Berlin in mid-November to participate in the inaugural meeting of Pomminnyon, an organization pledging itself to reunify the country. Participants at the meeting included a North Korean official, Chon Kum-chol, who is Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland and also representatives of Koreans living in other countries. At the meeting, Pomminnyon made a declaration stating as its main objectives the achievement of peaceful reunification, independence and national unity. It also stated that it aimed to establish a headquarters for the organization in both North and South Korea before the end of January 1991; to achieve the peaceful reunification of North and South Korea by 1995; to replace the current armistice signed in 1953 at the end of the Korean War by a peace agreement; to secure the withdrawal of foreign (US) troops from South Korea and to achieve the abolition of the National Security Law and free travel between North and South Korea.

Amnesty International has adopted Cho Song-woo and Lee Hae-hak as prisoners of conscience, detained for the peaceful exercise of their freedom of expression and association. It is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

Prisoners of Conscience: Lee Chang-bok and Kim Hi-taek

Arrest: 24 January 1991

Charge: Forming a pro-North Korean organization

Sentence: Two years' imprisonment

Lee Chang-bok, aged 54 and **Kim Hi-taek**, aged 40, Co-Chairman and Secretary General of Chonminnyon (National Coalition for Democratic Movement), were arrested on 24 January 1991. The government accused them of attempting to form a pro-North Korean organization.

Pomminnyon was inaugurated in Berlin in November 1990, and announced that it aimed to establish regional headquarters in both North and South Korea before the end of January 1991. In South Korea a preparatory committee was formed on 23 January 1991 with the aim of establishing a permanent headquarters. Lee Chang-bok was named as Chairman of its executive committee and Kim Hi-taek was a committee member. On 24 January the two men were arrested and charged with forming a pro-North Korean organization and for contacting the Committee for the Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland in North Korea. The North Korean headquarters of Pomminnyon was established on 25 January 1991.

Amnesty International has adopted Lee Chang-bok and Kim Hi-taek as prisoners of conscience, detained for the peaceful exercise of their freedom of expression and association. It is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

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Prisoner of Conscience: Reverend Hong Keun-soo

Arrest: 20 February 1991

**Charge: Praising North Korea -
through published material and speeches**

Reverend Hong Keun-soo

Reverend Hong Keun-soo lived in the USA from 1978 to 1986 and was at that time an American citizen. He was pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn and a member of the Boston Presbytery. He gave up his American citizenship when he returned to South Korea in 1986 and became the pastor of the Hyang Rin Presbyterian Church in Seoul.

Reverend Hong Keun-soo was arrested on 20 February 1991. He was accused of praising North Korea in his sermons; of having spoken in favour of reunification during a television debate on KBS (Korea Broadcasting System) in September 1988 and of publishing a collection of his writings in 1989 entitled *Now is the time to Realize National Reunification*. The writings included an article about Reverend Hong Dong-keun, a lecturer in Christianity at Kim Il Sung University in North Korea. Reverend Hong Dong-keun is reported to have sent a series of lecture notes to Reverend Hong Keun-soo shortly before his arrest. The authorities also accused Reverend Hong Keun-soo of planning to travel to Panmunjom and for his involvement in the establishment of the South Korean headquarters of Pominnyon.

Amnesty International has adopted Reverend Hong Keun-soo as a prisoner of conscience as it believes that he is detained for the peaceful exercise of his rights of freedom of expression and association. It is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.