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REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA) NATIONAL SECURITY LAW ARRESTS CONTINUE

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Dozens of people have been arrested in the Republic of Korea (South Korea) in recent months under the National Security Law, including students, trade unionists, activists and academics. Amnesty International is concerned that they may be prisoners of conscience, held solely for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

Amnesty International has expressed concern on many occasions that the National Security Law has been used arbitrarily to arrest and imprison people for their non-violent political activities, on the pretext that they posed a threat to national security. The organization is once again calling on the South Korean Government to meet its obligations under international law by amending the National Security Law so that the rights to peaceful freedom of expression and association are protected.

During 1995 over 200 people have been arrested under the National Security Law, mostly on charges of "praising" and "benefitting" North Korea, making unauthorized visits to North Korea, failing to report meetings with North Koreans and forming or joining organizations alleged to be "anti-state" (pro-North Korean). Some of the most recent arrests are described below.

Two female students were arrested by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP, South Korea's intelligence agency) on 3 October for making an unauthorized visit to North Korea. Chong Min-ju and Lee Hye-jong had gone to North Korea in August to attend a rally to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule. Their visit was conducted publicly, without use or advocacy of violence and the students are considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International has also called for the unconditional release of Park Yong-gil, aged 76, who was arrested in July for making a similar visit to North Korea. Park Yong-gil, who is in poor health, is currently on trial before Seoul District Court.

Twelve students of Chungnam University, six of whom were doing compulsory military service, were arrested on 18 October. The 12, including Suh Young-whan, Lee Jae-whan, and Choi Nan-hee, were held under Article 7 of the National Security Law for forming the Chungnam University National Activists Organization which is alleged by the authorities to have "benefitted" North Korea. They were also accused of showing a North Korean film on the university campus in late 1993 and of making a poster which expressed regret for the death of former North Korean President Kim Il Sung in July 1994. Some of these events took place some time ago and it is unclear why the students were arrested now. Amnesty International believes the 12 students should be released if they are held solely for the above offences, without use or advocacy of violence. It is further concerned that two of them, Suh Ji-won and Choi Nan-hee, were denied access to a lawyer on the day of their arrest and that they were reportedly deprived of sleep and threatened by police officials who tried to make them sign a statement of confession.

Social science researcher Lee Chan-haeng, was arrested on 20 October, apparently for the contents of his books which are alleged to "praise" North Korea. One of the books is about the North Korean leader Kim Jong Il: *Kim Jong Il the person; Kim Jong Il, the leader*, published by *Yeolin Saesang* publishing company in 1994. The second book, entitled *Our Powerful History*, was published by *Him* Publishing Company in 1995. Amnesty International believes that Lee Chan-haeng should be released if he is held solely for the contents of his published books. A representative of *Yeolin Saesang* was also arrested but released the following day.

Three trade unionists, Moon Song-hyun, Kim Young-kyun and Park Chan-sik, were arrested on 2 November by the Security Division of the National Police Administration. All are members of the Korean Council of Trade Unions (KCTU) and the National Security Law charge against them apparently relates to a fax they received from North Korea during 1992. The three are also charged under the Labour Dispute Mediation Act for intervening in several labour disputes during 1995. Amnesty International is concerned that the real reason for their arrest may be related to their activities in the KCTU, a new trade union federation which was inaugurated in early November. The South Korean authorities have declared the KCTU to be illegal and have reportedly seized the organization's bank accounts. Amnesty International believes the three men should be released if they are held solely for their non-violent trade union activities.

Five people, including a politician, former student leaders and an official working for a leading non-government organization, were arrested between 5 and 15 November under Article 10 of the National Security Law for failing to report meetings with an alleged agent from North Korea. This person, named by the authorities as Kim Dong-sik, was caught by the South Korean military on 24 October in the Puyo area of Chungchong Province. Amnesty International is concerned that although some of the five prisoners may have met Kim Dong-sik, they claim not to have known that he was a North Korean agent. It is calling for their release if they are held solely for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of association. The five arrested are Lee In-young, a former student leader and Ham Woon-kyung, head of the Council for Peaceful Reunification, who were arrested on 5 November; Ho In-hwae, an official of the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP, main opposition party) who was arrested on 7 November; Park Chung-ryul, Assistant Secretary General of the National Alliance for Democracy and Unification of Korea

(NADUK) and youth leader Kim Tae-ryun who were arrested on 15 November. A sixth person, Woo Sang-ho, was arrested and released after questioning.

REPORTED ARRESTS UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW DURING OCTOBER AND EARLY NOVEMBER 1995

DATE OF ARREST	NAME/AGE/OCCUPATION	REPORTED CHARGES	ARRESTING AGENCY
3 October	Lee Hye-chong(f), aged 20; student	Making an unauthorized visit to North Korea	Arrested by ANSP
3 October	Chong Min-ju(f), aged 20; student	Making an unauthorized visit to North Korea	Arrested by ANSP
18 October	Suh Young-whan(m)	Forming an "enemy benefitting" organization; showing a North Korean film; making a poster expressing sympathy for the death of former North Korean leader.	Arrested and questioned by Security Division of Chungnam Police
as above	Suh Ji-won(m); student	as above	as above
as above	Lee Jae-whan(m); student	as above	as above
as above	Jang Choi-yol(m); student	as above	as above
as above	Jeong Ku-young(m); student	as above	as above
as above	Choi Nan-hee(f); student	as above	as above
as above	Lee Jae-eun(m); student and army conscript	as above	Arrested by military and questioned at military intelligence headquarters in Taejon City
as above	Park Chan-hee(m), student and army conscript	as above	as above
as above	Kim Young-kil(m); student and army conscript	as above	as above
as above	Lee Hye-chan(m); student and army conscript	as above	as above
as above	Kim Yong-seong(m); student and army conscript	as above	as above

DATE OF ARREST	NAME/AGE/OCCUPATION	REPORTED CHARGES	ARRESTING AGENCY
as above	Je Mu-kyun(m); student and army conscript	as above	as above
20 October	Lee Chan-haeng(m) aged 34; researcher at Korean Social Science Research Institute	"Praising" North Korean in two books, published during 1994 and 1995	Arrested by Seoul Police
2 November	Moon Song-hyun(m), aged 43; official of Korean Council of Trade unions	Communicating with North Korea during 1992; intervening in labour disputes during 1995	Arrested and questioned at Security Division of National Police
as above	Kim Young-kyun(m), aged 44; member of KCTU and President of National Association of Labour Organizations	as above	as above
as above	Park Chan-sik(m), aged 32; member of KCTU and Policy Director of National Association of Labour Organizations.	as above	as above
5 November	Lee In-young(m), aged 31; former student leader.	Failure to report meeting with Kim Dong Sik, said by the authorities to a North Korean agent.	Arrested and questioned by ANSP
as above	Ham Woon-kyung(m), aged 32; official of Council for Peaceful Reunification.	as above	as above
7 November	Ho In-hwae(m), aged 31; official of the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP, main opposition party)	as above	as above
15 November	Park Chung-ryun(m), aged 35; Assistant Secretary General of NADUK (leading NGO)	as above	as above
as above	Kim Tae-ryun(m) aged 32; Chairman of Songnam future Preparation Group (youth organization)	as above	as above

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