

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 330/93 (ASA 25/35/93, 17 September 1993) - and follow-up: (ASA 25/36/93, 24 September 1993) - Ill-treatment/possible prisoners of conscience

SOUTH KOREA:KIM Sam-sok, 24

KIM Un-ju, (female, 24)

Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju, arrested on 8 September, were interrogated by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP) from 8 to 22 September. They are now being questioned by prosecutors. They have not yet been formally charged. On 7 October Kim Sam-sok described to his lawyer the treatment he had been subjected to by the ANSP. He said that he had been stripped naked on several occasions and sexually assaulted. He was also repeatedly threatened and subjected to other verbal abuse. This treatment was used in order to force him to "confess" to charges which he says are false and to put his thumbprint on a statement which was not his own. He tried to avoid this by biting his thumb, but was not able to resist. On 20 September he attempted to commit suicide, apparently fearing that his signed statement would be used against him.

Although South Korean law forbids the use of a coerced confession as evidence in court, Amnesty International is concerned that this statement will now be used to convict Kim Sam-sok and to sentence him to a lengthy prison term. Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that Kim Sam-sok's sister, Kim Un-ju, was subjected to ill-treatment and may have been forced to make a confession.

Amnesty International fears that two prisoners may face an unfair trial and lengthy prison sentences as prisoners of conscience. They are held under the National Security Law on suspicion of passing military secrets to North Korea. They are also accused of passing copies of North Korean leader Kim Il Sung's memoirs to student groups in South Korea. Under the National Security Law, all unauthorized contacts with North Korea may be described as espionage. The law has frequently been used to imprison people for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning and that they were forced to make confessions;
- urging the authorities to order a full and public investigation into these reports of torture and ill-treatment and to ensure that the prisoners are not convicted on the basis of their own coerced confessions;
- urging the government to immediately suspend the ANSP's right to detain and interrogate prisoners until it has introduced measures which effectively

protect the basic rights of detainees.

APPEALS TO:

1) President

President Kim Young-sam
The Blue House
1 Sejong-no
Chongno-gu
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: President Kim, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telexes: 24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K

Faxes: + 822 720 2686

Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) Minister of Justice

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

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

Telexes: 24757 MOJUST K

Faxes: + 822 504 3337

Salutation: Dear Minister Kim

3) Agency for National Security Planning

Mr KIM Deok
Director
Agency for National Security Planning
Presidential Office
The Blue House
1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Director, ANSP, Seoul, Republic of Korea

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

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Editor, Hankyoreh Daily

1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: + 822 710 0310, + 822 671 7797

Editor, Chosun Ilbo

61 Taepyongro 1-ka
Jung-ku
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: +822 724 5390

Human Rights Group:

Minkahyop
2F1, 592-7
Changsin-2-dong

Seoul, Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 November 1993.