

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 25/21/96

22 August 1996

Further information on EXTRA 134/96 (ASA 25/19/96, 20 August 1996) - Mass arrests / Fear of ill-treatment

REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA) Some 3000 students released, many still held

Although dozens more students were arrested on 21 August, some 3000 have now been released. Amnesty International received further reports of beatings and other ill-treatment before and during arrest.

At least 5,700 students were arrested between 12 and 21 August. Over 350 have been indicted on charges of violence. Several dozen have also been charged under the National Security Law which punishes pro-North Korean activities. Others are still under investigation.

The students arrested on 20 August were initially detained in two girls' schools and then taken to over 30 police stations throughout Seoul. According to reports many were denied access to their families.

Unarmed students were beaten with police batons and kicked as they were being detained on 20 and 21 August. Some female students reported being forced to stand in a line with their hands above their heads as riot policemen shouted sexual insults.

Between 12 and 20 August the authorities employed around 20,000 policemen to suppress the demonstration and used 12 helicopters to drop tear gas on the students. They blocked all exits from the university campus and refused to allow the delivery of food and medicine for injured students. President Kim Young-sam is reported to have defined the activities of *Hanchongnyon* (national federation of student councils) as a "pro-North Korean guerilla operation". The government's heavy-handed approach appears to be a means of enhancing its own public support.

While Amnesty International does not condone the use of violence by the students, it is concerned that unarmed students were beaten during arrest. It urges the authorities to ensure that all remaining detainees are protected in accordance with international standards and that those who did not use violence are released.

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

- expressing concern at reports that students were kicked and beaten by police as they were arrested on 20 and 21 August;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all those who are still detained are protected from further police ill-treatment and that they are given regular access to families, legal counsel and any necessary medical attention;
- urging the authorities to release any students held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

APPEALS TO:

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

Faxes: +822 770 0253

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

Salutation: Dear President

2) Minister of Justice

Mr Ahn Woo-man

1 Chungang-dong

Kwachon-myon

Shihung-gun

Kyonggi-do, Republic of Korea

Faxes: +822 504 3337

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

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Park Il-yong, Director

National Police Administration

209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu

Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: +822 720 2686 (via Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Telegrams: Director, National Police Administration, Seoul, South Korea

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 August 1996.