

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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**Further information on UA 237/94, ASA 25/23/94, 17 June 1994, - and follow-up:
ASA 25/34/94 of 23 November 1994 - Mass arrests/fear of ill-treatment/ Prisoner
of conscience faces possible death sentence**

South Korea:Ahn Jae-ku, aged 61, former professor of mathematics

On 30 November 1994 Ahn Jae-ku was sentenced to life imprisonment by Seoul District Criminal Court. He was reportedly convicted under the National Security Law with forming an "anti-state" organization and spreading pro-North Korean ideology among its members. During his trial Ahn Jae-ku was forced to wear handcuffs 24 hours a day and these have apparently not been removed.

The prosecution had sought a death sentence for Ahn Jae-ku who was arrested in June. Twenty two others are also being tried in connection with this case, some of whom face long prison terms.

Amnesty International believes that Ahn Jae-ku is held for the non-violent exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release. It is concerned at reports that he was ill-treated during interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP).

This is the latest in a succession of cases where Amnesty International is concerned that suspects may have been framed by the ANSP and subsequently accused of "anti-state" and "espionage" activities. The National Security Law, which forbids any unauthorized contact with North Korea, defines such activities in very broad terms and has often been used to convict people who were exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

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

- expressing concern that Ahn Jae-ku, a prisoner of conscience, has been sentenced to life imprisonment and calling for his immediate and unconditional release;
- stating Amnesty International's opposition to the permanent handcuffing of prisoners which constitutes ill-treatment if not carried out strictly in accordance with international standards limiting the use of instruments of restraint;
- expressing concern that Ahn Jae-ku and other prisoners in this case were ill-treated during questioning by the Agency for National Security Planning.

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: +822 770 0253 or +822 720 2686 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) Minister of Justice

Mr Kim Doo-hee

Minister of Justice, Ministry 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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Chief Judge

Seoul District Criminal Court

1701-1 Socho-dong, Socho-gu

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Minkahyop (human rights group)

2Fl, 592-7 Changshin-2-dong

Jongro-ku, Seoul 110-542

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 8 January 1995.