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£SOUTH KOREA

@Reported Ill-Treatment of Teachers

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Amnesty International has written to the South Korean Government to express its concern about the reported ill-treatment of members of *Chunkyojo* (Korean Teachers' and Educational Workers' Union) at Yongdungpo and Nambu Police Stations in Seoul on 3 March 1992. It is urging the authorities to conduct an immediate and impartial inquiry into the allegations, to make its findings public and to ensure that any police officers found to have ill-treated the prisoners be brought to justice.

On the morning of 2 March around 700 members of *Chunkyojo* gathered outside the headquarters of the Democratic Liberal Party in Seoul where they requested a meeting with Executive Chairman Kim Young-sam to demand the reinstatement of dismissed teachers. According to reports received by Amnesty International some 400 members of *Chunkyojo* were taken into police custody as they left the protest. All were later released but several reported that they had been ill-treated while in the custody of police at Yongdungpo and Nambu Police Stations.

Pae Choon-il, 51-year-old Vice President of *Chunkyojo*, was taken to Yongdungpo Police Station on the morning of 2 March. The following day, 3 March, he was questioned for about an hour by two police officers but refused to answer their questions. He also refused to have his fingerprints taken. In the evening of 3 March he was transferred to a police cell and seven officers tried to take his fingerprints. Pae Choon-il alleges that he was forced to lie on the floor while seven officers trod on his neck, pulled his hair, pulled his arms and legs behind him and punched him in the back and shoulder. They continued

beating him and threatening him for some 30 minutes as they attempted to take his fingerprints. One officer is alleged to have said: "Keep still or we will kill you. If you move, your head will be smashed to bits, so don't move". The incident was reportedly witnessed by seven prisoners in two adjacent cells and by Han Young-sun, another *Chunkyojo* member, who was held in the same section of the police station. On the morning of 4 March Pae Choon-il was released.

Han Young-sun, 31-year-old staff member of *Chunkyojo's* head office, was taken to Yongdungpo Police Station on the morning of 2 March. In the afternoon of 3 March she alleges that four police officers assaulted her while they tried forcibly to take her fingerprints. Four officers pulled her arms behind her back and tried to prise open her fingers. Later Han Young-sun saw several police officers assaulting Pae Choon-il. When she protested about this treatment an officer is alleged to have hit her in the face, stomach and chest while another police officer pulled her hair and hit her head against the wall and a third kicked her in the knee. After this, an officer allegedly snatched a scarf Han Young-sun was wearing and threw it onto the floor. When she tried to pick it up she was kicked over onto the floor. Han Young-sun was released from police custody on the morning of 4 March.

Cho Hee-ju, 41-year-old assistant to the General Secretary of *Chunkyojo*, was taken to Yongdungpo Police Station on the morning of 2 March where he alleges he was kicked in the thigh by a police officer. Cho Hee-ju was released on the evening of 3 March.

Kim Sang-chol, 41-year-old member of the Kyeonbuk branch of *Chunkyojo*, was taken to Nambu Police Station on the morning of 2 March. On the morning of 3 March he alleges a police officer hit him in the face while several other officers pulled his hair, dragged him down two flights of stairs and took his fingerprints by force. Later that day he was asked to write a statement and when he refused to do so he was threatened and beaten in the head and the chest until he fell unconscious. He recovered consciousness and was taken to a police cell. Kim Sang-chol was released later that evening.

Lee Jong-chon, 35-year-old member of the Chonbuk branch of *Chunkyojo*, was taken to Nambu Police Station on the morning of 2 March. On the morning of 3 March he alleges that he was hit in the chest and head by several police officers who also made him lie on the floor while they trod on his back and forced his arms behind his back. Later that day two police officers made him stand up and sit down repeatedly. Other officers blindfolded him and pulled his hair and one is alleged to have threatened him, twisted his legs and wrenched his neck. He said he was assaulted in this way three times. Lee Jong-chon was released in the evening of 3 March.

The five *Chunkyojo* members have filed official complaints with the courts against the police officers involved. Amnesty International is urging the South Korean authorities to conduct an impartial inquiry into these incidents and to ensure that any police officers found responsible for ill-treating the prisoners are brought to justice.

Chunkyojo was inaugurated in May 1989 and was immediately declared an illegal organization by the authorities. In South Korea teachers are prohibited from establishing or

joining trade unions. When it ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in April 1990 the government made a reservation to Article 22 to exclude civil servants, including teachers, from establishing and joining trade unions. Because *Chunkyojo* is regarded as illegal it does not receive the police permission required to hold demonstrations. Over the past two years several thousand teachers are reported to have been briefly detained for taking part in demonstration rallies in support of the union's aims and several of the union's leaders have been charged and convicted to short prison terms under the Law on Assemblies and Demonstrations.

ACTION REQUESTED

Please write appeals to the Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Justice and the Head of the National Police Administration at the addresses given below.

- Express concern about the alleged ill-treatment of *Chunkyojo* members at Nambu and Yongdungpo Police Stations in Seoul on 3 March 1992.

- Urge the authorities to conduct an impartial inquiry into these allegations, to make its findings public and to bring to justice any police officers found to have ill-treated the prisoners.

Addresses

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Kwachon-myon
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KEYWORDS: TEACHERS1 / TRADE UNIONISTS1 / WOMEN / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /
BANNING / MASS ARREST / DEMONSTRATIONS / POLICE / RELEASE /

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