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PUBLIC

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE: CHO SANG-NOK

Cho Sang-nok, aged 53 was arrested in January 1978 by the Agency for National Security and Planning (South Korea's intelligence service) and held for 17 days without access to a lawyer or his family. During this time he says he was subjected to electric shocks, water torture and beatings in order to force him to confess to charges of espionage. He was convicted under the National Security Law of passing "state secrets" to North Korean agents in Japan and sentenced to life imprisonment. Amnesty International believes the charges were politically motivated and that the main evidence used to convict him was his own confession, extracted under torture. In spite of many appeals by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations, the South Korean authorities have provided no concrete evidence to substantiate the charges of "espionage". He was excluded from a recent prisoner amnesty because he refused to sign an oath pledging respect for the law in South Korea (including the National Security Law). Cho Sang-nok is held in solitary confinement and is reported to be in poor mental and physical health following a series of hunger strikes staged to protest against the law-abiding oath and to demand an investigation into past human rights abuses.

Please send letters, faxes or e-mails to the South Korean President and Minister of Justice:

- ◆ State that Amnesty International believes Cho Sang-nok to be a prisoner of conscience and call for his immediate and unconditional release.
- ◆ Register concern about Cho Sang-nok's state of health and urge the government to provide him with appropriate medical treatment pending his release.
- ◆ Urge the government to investigate reports that Cho Sang-nok was tortured in police custody.
- ◆ Call for an immediate halt to human rights abuses under the National Security Law and for the Law to be amended in line with international human rights standards or abolished.

Addresses:

President Kim Dae-jung The Blue House 1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu Seoul Republic of Korea Fax: (82 2) 770 0253/0344 e-mail: webmaster@cwd.go.kr	Mr Park Sang-cheon Minister of Justice Ministry of Justice 1 Chungang-dong Kwachon City Kyonggi Province Republic of Korea Fax: (82 2) 504 3337	<i>Copies to:</i> Mr Hong Sun-yong Minister of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs 77 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu Seoul Republic of Korea Fax: (82 2) 720 2686
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Please remember to copy your letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your own country

Please also send cards or letters of support to Cho Sang-nok at the following address:

Cho Sang-nok (Prisoner No. 1310) Andong Post Office, Andong-shi
Andong Prison Kyongbuk-do 760-600
PO Box 171 Republic of Korea

