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***amnesty  
international***

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**£SOUTH KOREA**

**@Appeal for the Release of  
Chon Kyong-hee**

**FEBRUARY 1994**

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Chon Kyong-hee, 32-year-old art teacher and editor, is serving a three-year sentence under the National Security Law (NSL) for belonging to an "anti-state" organization. Amnesty International believes that Chon Kyong-hee is held for the non-violent exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association and is calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

Chon Kyong-hee was arrested in April 1992 because she belonged to *Sanomaeng* (Socialist Workers League), an organization which has been defined by the authorities as "anti-state". Under the NSL an "anti-state" organization is defined as a group "with the structure of command and control, organized for the purpose of assuming a title of the government or disturbing the state". This broad definition has been widely interpreted by the courts and often used to imprison people with left-wing views and those with views considered to be similar to those of the North Korean Government. Since 1990 over 200 *Sanomaneg* members have been arrested, around 50 of whom remain in prison today.

Amnesty International believes there is no evidence to support accusations that Chon Kyong-hee and other members of the group had planned to overthrow the state using violence, as claimed by the authorities. *Sanomaeng*, which said it sought to set up a political party, has stated its commitment to using non-violent methods of political activism.

Chon Kyong-hee is a practising Christian. She studied nutrition at university and later taught at an art college. She also worked as an editor at a publishing company specializing in social science books. It was here that she met her future husband, Baik Tae-ung, the alleged leader of *Sanomaeng* who is now serving a 15-year prison term for leading an "anti-state" organization and is also a prisoner of conscience. The couple married in July 1992 shortly after their arrest but are held in separate prisons. Chon Kyong-hee is in Chongju Prison.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: please send letters and faxes:**

- ◆ *expressing concern that Chon Kyong-hee is a prisoner of conscience, held for the non-violent exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association;*
- ◆ *calling for her immediate and unconditional release.*

**Appeals to:**

◆ President Kim Young-sam

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Chongno-gu, Seoul  
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◆ Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice

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1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun  
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◆ Mr Lee Hoi Chang, Prime Minister

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◆ and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.

**KEYWORDS:** PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / WOMEN / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / TEACHERS /  
EDITORS / RELIGIOUS GROUPS / PHOTOGRAPHS /

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