

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 330/93 Ill-treatment/possible prisoners of conscience 17 September 1993

SOUTH KOREA: KIM Sam-sok, 28
 KIM Un-ju (female), 24

Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju, brother and sister, were arrested without warrants on 8 September by the Agency for National Security Planning and held incommunicado for two days. According to family members who were subsequently permitted brief access to the prisoners they have been beaten and deprived of sleep. Amnesty International is concerned that they could be subjected to further ill-treatment and that they may be coerced into making a "confession".

Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were detained on the afternoon of 8 September but members of their family and human rights groups were unable to find out where they had been taken until the afternoon of 10 September when the Agency for National Security Planning said that they were applying for arrest warrants. These were issued by Seoul District Criminal Court at 3.00pm, two full days after the prisoners were detained.

Family members reported that the two had been deprived of sleep during interrogation and that Kim Sam-sok had been beaten. They said that the prisoners appeared to be in a trance-like state.

The two prisoners are apparently detained under the National Security law on suspicion of having contacted a Korean resident in Japan who had been accused of involvement in a 1974 "spying" case. They may face charges of espionage for North Korea. Amnesty International is concerned about the very broad definition of espionage under the National Security Law which includes all unauthorized contacts with North Korea or pro-North Korean groups. The organization is concerned that the prisoners may face long-term detention as prisoners of conscience and an unfair trial on national security charges.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kim Sam-sok is a peace and human rights advocate who has been involved in anti-nuclear and disarmament issues, and Kim Un-ju is a Catholic youth movement activist. During 1992 Kim Sam-sok worked as a staff member of the Korean Alliance of Anti-Nuclear and Peace Movements. In 1993 he became Secretary General of the Pacific War Victims Committee and in this capacity he attended the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993. Amnesty International is concerned that their arrest may be connected to their human rights activities.

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

- expressing concern that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju have been deprived of sleep and beaten and urging the authorities to ensure that they are not subjected to further ill-treatment;
- expressing concern that the two prisoners were arrested without warrants of arrest and held incommunicado for two days;
- expressing concern that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju may be prisoners of conscience and urging the authorities to either grant them their full rights, in accordance with international standards, or to release them.

APPEALS TO:

1) 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: + 822 720 2686

Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) Mr KIM Doo-hee
Minister of Justice
1 Chungang-dong
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun
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Telegrams: Justice Minister Kim, Shihung-gun, Kyongi Province, Republic of Korea

Telexes: 24757 MOJUST K

Faxes: + 822 504 3337

Salutation: Dear Minister Kim

3) Mr KIM Deok
Director
Agency for National Security Planning
Presidential Office
The Blue House
1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu
Seoul
Republic of Korea

Telegrams: Director, ANSP, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: +82 2 720 2686 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Editor, Hankyoreh Daily
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Human Rights Group:

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2F1, 592-7

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Seoul, 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 30 October 1993.