EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 330/93 (ASA 25/35/93, 17 September 1993) - Ill-treatment/possible prisoners of conscience

South Korea:KIM Sam-sok, 28

KIM Un-ju (female), 24

According to his lawyer, Kim Sam-sok tried to commit suicide on 20 September by hitting his head against a wall to the point where he lost consciousness. He was apparently traumatised by his interrogation and ill-treatment and said that he had been forced to admit to things he had not done. After he regained consciousness, he was again interrogated and threatened by a group of some 15 officials.

Kim Sam-sok's wife was permitted to visit him on 21 September. She reported that his neck was in a cast, his head was swollen and his face was badly bruised. He was unable to sit down because of a back injury.

Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that Kim Un-ju may have been forced under interrogation to make a confession.

Since 8 September Kim Sam-sok and his sister Kim Un-ju have been under interrogation by the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP). They have been subjected to sleep deprivation and beatings. They are reportedly suspected of contacting a Korean resident of Japan who was allegedly involved in a 1974 "spying" case. The National Security Law gives a broad definition to "spying" which includes all unauthorized contacts with North Korea or pro-North Korean groups. Amnesty International is concerned that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju may face long prison terms as prisoners of conscience.

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

- urging the authorities to immediately transfer Kim Sam-sok to hospital and to suspend his interrogation until his state of health has been determined by medical doctors independent of the ANSP;
- expressing concern at reports that Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were forced to make confessions under torture and ill-treatment and that these confessions may be used to sentence them to long prison terms on national security charges. urging the authorities to investigate publicly the circumstances in which Kim Sam-sok and Kim Un-ju were interrogated and to ensure that no further ill-treatment takes place;

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: + 822 720 2686 Salutation: Dear President Kim

page 2 of FU to UA 330/93

2) Minister of Justice

Mr KIM Doo-hee

Minister 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

3) Agency for National Security Planning

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, <u>Hankyoreh Daily</u> 1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga Seoul, Republic of Korea

Faxes: + 822 710 0310, + 822 671 7797

Editor, Chosun Ilbo 61 Taepyongro 1-ka

Jung-ku

Seoul, Republic of Korea Faxes: +822 724 5390

Human Rights Group:

Minkahyop 2Fl, 592-7

Changsin-2-dong

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 5 November 1993.