

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 24/09/95

2 October 1995

Further information (1) UA 211/95 (ASA 24/07/95, 5 September 1995) -
Unacknowledged Detention / Fear for Safety / Health Concern

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK, North Korea)

Hwang Sung Kuk, aged 20

Hwang Sung San, aged 18

Hwang Sung Chon, aged 16

Amnesty International has received a response from the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, dated 1 October 1995, concerning the cases of Hwang Sung Kuk and his brothers. In the letter, the DPRK Government claims that the Hwang brothers were never detained in the DPRK. It also states that the brothers were not "forcibly returned" to North Korea but were deported by the authorities of the People's Republic of China on charges of having crossed the Chinese border illegally. The letter also informs Amnesty International that DPRK officials are currently engaged in negotiations with Chinese officials concerning the return of the Hwang brothers to China.

The DPRK Government has asked Amnesty International to convey to its members the following information concerning the case of Hwang Song Kuk, Hwang Song San and Hwang Song Chon:

"True Situation of Hwang Song Guk and His Brothers

Quite contrary to the Amnesty International's concern, Hwang Song Guk, Hwang Song Sam and Hwang Song Chol were not "forcibly taken" but transferred to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for their illegal action and are not "detained" but now live in their relative's house.

Following is the true situation of Hwang Song Guk and his brothers;

Hwang Song Guk, Hwang Song Sam and Hwang Song Chol were borne by Hwang Ryong Su, Chinese father who once lived in DPRK and Pang Ok Hui, Korean mother. They grew up in Jongju City, North Pyongan Province and received education there.

When they were born, they were registered on their mother's citizen certificate in accordance with the Nationality Law of DPRK and they held Korean nationality.

However, while they were growing, they wanted to have Chinese nationality following their father's nationality.

Accordingly, in August 1990, they had their Korean nationality cancelled and submitted for Chinese nationality to the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in DPRK.

They illegally crossed the border to China in May 1993 together with their mother, following their father who was living in Beijing since March 1992.

On 22 May 1995, the Chinese side charged the three brothers with their illegal border crossing and transferred them to the Korean side.

In consideration of the fact that they are already no longer Korean nationality and they do not have their parents nor house to protect them in Korea and also they hope to live in China, the organ concerned in DPRK had already been negotiating with its counterpart in China on sending them back to China, with the purpose of solving the issue in a humanitarian manner.

They now live in the house of Hwang Ryong Do (46, working in the fruit farm of Jongju City), cousin of their father...(address follows)"

Amnesty International welcomes the response of the DPRK Government and its efforts to arrange the return of the three brothers to the People's Republic of China. However, the organization remains concerned about the the brothers' fate in the absence of confirmed reports that they have returned to China. Amnesty International is asking that the DPRK authorities keep the organization informed of any developments in the case of the three brothers. The organization hopes the three brothers will be able to return to China in the near future to join their family.

The International Secretariat will be conveying the above concerns to the DPRK authorities. Members are asked not to write further letters, except brief notes thanking the authorities for providing information on the case.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send brief faxes/letters in English, Korean or in your own language:

- welcoming the response from the DPRK authorities and the efforts made by the DPRK authorities to arrange for the return of the brothers to the People's Republic of China.

LETTERS TO:

1) Mr Pak Dok Hun

Counsellor

The Office of the Permanent Mission of the DPRK to the UN

1 Chemin de Plonjou

1207 Geneva

Switzerland

Faxes: +41 22 786 0662

Salutation: Dear Counsellor

2) Mr Pak Gil Yon

DPRK Permanent Representative to the UN

515 East 72nd Street, 38-F,

New York

NY 10021, USA

Faxes: +1 212 772 0735

Salutation: Dear Mr Dak Gil Yon

COPIES TO:

Professor Sim Hyong Il

President

Institute for the research of human rights

PO Box 49

Pyongyang

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of Democratic People's Republic of Korea accredited to your country.