

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/17/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 137/93 Prisoner of conscience/Fear of ill-treatment

27 April 1993

---

Republic of Korea (South Korea): HWANG Suk-yong

Hwang Suk-yong, a 50 year-old writer from South Korea, was arrested on 27 April 1993 at Seoul Airport by officials of the Agency for National Security Planning (ANSP). He is accused of having visited North Korea in 1989. Amnesty International believes that Hwang Suk-yong is a prisoner of conscience and that he is at serious risk of ill-treatment.

In March 1989, Hwang Suk-yong travelled to North Korea. He met there with two other South Koreans, Rev. Moon Ik-hwan, and businessman Yu Won-ho. He subsequently went into self-imposed exile to avoid arrest in South Korea, where the National Security Law has been used to imprison people who have contacts with North Korea.

Hwang was arrested at 4:30 pm on 27 April upon his return to Seoul from the USA. He was unable to meet with friends and relatives, including his two sons, who had come to the airport to welcome him. His current place of detention is not known but is believed to be the headquarters of the ANSP in Seoul. Hwang is at risk of being ill-treated during interrogation.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Hwang Suk-yong is a long-standing peaceful advocate of contacts between North and South Korea. The South Korean authorities stated after his trip to North Korea in 1989 that he would be arrested upon his return to Seoul. For that reason, Hwang remained in self-imposed exile.

Both Rev. Moon Ik-hwan and Yu Won-ho were imprisoned after they returned to Seoul from North Korea. They have both recently been released.

The ANSP has wide-ranging powers to arrest and question people suspected of breaching the National Security Law. Amnesty International believes that there is a continuing pattern of ill-treatment of detainees in ANSP custody, who are often deprived of sleep and beaten.

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

- expressing concern that Hwang Suk-yong was arrested on 27 April 1993 at Seoul Airport by officials of the ANSP;

- requesting that Hwang Suk-yong, a prisoner of conscience, be released immediately and unconditionally;

- urging that immediate steps be taken to ensure that Hwang is free from any form of ill-treatment while detained.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President Kim Young-sam  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-no  
Chongno-gu, Seoul  
Republic of Korea

**Telegrams: President Kim Young-sam, Seoul, Republic of Korea**  
**Telexes: 24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K**  
**Faxes : + 822 720 2686 (Please forward to President Kim Young-sam)**

**Salutation: Dear President Kim**

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

**Telegrams: Mr Kim Deok, ANSP, Seoul, Republic of Korea**  
**Telexes: 24651 or 24652 or 24653 WOIMUBU K**  
**Faxes : + 822 720 2686 (Please forward to Mr Kim Deok)**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

3) Mr KIM Doo-hee  
Minister of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwachon-myon  
Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea

**Telegrams: Minister of Justice Kim, Shihung-gun, Republic of Korea**  
**Telexes: 24757 MOJUST K**  
**Faxes: + 822 504 3337**

**Salutation: Dear Minister Kim**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

The following newspapers:

1) Mr Im Jae-kyung, Editor  
Hankyoreh Daily  
1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
**Faxes: + 822 710 0310,**  
**+ 822 671 7797**

2) Editor, The Korea Times  
14 Chung Hak Dong  
Chong-ro Gu  
Seoul  
Republic of Korea  
**Faxes: + 822 732 4125**

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 8 June 1993.