

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 25/13/91  
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8 May 1991

Further information on UA 58/91 (ASA 25/02/91, 18 February 1991) - Union Leaders Arrested and (new concern) Death of Prisoner of Conscience

SOUTH KOREA: PARK Chang-soo

LEE Eun-ku  
CHUNG Yoon-kwang  
LEE Chul-kyu  
SON Jong-kyu  
YOON Myung-won  
HONG Young-pyo

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On Monday 6 May prisoner of conscience Park Chang-soo died after reportedly jumping from the window of Anyang Hospital. Park Chang-soo was one of seven union leaders arrested on 9 February and charged under the Labour Dispute Mediation Law which prohibits third party interference in labour disputes. The seven were adopted as prisoners of conscience.

Park Chang-soo is reported to have jumped from the window of Anyang Hospital in order to protest against the death of a 20-year-old student, Kang Kyung-dae, who was reportedly beaten to death with iron rods by riot police during a student demonstration on 26 April. Five riot policemen belonging to the Paegoldan (Skeleton Corps) have been arrested and charged with the murder of Kang Kyung-dae. President Roh Tae-woo has made a public apology for the incident and replaced the Minister of Home Affairs. There have been numerous demonstrations protesting against the death of Kang Kyung-dae during which two students and one ex-student burnt themselves to death. One other student is in hospital after setting herself alight.

Park Chang-soo was apparently in Anyang Hospital at the time. He had been transferred to the hospital from prison because of head injuries he had sustained during a prison football match. He is also reported to have gone on on hunger-strike in protest at Kang Kyung-dae's death. According to press reports, on the morning of 6 April he had asked to leave the room to go to the toilet and shortly afterwards his body was found in the hospital yard.

Amnesty International does not have any more information about the death of Park Chang-soo. Dissident groups and trade unionists are reported as having suggested that there may have been suspicious circumstances surrounding his death and they would not let the police remove his body

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from the hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination in case they "fabricated" the cause of death. Several hundred protesters guarded the body and on 7 May riot police broke through into the hospital mortuary and seized the body which they said would be taken away for post mortem examination. Following this there was a struggle between protesters and the police during which about 100 people were arrested. Park Chang-soo's mother and his widow were reported to have been dragged away by riot police.

Amnesty International has no further information about the other six prisoners named on the original UA 58/91.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters (no more than 20 per section)**

- expressing deep regret at the death of Park Chang-soo who had been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience;

- saying that in view of the conflicting reports about the death of Park Chang-soo the government should conduct a full and impartial investigation into his death and make its findings publicly available.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr Lee Jong-nam  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
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**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Korea in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 19 June 1991.