

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 78/94 (ASA 25/12/94, 1 March 1994) - Mass Arrests/Fear of Ill-Treatment/Legal Concern

SOUTH KOREA:Hwang Seung-hyun

Lee Sang-yeop (f)
Lee Yoon-jung (f)
Jang Gee-bum
Kim Mee-kyung (f)
Lee Kwon-seop

Amnesty International has received reports that another six members and supporters of the singing troupe *Heemangsae* were arrested on 24 March in Seoul.

They were arrested after participating in a peaceful rally to demand the release of five other *Heemangsae* members detained on 21 and 22 February, apparently suspected of planning to stage a musical based on a book which the authorities said praised North Korea. Amnesty International is concerned that the six detainees may face ill-treatment during police interrogation.

The six detainees were arrested in the afternoon of 24 March by about 15 plainclothes police officers who produced no warrant of arrest. They were taken to the Security Division of the Seoul Police Headquarters. They were not permitted to see a lawyer until late that night. According to the lawyer, the detainees still did not know the exact charges against them after several hours in detention.

Political detainees in South Korea are routinely deprived of sleep for long periods in the days following their arrest, during which confessions may be extracted under duress. Amnesty International is concerned that they appear to be prisoners of conscience, held solely for the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and association.

Amnesty International is also concerned that the current state of tension in the Korean Peninsula may be used by security forces in South Korea to detain members of the domestic political opposition.

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

- urging the South Korean authorities to ensure that all the detainees are protected from torture and ill-treatment in custody, given access to relatives and allowed private meetings with lawyers in full accordance with international standards;
- urging the authorities to release all six detainees, if they are not charged promptly with recognizably criminal offences;
- urging the authorities to account publicly for the situation and charges against those detained in mass arrest since February 1994.

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 0253
Salutation: Dear President Kim

2) 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) Mr Kim Hwa-nam
Director
National Police Administration
209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Telegrams: Director, National Police Administration, 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
1-2 Yangpyeong-dong 2-ga
Seoul, Republic of Korea
Faxes: + 822 710 0310, + 822 671 7797

Human Rights Group:
Minkahyop
2F1, 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 6 May 1994.