

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 25/23/95

6 October 1995

Further information (2) on UA 193/95 (ASA 25/18/95, 2 August 1995) and follow-up (ASA 25/19/95, 1 September 1995) - Health Concern / Fear of Ill-treatment / Prisoner of Conscience

REPUBLIC OF KOREA (South Korea) Park Yong-gil (f), aged 76

Park Yong-gil, aged 76, is currently held in Seoul Detention Centre. She is suffering from heart disease and diabetes. Amnesty International continues to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Park Yong-gil. The organization is concerned at reports that she is in very poor health and that she is not receiving adequate medical attention.

On 7 September, Park Yong-gil was transferred to Samsung Medical Centre in Seoul where she was diagnosed as suffering from heart disease and diabetes. Against the advice of her doctors, she was sent back to Seoul Detention Centre on 22 September. Since then her health has reportedly deteriorated and she is being given an inappropriate diet for her illness.

On 6 September Park Yong-gil was charged under the National Security Law. If convicted she faces a maximum ten-year sentence.

FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Park Yong-gil was arrested on 31 July 1995 and charged under the National Security Law for making an unauthorized visit to the Democratic People's republic of Korea (North Korea). Amnesty International adopted her as a prisoner of conscience, held for the non-violent exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association. Several other prisoners are serving long prison terms under the National Security Law for making unauthorized visits to North Korea. On 3 October, two students were arrested as they returned from an unauthorized visit to the North and were also adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience.

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

- expressing continued concern about Park Yong-gil's health and reports that she is receiving inadequate medical attention in prison;
- urging the authorities to ensure that she receives adequate medical attention and appropriate medical treatment;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Park Yong-gil.

APPEALS TO:

1) President Kim Young-sam

The Blue House

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Chongno-gu, Seoul

Republic of Korea

Faxes: +822 770 0253

Telegrams: President Kim Young-sam, Seoul, South Korea

Salutation: Dear President

2) Minister of Justice

2

Mr Ahn Woo-man
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Kyonggi Province
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Telegrams: Justice Minister Ahn
Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, South Korea
Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Director, Seoul Detention Centre
San 18-11, Poildong
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Republic of Korea
Telegrams: Director Seoul Detention Centre, Seoul, South Korea
Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

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Republic of Korea

and to diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Korea (South Korea)
accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 November 1995.