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£SOUTH KOREA

@Appeal for the release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung

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Amnesty International is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung, Chairman and Executive Committee member of the dissident organization *National Alliance for Democracy and Unification of Korea* (*NADUK, Chonkukyonhap*). The two men were arrested on 9 August under the National Security Law for their allegedly pro-North Korean activities. Amnesty International believes they are the victims of a recent crackdown on progressive and leftist activities in South Korea which has led to dozens of arrests under the National Security Law.

Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung are accused of supporting North Korea's reunification ideas at a rally in March and for expressing sympathy for North Korea following the death of Kim Il Sung. They face charges under the National Security Law which prohibits activities deemed to "praise", "encourage" and "side with" North Korea, on penalty of imprisonment. Supporters believe that they were also arrested to prevent them from helping to organize a pro-reunification rally in Seoul on 15 August, the anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

Since July dozens of students and dissidents have been arrested for attempting to mourn or express sympathy at the death of Kim Il Sung, leading to a crackdown on leftist and progressive expression in South Korea. Amnesty International is concerned that many people appear to have been arrested for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. (See Amnesty International documents: ASA 25/25/94, *Death of Kim Il Sung leads to Arrests in South Korea*, issued on 20 July and ASA 25/26/94, *Professors Targeted in Latest National Security Law Crackdown*, issued on 10 August).

Several provisions of National Security Law violate the rights to freedom of expression and association, rights which are guaranteed by international human rights standards to which the South Korean Government have publicly committed themselves. Amnesty International has expressed concern that the current tense situation on the Korean peninsula should not be used as justification for curbing these fundamental rights.

Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung are long-time advocates of peaceful reunification and were adopted as prisoners of conscience during former terms of imprisonment. Lee Chang-bok, aged 56, has worked as Chairman of the Korean Catholic Working Youth and Vice-Chairman of the Social Mission of Korean Churches. Since 1989 he has been a leader of the NADUK. He was imprisoned from 1991 to 1993 under the National Security Law for establishing the South Korean branch of the Pan-National Alliance for Reunification (*Pomminnyon*). Hwang In-sung, aged 42, has worked as a leader of the Korean Student Christian Federation and the Korea Christian Coalition for Democracy and Reunification and has been a leader of the NADUK since 1992. He was also arrested and imprisoned in 1991 for his involvement with *Pomminnyon*.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send letters and faxes to the South Korean Government:

- ◆ *Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Lee Chang-bok and Hwang In-sung, arrested for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association;*
- ◆ *expressing concern about the recent arrests of many leftist students and dissidents for alleged pro-North Korean activities, some of whom are prisoners of conscience held for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.*

Appeals to:

◆ *President Kim Youngsam*

*The Blue House
1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu, Seoul
Republic of Korea Fax: +822 770 0253*

◆ *Mr Kim Doo-hee, Minister of Justice*

*Ministry of Justice
1 Chungang-dong
Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province
Republic of Korea Fax: +822 504 3337*

◆ *Mr Kim Hwa-nam, Director*

*National Police Administration
209 Mi Kun-dong, Sudaemoon-gu
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Fax: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs +822 720 2686*

- ◆ *and to diplomatic representatives of South Korea in your country.*

This appeal is being sent to Korea coordinators and South Korea Action File groups

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / RELIGIOUS GROUPS - CATHOLIC
/ LEGISLATION /

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