

I am writing this to express my grave concern on four South Korean people detained by North Korean including Joo Won-moon who is at risk of a long prison sentence and possibly torture and other ill-treatment after having been authorities in April. The other three other men are Kim Jung-wook (age 51) and Kim Kuk-gi (age 61), who are both missionaries, and a businessman, Choe Chun-gil (age 56). They have all been given life sentences. The North Korean authorities have not released any information about the content of any trials or the evidence presented.

I therefore call on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Joo Woo-moon, Kim Jung-wook, Kim Kuk-gi and Choe Chun-gil, unless they are charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offense and tried in proceedings which meet international fair trial standards, without recourse to the death penalty .

I also urge the authorities to ensure that pending their release, Joo Woo-moon, Kim Jung-wook, Kim Kuk-gi and Choe Chun-gil have regular, unrestricted access to their lawyers, families, and South Korean authorities, have access to any medical treatment they may require, and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

Your prompt attention would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,