

I am writing to express my grave concern on Park Rae-goon and Kim Hye-jin, human rights defenders who are at risk of being imprisoned for their role in protests calling for justice for the victims of the Sewol ferry accident and their families. Their trial began on 14 October, with a sentence expected in December.

I am therefore urging the authorities to drop all the charges against Park Rae-goon and Kim Hye-jin.

I am also calling on them to ensure the people are able to peacefully exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Would you also ensure that all human rights defenders are allowed to carry out their peaceful activities without fear of arbitrary detention, harassment, intimidation or other human rights violations in line with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders?

Your attention on these matters would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,