

I am writing to express my deep concern that Ms. Kim Hye-young, a woman in South Korea with thyroid cancer, has been sentenced to a two-year prison term for taking part in a peaceful demonstration. Kim has developed mental health problems while in detention. Authorities have continued to refuse her treatment outside the detention facility.

I am therefore urging the authorities to drop their charges, and immediately and unconditionally release Kim Hye-young and other members of CAIRD, who were only legitimately expressing their rights to the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

I am also urging them to immediately allow Kim Hye-young access to adequate care and treatment outside the detention facility, without unnecessary interference, pending her release.

I am lastly calling on them to stop the arbitrary use of the National Security Law and ensure that freedom of expression, opinion and association are fully respected, protected and fulfilled.

Sincerely yours,