



From Amnesty International, Connection e.V., War Resisters' International and World Without War

To: General Han Min-Koo 한민구, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Korea

## **To be a conscientious objector is not a crime**

Dear Minister,

I am calling for your attention regarding conscientious objectors who are jailed for objecting to military conscription for reasons of conscience.

Refusing to perform military service for reasons of conscience or profound personal conviction, without suffering any legal or other penalty is part of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, found in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which South Korea is a state party, as well as in Articles 19 and 20 of the Constitution of South Korea.

I therefore sincerely urge you to undertake measures to ensure that the South Korean Government will:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release all individuals imprisoned solely for exercising their right to refuse to perform military service in absence of a genuinely civilian alternative, and refrain from imprisoning conscientious objectors in the future;
2. Recognize the right to conscientious objection to military service as a human right inherent to the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
3. Make appropriate provisions for conscientious objectors to military service;
4. Clear the criminal records and provide adequate compensation for conscientious objectors in South Korea who have been imprisoned for refusing military service by reason of their conscientiously held beliefs.

Thank you for your consideration,

NAME	CITY	SIGNATURE

This petition should be returned to War Resisters' International at **5 Caledonian Road, London, Britain, N1 9DX**, or a scan can emailed to us at [hannah@wri-irg.org](mailto:hannah@wri-irg.org) by Monday 16th November 2015, in order to be submitted to the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Korea on 1st December 2015 (Prisoners for Peace Day).

On behalf of Amnesty International, Connection e.V., War Resisters' International and World Without War.