



MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society

5F, Sinjeong B/D, 1555-3, Seocho-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, P.O. 137-070
Tel (82 2) 522 7284 Fax (82 2) 522 7285 <http://minbyun.jinbo.net> m321@chollian.net

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

**Oral Statement delivered by Mr. Seok Kim
on behalf of MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society, as part of
the Item 6: Universal Periodic Review (Republic of Korea)
Geneva, 12 JUN, 2008**

Mr. President,

The Working Group's report of the UPR on Republic of Korea pointed out that the National Security Law has been arbitrarily limiting the freedom of expression and association and recommended abolishment of the law several times. The Korean government responded that the National Security Law was applied deliberately not to overuse, which is not true.

There are number of examples that the Government abused the Law. The Korean police censored certain websites and ordered to delete certain contents and indicted operators of the websites because they contained information breaching the National Security Law without the Court order. As an example, one of the internet bookstores, Mirbook, was prosecuted for selling social science books including 'The Capital (Das Kapital)' and 'Revolutionary History of Russia' because Mirbook possessed and sold books benefiting North Korea.

Also, a photographer, Mr. Siwoo Lee, was indicted and detained because he photographed the cease-fire line between two Koreas and the US army camps in South Korea. The National Intelligence Service attempted to manipulate the case of Mr. Minho Jang as well. He was under indictment and detention for the infringement of the National Security Law. The National Intelligence Service threatened Mr. Jang and made him a spy sent by the North Korea.

Even though the problems of the National Security Law have been pointed out several times in the UPR Working Group's report, the South Korean Government has not shown itself to be willing to abolish the National Security Law. Therefore, we strongly urge the South Korean government to follow the recommendation of the UPR Working Group and abolish the National Security Law as earliest as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President.