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KOREAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

June 19, 1987

Robert F. Kennedy Memorial
Human Rights Award
1031 31st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is to explain why the enclosed letter from Mr. Kim Dae Jung does not bear his signature. As you may very well know, Mr. Kim has been under house detention since April 10. Mail is completely cut off, and the only way Mr. Kim communicates with us is over the telephone.

Mr. Kim has instructed us to submit on his behalf his nomination of Mr. and Mrs. Kim Keun Tae. You can verify this, if you feel the need by calling him directly. His number in Korea is 82-2-322-0251.

If you require more information, please feel free to callus.

Sincerely yours,

Choi Sung-il
Executive Director

Enclosure.



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1031 31st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Sir/Madam:

I feel privileged to nominate Mr. Kim, Keun Tae and his wife Ms. Inn, Jae Keun for the 1987 Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Human Rights Award.

For more than ten years, Mr. and Mrs. Kim have been courageously and tirelessly at the front of the struggle for democracy and human rights in Korea.

While he was a student at Seoul National University from 1965 to 1972, Mr. Kim Keun Tae began to work for the rights of the workers. For his devotion to the rights of the over-worked and under-paid workers, he became a target of persecution by the Korean government, and was imprisoned seven times between 1965 and 1983.

In September, 1983, he founded the Youth Alliance for the Democratic Movement (YADM) for the purpose of organizing and systemizing young people's effort to promote human rights and democracy. He served as its first and second chairperson and, under his leadership, the YADM quickly emerged as a most important nationwide network for students and workers whose lives were dedicated to the democratic movement.

On September 4, 1986, Mr. Kim was taken into the anti-Communist bureau of the National Police Headquarters, where Mr. Park Jong-Chul was tortured to death earlier this year. At the bureau, he was subjected to water and electric torture for more than two weeks. At his trial, he courageously exposed the grizzly details of torture, which was the first time anyone had the courage to step forward to verify what had been suspected all along, i.e., torture was routinely perpetrated by the Korean authorities. His statement at the trial brought torture into full public awareness.

Currently, Mr. Kim is serving a five-year term at the Kyungjoo Prison, although he testified that he was tortured to make false confessions. His mental and physical health is known to be declining as the aftermaths of severe torture.


KIM DAE-JUNG
PRESIDENTIAL
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In fact, in September, 1986, 54 Members of Congress signed a dear colleague letter initiated by Congressman Ed Feighan, expressing concern for Mr. Kim's prison conditions. At the time, he was incarcerated in a small cell, which was so small that he could not even stretch his legs.

Ms. Inn has also dedicated her life to the rights of the workers, and had worked from 1977 to 1982 worked with Mr. Kim as a counselor for the Urban Industrial Mission and the Catholic Youth Labor Association.

Since December 12, 1985, she has worked as the executive director of the Association of Families for Democratization, which consists of the families of political prisoners.

Recognizing their commitment and contributions to human rights and democracy in Korea will be not only an honor for Mr. and Mrs. Kim Keun Tae but also an expression of support and encouragement for more than 3,000 prisoners of conscience and the Korean people.

Sincerely yours,

Kim Dae Jung