

URGENT ACTION

SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL MR YU X RELEASED

North Korean authorities released South Korean national **Yu X** (his full name is deleted for safety reasons) on 13 August 2009, after nearly five months in detention. Yu X is an employee of Hyundai Asan Corporation and his release followed a visit by Hyundai Asan Chairperson Hyun Jeong-eun to Pyongyang on 10 August.

Yu X was arrested on 30 March at the Kaeseong Industrial Complex in North Korea, where he was working. Yu X was detained for criticizing North Korea's government and trying to persuade a woman from North Korea to leave her country and go to South Korea. He was held incommunicado since then. Amnesty International issued a UA on 26 June 2009 (AI Index: 24/009/2009; UA 168/09) expressing concern that his incommunicado detention put him in risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Yu X's release follows the release of two American journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee on 5 August 2009 after former U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to North Korea where he met Kim Jong-il. North Korean agents arrested the two journalists on 17 March 2009 near the Tumen River, which forms North Korea's border with China. On 8 June, the two journalists were convicted of an unspecified "grave crime" against the nation and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals on his behalf. No further action is requested by members.

This is the first update of UA 168/09.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL MR YU X RELEASED

Further Information on UA: 168/09 Index: ASA 24/010/2009 Issue Date: 13 August

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

