

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

AI Index: ASA 25/005/2002 (Public)
News Service No: 73
24 April 2002

South Korea: Prevention of Terrorism Bill does not safeguard human rights

Amnesty International today issued a report raising concerns about South Korea's Terrorism Prevention Bill which is being discussed and put to vote in the National Assembly this month.

The Bill was introduced in response to September 11 and to protect the country from possible terrorist attacks in the run-up to 2002 Football World Cup.

However its provisions are clearly open to abuse by law enforcement officials. There is greater risk of human rights violations and the provisions could expand the powers of the National Intelligence Service, an agency which has a record for abuse of human rights.

Further concerns are that the Bill will extend the use of the death penalty and deny asylum seekers their right to be granted a fair and satisfactory appeals procedure.

The report urges the government to take note of the National Human Rights Commission's conclusion that anti-terrorism measures already exist in law, and that the Bill is not necessary.

For a copy of the report "Terrorism Prevention Bill: granting greater scope for increased human rights violations" contact rnarayan@amnesty.org

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