



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISITS NORTH KOREA

An Amnesty International delegation was told in April and May 1995 during its visit to North Korea that there are three “rehabilitation centres” (prisons) in North Korea. The delegation visited the “rehabilitation centre” near Sariwon, capital of North Hwanghae Province and discussed disciplinary measures, complaints procedures and other matters relating to the inmates with the commander and other officials in the centre.

Amnesty International was told the three “rehabilitation centres” hold a total of 800 to 1,000 inmates. These include some 240 people held for “anti-state” activities. The authorities stated that all “anti-state” offenders are held in Hyongsan re-education centre in the capital Pyongyang and that there is no place of detention for convicted prisoners in North Korea other than the three centres named to Amnesty International.

The North Korean authorities told the Amnesty International delegation that there is very little crime in the country and that “social re-education” is applied in the cases of most criminal offences rather than criminal procedures. The authorities also stated that the death penalty is very rarely used.

However, the delegation was not able to carry out any independent research during the visit.

The North Korean authorities also told the Amnesty International delegation that they have no knowledge of any place of detention in Sungho Township.