Petition in behalf of Lim Taehoon, Gay, Peace and Human Rights Activist in South Korea

Ms Kang Kum-sil
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Ministry of Defence
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Dear Minister,

I was extremely concerned to learn of the arrest on 26 February 2004 of

Lim Taehoon

Lim Taehoon is being detained because he is refusing to perform military service due to his convictions of non-violence and peace. He is therefore a prisoner of conscience, detained for the peaceful exercise of his rights.

While he is in detention, please take steps to ensure that Lim Taehoon is neither tortured nor ill treated, either by law enforcement officials or by other prisoners

I also ask that you undertake moves to expand the alternative to military service to include all those who object to serving in the military due to their conscience, belief and faith.

Lim Taehoon’s case further highlights the practice of discriminating against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals or transgender people by labelling them as having a ‘personality disorder’ or a ‘behavioural disability’. This runs counter to the International Bill of Human Rights, according to which everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, is guaranteed the fullest enjoyment of their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights.

Please inform me of the steps you take and any outcomes that result.

Yours sincerely,

(Name, Adresse, Datum, Unterschrift)
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Please send copies of your appeals to:

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Fax: + 82 2 2125 9811  
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