

Foreign News

International Human Rights Reports point out Rep. Lee's conviction

▣▣▣ Annual Report 2015/2016 by AMNESTY International

Amnesty International issued its annual report indicating current 160 countries' human rights conditions in February, 24, 2016. In its annual report for 2015/16, Amnesty International indicated "the authorities continued to restrict the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly."

It also informed "detentions and prosecutions under the National Security Law (NSL) were used to intimidate and imprison people exercising their right to freedom of expression. The government broadened the application of the NSL to include new categories and additional groups of individuals such as politicians, serving parliamentarians and foreign nationals" by citing the conviction to Rep. Lee Seok-ki and six other members of the UPP as a specific incident of violation of freedom of expression.

□■✔Human Rights Report by the U.S. Department of state

The U.S. department of state issued each country human rights report in April, 13, 2016. It mainly deals with the National Security Law in South Korea, which is continuously referred to be abolished by the UN. The report says the primary human rights problems are government interpretation of the National Security Law.

Ordinary, the government observes the law. However, the government of Korea is granted the power to detain, arrest, and imprison persons who are believed to have committed acts intended to endanger the security of the state in terms of punishing under the National Security Law. Thus, the report says that foreign as well as domestic non-governmental organizations have continuously suggested the National Security Law abolished and reformed

In particular, the report states “In December 2014, the Constitutional Court disbanded the Unified Progressive Party (UPP) because of its pro-North Korea stance in a case brought under the NSL. The decision was the first disbandment of a political party by judicial or administrative order since the country adopted its first constitution in 1948. The government also brought NSL charges against individual members of the UPP. In January, the Supreme Court upheld UPP member Lee Seok-ki’s conviction and nine-year sentence on charges of instigating a rebellion and violating the National Security Law. Lee’s conviction also prevents him from voting or running for public office. “

The UN has advised the government of South Korea to abolish the National Security Law. It raised the questions “whether it, controlling and punishing expression and thoughts of nationals, could be a normal and true nation or not. Even though the nation that ignores the opinion of the minority cannot be compatible with the democracy, our society has considered the NSL. The civil societies and international organizations have told that the abolishment of the NSL is becoming not the socialism but the liberal democracy. But, the government of South Korea doesn’t respond. “

Korean News

International Presses,

“President Park: A leader suppressing the freedom of expression”

□■▶ **BBC “During the National Election in Korea,**

the ruling party (Saenuri-dang) failed to secure the majority of seats.”

After the National Election in Korea, BBC news indicated the reason of failure of the ruling party was rising discontent about President Park. It said “unhappiness at what opponents of the government see as a heavier hand against dissidents and protesters. A left-wing opposition party was banned and its leaders arrested for their alleged sympathies with North Korea.

□■▶ **New York Times, “the lame-duck of President Park will be continued due to the failure to secure the majority of seats in the National Election in Korea.”**

“Ms. Park, a daughter of Park Chung-hee, South Korea’s military dictator from 1961 to 1979, has emerged as a highly divisive leader. The vote’s outcome appeared to be a rejection of her style of governance, analysts said. Since taking office in early 2013, she has branded herself a tough-minded leader dedicated to national security. Her approval ratings hovered above 40 percent. They hailed her uncompromising stance against North Korea’s nuclear weapons development, exemplified by her recent decision to shut down a factory park the South had jointly run with the North. But many South Koreans also view her as a leader who suppresses freedom of speech and dissent within her government.”

□■▶ Liberation,

“Shrinking culture and art caused by the government censorship”

French daily newspaper ‘Liberation’ reported the problems in the area of culture and art in Korea, in April 18. It adduces exclusion of some artists in the Busan International Film Festival and the Gwang-ju Biennale. It also considered the result due to the government censorship. - Eva John(Correspondent of Seoul) 『South Korea : the Freedom of Expression in the dark』

English version of the website opened!

Korean Committee for Saving Victims of Lawmaker Lee Seok Ki Rebellion Conspiracy Case newly opened its English website (<http://en.savelee.kr>) Moreover, we opened instagram account (www.instagram.com/freedom2lee) and Facebook account (www.facebook.com/Freedom2Lee)

Please visit the website for detailed information.

Join the Committee!

You can be the member of our committee by submitting your information in the Website.

And it is our baking account. We need your help and support.

Kukmin Bank(국민은행): 292501-01-212646 Jung Jin Woo(정진주 구명위)