Declaration on the Oh Kil-Nam affair by the Managing Committee of the *International Isang Yun Society*

For some time now, Isang Yun has become the target of heavy accusations by Korean-language media and on campaigners' banners. The *International Isang Yun Society* feels the urgent need to take a stand on this.

The root cause of the trouble is the so-called Oh-affair: The Southkorean economist Oh Kil-Nam, then resident in West-Germany, in 1985 had moved to North Korea of his own free will, taking along his wife and two daughters, aiming to build up a new livelihood there. Due to the permanent indoctrination, he was disillusioned and made off back to West-Germany via Copenhagen. Mr. Oh is now calling public attention to the fate of his family which had to remain in North Korea. So far all his efforts to reunite have failed.

Since his return to South Korea in May 1992 he has been claiming, that Isang Yun had talked him round into moving to North Korea. This is a false accusation, presumably brought up by political circles bent on defaming Isang Yun as an agent of North Korea.

The *International Isang Yun Society* points out, that already in May 1992, Isang Yun has convincingly rejected this accusation. He stated, that he got to know Mr. Oh personally only after his escape from North Korea, and then tried to help him in the following years.

Isang Yun always has made great efforts to further dialogue between all of his fellow countrymen. His name must not be misused for the ends of domestic political campaigns.

We therefore draw your attention to Yun's own statement made in 1992, and give a summary of it.

December 12, 2011
International Isang Yun Society
Managing Committee

Isang Yun: "The Oh Kil-nam affair and I" (autograph version, Korean)
Isang Yun: "The Oh Kil-nam affair and I" (content specification, English)

"里是当小戏"的中 2014 型之 是这四州之 对什多 正正 装过 见过长的 Water "अ केले किया याच्या ग्रेट अ से प्रच्यान 叫叫对《王刘云》正,但刘时 의务》以对新到时 (미국의 헬레비 등등) 의기에 결즐경으로 나 없이상 即答字是此外可以知思问是可以对 湖南的地方以对社里是是多好之外。 나는 업원증에 왔었는데 이것은 원ゼ리지 臭乱鬼子 2对十四十年上处之日出了到了 里子小是四 对可至可更多意利州中互对这是曾古河河的中午 礼福的两场是到过一时间是是但了是是对那到对外 1. 44 97 4 4 12/21 1977 电兽町 此三、五日四州三三四州的之间起 子们到中部 中方社会으로 多是些的社会是是 过世科圣 生效中、卫学 그의 이름은 들은 비 있어도 如一次可以企业是成文本 1986处//是对二些引用加起其外进到要计 "相始当, 孙三旦记忆到山土, 이号에서 도망的头 金4十一分学士、中七二十一号的之间是对图 是张空时,这至时的外部中于外位至世界发生到的 堂出次小小6州超超的喜小正学的教会生生" 工程 6 州岩喜吃 时时间 发礼上 司告 社事等 汁 华色是如 四多斗车可到到些的地面地看至小是 받고 이제나왔습니다. 나는 어워구니가 없어서 艺生放다。"他仍是一种是 五十五份们是,对了一个一个一 四日生了了一起四日介色是多年日正二日日刊高年 至時以 失台山北 구, 그이 내가 이불에 영양전이 있라고 생각하시서 成员利, 小是卫星者和是自然外包空星 型对对对对对 日对外告으至当日祖科小午战日过时长日时, 27年

-2-의구클은 의실과 영나, 고흥 명차 레 오 mm 네들면, 建立 就是不是的如何考别是是就是是是少此 李尼巴昌外这个出的加地的门上已以次十五里沙男子 나는 나의아내의 길이 그의가목구를에 보려가기를 시청 하였다. 동백일극재이붕의 연각 원은 찾이서 오리가를 当州与升赴引差对告任己 计记录工 什多卫王中四 부분의 의사가 고검니 보국에 교생하는록 강경이 운행 的设计, 工作是一种超到的 超到外 里子可以升 /개 是弄明圣儿是 三四学之是"基子明到五年》十号级的 없다 "고리에서 "고기나이 로국의 취면을 교내 등 존상 小孩子"严盟礼员小 이와 비슷之 心里 吳地 있으로 나는 화고아에서 나의을 바라가 있을때 고옷 可信之处之里是监督中中喜超至是被外、可叫了 人名記計學是一十十十 2 次 4 正美叫吧的发中 나는 그리리지의 동권하고 그를 의문하고 그동이는데 나의 이벌라의 교생정라를 선명하고 나의 크극머니 에서 20mm / 发起的 以至37H 至至之对中。 1987 (य 9 र्सू व्यास खेड नाम, खेटाई "इन १६ ड्रेड मा" 可治学十二十二十四日至中国的一日 次号四州 9-21 21 3 号号 纤星·飞 查对处的引到 2天의 李是是对的对外是更多的成本。 2001年 400000 1. タンとしと はるするをかとり ナイナーマナナント 를만이 되어 가족을 데리고 이사전을 크게 각리 %으므로 음식 법에서 計量수 방에 없다 (12 2克明州本亚州与是世家中主张中 · 3. 그를 미국 비밀경찰라 선동정보라중에 6개원 (그는 이 나 취 돈을 받는 그 병은 우리나라 정보를 게공

山之 三十章子追叫 모든 沈冬今日之次中时王至此外也 是沙町州 工是对起的加工工工程的对是对多의沙社 이라고 하였다.

4. 이 생라 같이 오에는 우리나의 법의규정에 프라라 引起的是对过程。中国十十月儿童子们将中国产生们发生

나는 한 개인으로서 한나라의 법을 대상으로 도거이 나의의사를 과걸시킬수 없는 항에 생을 上次十。 工业州 芒片 战中马龙 电五对电外回 에서 그의가족의소심이라도 친하도록 배달라고 到外 2上处日草之中至出其此人是世上几年里似章 백림의 집에 불러 이상라 같은 이불 상국의 태도른 程验部卫 其似对现别是马提升。 1990 12 10원 나타나의아내는 민족통안을까게 是引动的运动是 业是此中、可决定是至是记名 祖本是 아내에게 生思之 가考思别를 重生計學社 아내는 그에게 책임은 길수 없지만 가목도심이 라고가科으로록 노력하게라고, 일정다. 그대 나는 병으로 24시간 사사의 가는 호원의 호위이라 化生主言门是沙正 沙星州补到 强型三分型 学品的对色是这些之之的小科中是可以 이건강생화는 사이에는 모일살의가를의 떠난 을 올랭하 데이나 러시 뭐라, 부득이 사진, 카웨트 녹음을 간신화 구하여 가지고 왔다. 나의 백립 돌아온 날자는 병때등에 바탕에행이 러각되지 않이 퍼들이겠다.

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The text comes under the headline

The Oh Kil-Nam affair and I

by Isang Yun

In this text, written for Han In Hoe Bo (한인 회보, Magazine of the Association of Koreans in Germany, edition from May 22, 1992), Isang Yun wrote that he and Song Du-Yul lately had come under heavy attack, from US-American TV stations, amongst others. He makes the following statement, so as to give the Korean readers the true facts of the matter:

- 1. He saw Oh Kil-Nam for the first time in 1977 at an international conference about democratisation and reunification of Korea, organized by the "Union of Oversea Koreans for Democracy and Reunification" (chaired by Isang Yun) at Bad Godesberg. Later on, he occasionally heard Oh's name but did not meet him.
- 2. In November 1986, Yun received a phone call from Oh, who told him he had fled from North Korea. Yun was surprised, as to that moment he had no idea that Oh had gone to live in North Korea. Oh reported, that he had taken his family to North Korea, and that some months ago he made off to West Germany (via Copenhagen) without them. Consequently he was subject to intense interrogations by the US and West German secret services. Full of tears, Oh asked Yun to help him and his family. Unable to bear it any longer in North Korea, he had fled to West Germany on his own. Up to then, he had only taken a German pastor [Gerhard Breidenstein] into his confidence, informing him about having migrated to North Korea and now having made off again.

Isang Yun and his wife tried to help him by contacting an attaché at the Northkorean embassy in East-Berlin. They tried to find out – with due caution – whether a family reunion was feasible. A month later, the attaché told Yun, that such a solution was out of the question. Later, Yun met Oh after a concert night in Hanover, where the latter at that time lived in an asylum-seekers' home. He informed him of the outcome of his enquiry, then tried to give him some comfort by assuring that he would continue to help him and his family.

In September 1987, Yun attended the annual "Isang Yun Music Festival" at Pyongyang. There he spoke to a high-ranking party official about the matter. The latter declared, that

- 1. Oh was a Northkorean citizen and therefore subject to Northkorean legislation.
- 2. Oh had declared to border officials at Copenhagen airport, that in North Korea he had been trained to become an agent.
- 3. Oh had hence been interrogated by Westgerman and US intelligence officers, giving them lots of information about North Korea and so becoming a traitor.
- 4. Oh now kept on damaging the international reputation of the republic.

In view of this rigid attitude displayed by the authorities, Yun felt rather helpless. He knew that his efforts for Oh and his family in North Korea were getting to the limits of his possibilities. All he could still do was ask the authorities for a sign of life by Oh's family. When in October 1990, Yun prepared to attend the "Music Festival for Reunification" at Pyongyang, Oh himself asked Yun to bring a sign of life from his family. In mid-January 1991, Oh came to visit Yun at his house in Berlin. Yun handed over some photographs and a recorded tape from Pyongyang. That was all Isang Yun could do for him.

Then in May 1992, Oh suddenly appeared in Seoul, and in a well-staged press conference at the airport he accused Yun that he in those days had persuaded him into migrating to North Korea, and that after his escape from North Korea he had tried to make him return there.

Isang Yun wrote his article immediately after having heard reports about that press conference, to reject this act of destructive defamation from Seoul, carefully arranged by the Southkorean secret service, with the help of Oh Kil-Nam.