

Review
 (137)

Beating and Torture Cases

Advisor to the Director Uniform Bureau 3 August 1948

1. The following is a record, by Divisions, of alleged beating and torture cases in the Korean National Police:

DIVISION "A"

- 15 June 1948 Hunger strike at the Inchon Jail in protest against brutality and torture. (Information appeared in paper and investigation was referred to the Inspector General. No report to date.)
- 18 July 1948 Kim Yong Mai died on 19 July 1948 while in the custody of the Kaesong Police. Autopsy disclosed the fact that the man had been beaten prior to his death, but indicates cause of death as heart failure. (Report from Kaesong Police Inspector.)

DIVISION "C"

Lieutenant Pigenot, American Advisor, has two beating and torture cases under investigation. Details are not available.

DIVISION "D"

- 1 June 1948 Su Byong June, official of Poun Gun, was beaten by police and sustained a broken arm and other injuries. Beating took place as a result of an argument that developed when police were attempting to collect money to defray expenses in connection with an election celebration. (Verified)
- 25 June 1948 Pak Te Kyu badly beaten by Yong Dong Police while they were questioning him in a bribery case. (Verified)
- 25 June 1948 Youn Su Hyun beaten to death by police at the He Dong Kwan Hotel at Yong Dong. argument took place at a police party, and beating was ordered by a Lieutenant of the Police. (verified)
- 27 June 1948 Nam Ki Myong beaten to death by police of the Sang Chon Station. argument took place when a policeman and a civilian were collecting money for the police Supporting Association. (Verified)
- 21 May 1948 Court clerk beaten by Taegu Police over an argument that developed when judges refused to issue a warrant. (Verified)

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DIVISION "E"

- 22 July 1948 Pfc Lee Sang Yul, Constabulary member, beaten by the police and Dai Dong Members at Hyon Nai Dong, Ki Kai Myun, Yongil Gun. Further argument and shooting between constabulary and police later developed and Pfc Lee Sang Yul was killed and Pfc Han Yong Soo was injured. (Verified)
- 1 June 1948 Kim Yun Dal beaten to death while being questioned by police of the Muju Police Station. (Verified) DIVISION "F"

DIVISION "F"

- 4 July 1948 Kim Sam Sung, suspected murderer, was tortured to death by police of the Kumsan Station. Water treatment was used. (Verified)

DIVISION "G"

- 25 May 1948 Cheung Sook Wha, Female - aged 52, supposed to have been tortured to death by police of the Chinju Station. (No report from police. Case to be investigated by representatives of Civil Liberties Union.)

DIVISION "H"

- 9 June 1948 Gho Uk Tong beaten to death by police of the Hwasun Station. (Verified)

This Division leads in torture deaths. Several cases are now under investigation but details are not available.

DIVISION "I"

- 16 June 1948 Petition of Mrs. Suh Sung Sun charges beating and water cure in connection with a housing dispute. (Referred Division "M")

CHEJU INSPECTION COMMAND

- Three police convicted of murder in Provost Court for wanton shooting of prisoners. (Verified)
- 27 May 1948 Two students from the College admit killing two prisoners, who they claim, were attempting to escape. (Chorpening claims that bodies were exhumed and that one had no bullet hole.)
- 8 June 1948 Two police confessed to the shooting and killing of five prisoners.
- 30 May 1948 Six prisoners disappeared after railroad Police claim they released them. (Bodies were exhumed and were found to have bullet holes.)

2. It is not contended that this list is complete, but it does cover the cases reported to date.

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POSSIBLE "DANGER AREAS" AS SEEN BY NATIONAL POLICE

Division "A" (Kyunggi Do Province)

City of Inchon -- Ongjin Station Area -- Border Boxes along 38th
No large concentrations and it would appear that Police can well handle.
No areas reinforced.

Division "B" (Kangwon Do Province)

Kangnung, Ulchin and Chuminjin Area -- Border Boxes along 38th
approximately 200 police reinforcements in Kangnung, Ulchin and
Chuminjin Area. Many plain clothes men still working throughout the
area. Opposing force estimated at about 450 men.

Division "C" (Chungchong Namdo Province)

No concentrated trouble areas.

Division "D" (Chungchong Pukto Province)

Yongdong area may give some trouble despite the fact that it was cleaned
up more than a month ago.

Division "E" (Kyongsang Pukto Province)

City of Taegue -- Talsung Mine Area -- Area from Pohung to Ulchin
No estimate on forces, but all areas are trouble spots.

Division "F" (Cholla Pukto Province)

Mountain area south of Yongdong area is infested, but rioters are being
rounded up constantly. Scattered trouble throughout the province, but
trouble can be taken care of.

Division "G" (Kyongsang Namdo Province)

City of Pusan

Division "H" (Cholla Namdo Province)

City of Kwanju -- Wando and other Island areas -- Mountain Areas through-
out Province.
Approximately 400 police reinforcements in the area and clean-up is
progressing steadily.

Division "M" (City of Seoul)

Area well in hand

Cheju Do

1800 Police on Island and are pursuing a plan of occupying all villages
in a peaceful manner.

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