



Dear Minister,

I am writing to you concerning the historic achievement of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) following its adoption by United Nations General (UN) Assembly on 2 April 2013.

Amnesty International welcomes that the Republic of Korea was one of the 155 UN Member States that voted for the adoption of the ATT resolution. Through its co-sponsorship of the resolution the Republic of Korea further demonstrated its commitment to achieving the treaty.

Amnesty International has campaigned since the early 1990s to achieve robust, legally binding global rules on international arms transfers to stem the flow of conventional arms and ammunition/munitions that fuel atrocities and abuse. Despite some shortcomings, we believe that the ATT represents a significant step towards this goal and provides a relatively firm foundation to better regulate the international flow of weapons provided there is sufficient political will to do so. Therefore the momentum should be maintained towards establishing a new global regime in practice and we urge you to support the recommendations outlined below.

Amnesty International especially welcomes that the ATT has the real potential to reduce serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, particularly if Articles 6 and 7 are implemented by State Parties in good faith and in line with the object and purpose of the treaty. Article 6.3 is an important step forward, as it prohibits arms transfers by a State if it has knowledge that the arms transfers would be used to commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Article 7 will require a State Party to not authorise an export where there is an overriding risk that the export could be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of international human rights or humanitarian law. The risks of the arms export being used to commit or facilitate gender based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children must also be assessed. The establishing of these clear due diligence standards is a major achievement in creating standardized export controls norms.

The gains achieved in the ATT will only be realised if the treaty is rapidly and effectively implemented. To this end, Amnesty International is encouraging States to sign and subsequently ratify the Treaty to bring it into force as soon as possible.

The Treaty will open for signature on 3 June 2013. Fifty ratifications are necessary before the Treaty enters into force. We urge the Republic of Korea to:

- Sign the ATT on 3 June 2013 at the United Nations in New York, or as soon as possible after 3 June ;
- In order for the ATT to have an immediate impact, at the time of signature declare that the Republic of Korea will apply provisionally Article 6 and Article 7 pending the treaty's entry into force (as provided for in Article 23) and take the necessary national measures to ensure the implementation of these Articles;

- If the Republic of Korea will make additional declarations at the time of signature as to its understanding of some matter or as to the interpretation of a particular provision, Amnesty International urges the Republic of Korea to ensure that these declarations are in conformity with existing internationally recognised international human rights and humanitarian law standards;
- Complete the process of making the necessary changes to your national legislation so that the Republic of Korea can ratify the ATT as soon as possible.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and are happy to provide further details on any of the issues discussed in our letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyung Ock, Chun'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kyung Ock, Chun  
Chairperson of the Board, Amnesty International South Korea