

Chun Doo-hwan, former President of South Korea, on trial for being involved in the killing of more than 200 demonstrators in Kwangju in 1980, recently claimed that what he had done was trying to restore order to the society. According to Chun, he ordered the military to take action against the demonstrating students in Kwangju was not a violation of human rights. He just used the state power to assure the national security. " This is not the first time we hear about such kind of talk, either in Asia or other parts of the world. For examples, the ways the Kuomintang regime in Taiwan treated political dissidents of the Formosan Magazine in 1979, and the Beijing regime in China treated the students in Tiananman Square in 1989 are different versions of the same story. The issue of human rights in changing Asia is always related to the abuse of the state power. Therefore, before we go on to think of the relationship between human rights and the mission of the churches, it is appropriate for us to review the definitions of human rights and state power, and to evaluate their relationship.