

'I DREAM OF A WORLD  
WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT  
BEHIND'

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



Kyung Seok Park,  
South Korea



# Kyung Seok Park, South Korea

Before Kyung Seok Park developed paraplegia following a hang-gliding accident in August 1983, he never thought about the lives of people with disabilities. He was 22 years old and busy studying at university, playing guitar and having fun with friends. When Kyung Seok attempted to live as a person with a disability, he soon found daily life for people with disabilities in South Korea was unacceptably difficult, even dangerous. His life as an activist began.

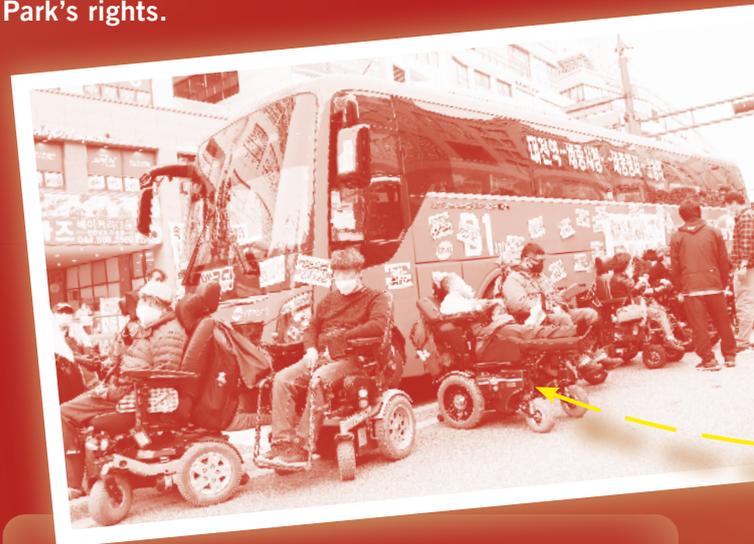
Representing Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination (SADD), a disability rights movement, Kyung Seok focuses his activism on public transportation. Without measures to eliminate obstacles and barriers to access public transport, people with disabilities are cut off from being able to participate fully in all aspects of life – travelling to a job or school and living independently. Numerous wheelchair users in Seoul have been killed or injured when utilizing unsafe wheelchair lifts at train and subway stations.

Demanding an increase to the public budget for disability rights, in 2021 Kyung Seok and SADD activists began peaceful protests, during which many

wheelchair users simultaneously boarded and disembarked subway trains during busy commuting hours. Authorities in Seoul have reacted negatively, including with violence. The protests have been repressed and activists forcibly dragged out of stations by police. Politicians have conducted smear campaigns, painting disability activists as a public nuisance. Seoul Metropolitan Government has filed multiple “blockade lawsuits” against peaceful protesters, further attempting to quash their activism.

Despite being almost strangled by police and Seoul Metro staff during a peaceful protest, and facing multiple lawsuits because of his activism, Kyung Seok continues to fight, declaring: “We refuse to wait any longer. We demand a world where no one is left behind.”

**Call on the mayor of Seoul to protect Kyung Seok Park’s rights.**



## WRITE TO THE MAYOR OF SEOUL

Urge the mayor to ensure the right to freedom of peaceful assembly by stopping the use of unlawful force against Kyung Seok Park and SADD activists, dropping all litigation, and ending the media smear campaign so activists may keep campaigning for a world where people with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of life.

### ADDRESS:

Mayor of Seoul  
6F, Seoul Metropolitan Government  
110 Sejong-daero  
Jung-gu  
Seoul 04524  
Republic of Korea

SALUTATION: Dear Mayor of Seoul

EMAIL: [seoulcity@seoul.go.kr](mailto:seoulcity@seoul.go.kr)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/seoul.kr](http://www.facebook.com/seoul.kr)

X: @seoulmania

INSTAGRAM: @seoul\_official

HASHTAGS: #RidingSeoulMetroWithPark,  
#LeaveNoOneBehind, #W4R24

## SHOW KYUNG SEOK PARK THAT YOU SUPPORT HIS ACTIVISM

Send your messages of strength and hope, show Kyung Seok Park and SADD activists that they are valued and respected.

### ADDRESS:

Kyung Seok Park  
c/o Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination  
5F, 25, Dongsung-gil  
Jongno-gu  
Seoul 03086  
Republic of Korea

INSTAGRAM: @sadd420

X: @sadd0420S

HASHTAGS: #RidingSeoulMetroWithPark,  
#LeaveNoOneBehind, #W4R24