

Ministry of Justice gives up appeal against the ruling on state compensation for "Ahn In-deuk arson and murder case"

On November 24, MOJ decided not to appeal against the ruling that found the state responsible for victim compensation, stating that they take the government's responsibility seriously and seek speedy recovery for the victims' families.

Minister Han Dong Hoon expressed, "Our decision to drop the appeal is to settle the case at the earliest so that we can retribute even a small portion of the losses suffered by the families of the victims. On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I express my deepest apologies and condolences to the bereaved families."

- Regarding the ruling that found the state responsible for victim compensation, MOJ has **decided not to appeal** on November 24, stating that they take the government's responsibility seriously and seek speedy recovery for the victims' families.
- "**The Ahn In-deuk arson and murder case**" is an incident in which Ahn, who is suffering from schizophrenia, set fire to his apartment unit on April 17, 2019, and brandished a weapon at residents who were evacuating, killing five and injuring 17 residents. Ahn is currently serving a **life sentence**, according to the Supreme Court's verdict upheld on **October 29, 2020**.

- On November 8, 2021, four of the victims' families filed a lawsuit against the government for compensation, claiming that the police were fully aware of Ahn's high risks to commit a crime through multiple police reports in the past but neglected their duties to protect the lives and bodies of citizens.
- On November 15, 2023, Seoul Central District Court ruled that the police failed to take active protective measures even though there were suspicious circumstances to believe that Ahn was mentally ill and at risk of self-harm or harm to others, stating its liability for compensation. The court has ruled **in favor of the plaintiffs** (approx. KRW 400 million in compensation).
- In a statement, Minister Han Dong Hoon expressed, "Our decision to drop the appeal is to settle the case at the earliest so that we can retribute even a small portion of the losses suffered by the families of the victims. On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I express my deepest apologies and condolences to the bereaved families."

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