GWANGBOK ARCHIVE / PRIMARY 04

Act on the Organization of Special Investigation Agencies for Anti-National Acts

반민족행위특별조사기관조직법

Republic of Korea · 7 December 1948

Original Korean source · English translation, Gwangbok Archive

Law No. 14 · 7 December 1948Original enactment: seven articles and a supplementary provision. Separate appendix: Law No. 55 (4 October 1949).Gwangbok Archive · Unofficial English translation

CC BY 4.0

Document record

Korean title: 반민족행위특별조사기관조직법

English title: Act on the Organization of Special Investigation Agencies for Anti-National Acts

Legal identity: Law No. 14 (법률 제14호), 7 December 1948

Effective date: 7 December 1948 (on promulgation)

Repeal: Law No. 55, 4 October 1949 (effective that day)

Textual basis: National Law Information Center, original enacted text, historical record lsiSeq = 2681

Related legislation: Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts (Law No. 3, 1948); Law No. 15 (1948); Laws Nos. 54 and 55 (1949)

Editorial introduction

The Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts (Law No. 3 of 22 September 1948) provided the statutory framework for investigating and prosecuting specified conduct associated with Japanese colonial rule. Law No. 14, enacted on 7 December 1948, supplied the administrative organization through which the Special Investigation Committee could carry out its investigative work. It provided for a Central Secretariat, provincial branch offices, investigators and clerks, and the designation of investigators to perform the functions of judicial police officers. [1–3]

The enacted law has seven articles and one supplementary provision. It was repealed on 4 October 1949 by Law No. 55, which simultaneously repealed the separate organizational law for the Special Tribunal’s auxiliary agencies. The repeal instrument is reproduced in a distinct appendix. [1, 4]

EDITORIAL SCOPE Original enacted wording is retained in the Korean column. English renderings aim at legal and institutional precision; editorial interpretation is identified separately.

Part i / enacted statute, 1948

The seven articles

Original Korean text and facing English translation · Law No. 14 (1948)

Line breaks follow the clauses of each article; historical spelling, spacing and wording in the Korean text follow the National Law Information Center transcription. No later amendments are merged into this text. [1]

Article 1 / central and provincial offices

제1조 반민족행위특별조사위원회의 사무를 보조하기 위하여 중앙에 중앙사무국을 두고 도조사부에 사무분국을 둘 수 있다.
중앙사무국에 국장 1인 조사관과 서기 각 15인이내를 두고 각 도사무분국에 조사관과 서기 각 3인이내를 둘 수 있다.

Article 1. A Central Secretariat shall be established at the central level, and branch offices may be established within the provincial investigation divisions, to assist in the work of the Special Investigation Committee for Anti-National Acts.
The Central Secretariat shall have one Director and may have up to fifteen investigators and fifteen clerks. Each provincial branch office may have up to three investigators and three clerks.

Article 2 / direction and duties

제2조 중앙사무국장은 조사관으로써 보하고 특별조사위원회위원장의 지휘감독을 받어 국무를 장리한다.
중앙사무국의 조사관은 국장의 지휘를 받고 사무분국의 조사관은 도조사부책임자의 지휘를 받어 조사사무를 장리한다.
서기는 국장 또는 조사관의 지휘를 받어 조사관을 보조하여 일반서무를 처리한다.

Article 2. The Director of the Central Secretariat shall be appointed from among the investigators and shall administer the affairs of the Secretariat under the direction and supervision of the Chair of the Special Investigation Committee.
Investigators in the Central Secretariat shall work under the direction of the Director, and investigators in a branch office shall administer investigative work under the direction of the head of the provincial investigation division.
Clerks shall assist investigators and carry out general administrative duties under the direction of the Director or an investigator.

Article 3 / appointments

제3조 국장 기타의 조사관은 특별조사위원회의 결의로 위원장이 임명하고 서기는 위원장이 임명한다.

Article 3. The Chair shall appoint the Director and other investigators by resolution of the Special Investigation Committee, and shall appoint the clerks.

Article 4 / internal allocation of work

제4조 중앙사무국과 각 도사무분국의 분과와 분장사무규정은 특별조사위원회에서 정한다.	Article 4. The Special Investigation Committee shall determine the internal divisions of the Central Secretariat and each provincial branch office, and the rules allocating responsibilities among them.

Article 5 / provincial oversight and seoul

제5조 각도 조사부는 특별조사위원회의 지휘감독을 받는다. 중앙사무국은 서울시의 조사사무를 겸장하며 필요할 때에는 각도에 조사관을 파견할 수 있다.	Article 5. The investigation division of each province shall be subject to the direction and supervision of the Special Investigation Committee. The Central Secretariat shall also be responsible for investigative work in the City of Seoul and may dispatch investigators to the provinces when necessary.

Article 6 / investigative powers

제6조 조사관은 조사사무에 관하여 사법경찰관의 직무를 행할 권한이 있다.	Article 6. Investigators shall have authority to perform the duties of judicial police officers in relation to investigative work.

Article 7 / status and remuneration

제7조 각도 조사부책임자, 중앙사무국장, 조사관, 서기는 각기 도지사, 처장, 국장, 주사와 동일한 대우와 보수를 받는다.	Article 7. Heads of provincial investigation divisions, the Director of the Central Secretariat, investigators and clerks shall respectively receive the same treatment and remuneration as provincial governors, heads of government offices, bureau directors and administrative officers.

Supplementary provision / commencement

부칙 <법률 제14호, 1948. 12. 7.> 이 법은 공포한 날로부터 시행한다.	Supplementary Provision (Law No. 14, 7 December 1948). This Act shall enter into force on the date of its promulgation.

Part ii / related repeal, 1949

Repeal of the organizational statutes

Separate enactment · Law No. 55, 4 October 1949

The linked legal-history page records the repeal of Law No. 14. Law No. 55 expressly abolished two organizational statutes: Law No. 14 (the Special Investigation Committee’s investigative agencies) and Law No. 15 (the auxiliary agencies of the Special Tribunal). On the same date, Law No. 54 removed the parent Act’s special-investigation and special-trial arrangements. The following is a

translation of the distinct repeal law, not a provision of the 1948 Act. [4–5, 7]

Law no. 55 / repeal clause

법률 제55호, 반민족행위특별조사기관조직법 及 반민족행위특별재판부 부속기관조직법 폐지에 관한 법률 반민족행위특별조사기관조직법과 반민족행위특별재판부 부속기관조직법은 폐지한다.	Law No. 55, Act on the Repeal of the Act on the Organization of Special Investigation Agencies for Anti-National Acts and the Act on the Organization of Auxiliary Agencies of the Special Tribunal for Anti-National Acts. The Act on the Organization of Special Investigation Agencies for Anti-National Acts and the Act on the Organization of Auxiliary Agencies of the Special Tribunal for Anti-National Acts are hereby repealed.

Law no. 55 / supplementary provision

부칙 본 법은 공포한 날로부터 시행한다.	Supplementary Provision. This Act shall enter into force on the date of its promulgation.

Textual and institutional notes

01 Seven articles, not fourteen. The enacted text consists of seven articles and a supplementary provision. An earlier draft had fourteen articles. The National Institute of Korean History records that the National Assembly’s Legislation and Judiciary Committee reduced the draft’s organizational structure and staffing before enactment. The draft is not reproduced as though it were law. [1, 3]

02 Secretariat and branch offices. 중앙사무국 is translated as “Central Secretariat”; 사무분국 is rendered “branch office.” The latter offices are situated within provincial investigation divisions, but the statute does not itself enumerate the branches eventually established. [1]

03 Article 2 wording. The National Law Information Center transcription reads 국무 in Article 2. The 23 November 1948 legislative committee draft instead writes 局務 (“bureau affairs”). In context the phrase is rendered as administration of the Secretariat’s affairs. This is a textual observation, not a silent alteration of the Korean witness. [1, 3]

04 Appointment authority. Article 3 distinguishes investigators, appointed by the Chair following a Committee resolution, from clerks, appointed by the Chair. A Committee resolution is not expressly stipulated for clerical appointments. [1]

05 Police functions. Article 6 empowers investigators to perform duties of judicial police officers in connection with investigations. The provision should not be read as giving them general police command or powers outside the statutory investigative function. [1]

06 Civil-service equivalence. The comparisons in Article 7 concern treatment and remuneration. They do not, by their terms, appoint the specified Committee personnel to the corresponding offices in the regular administration. [1]

07 Implementing rules. Under Article 4 the Committee could issue organizational rules. A separate “Regulations on the Organization of the Special Investigation Committee” (반민족행위특별조사위원회 직제), dated 22 December 1948, is reproduced in the National Institute of Korean History

database; it is not part of Law No. 14. [6]

Sources and documentation

[1] Republic of Korea, “반민족행위특별조사기관조직법” [Act on the Organization of Special Investigation Agencies for Anti-National Acts], Law No. 14 (7 December 1948), National Law Information Center, original enacted text, https://www.law.go.kr/LSW/lsInfoP.do?chrClsCd=010202&lsiSeq=2681.

[2] Republic of Korea, “반민족행위처벌법” [Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts], Law No. 3 (22 September 1948), National Law Information Center, https://www.law.go.kr/LSW/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq=3398.

[3] National Institute of Korean History, Constitutional History Materials Database, “반민족행위특별조사기관 조직법안,” legislative committee substitute draft dated 23 November 1948, https://db.history.go.kr/item/cons/level.do?levelId=cons_001_0020_0020_0030_0020_0050; and contextual commentary at https://db.history.go.kr/item/cons/level.do?levelId=cons_001_0020_0020_0030_0020_0060.

[4] National Law Information Center, “반민족행위특별조사기관조직법,” enactment and repeal history, including Law No. 55 (4 October 1949), https://law.go.kr/LSW/lsRvsRsnListP.do?chrClsCd=010202&lsId=001305&lsRvsGubun=all.

[5] National Institute of Korean History, “법률 제55호, 반민족행위특별조사기관조직법 及 반민족행위특별재판부 부속기관조직법 폐지에 관한 법률,” in 자료대한민국사, vol. 14, transcription from Official Gazette (special issue), 4 October 1949, https://db.history.go.kr/contemp/level.do?levelId=dh_014_1949_10_04_0020&types=o.

[6] National Institute of Korean History, “반민족행위특별조사위원회 직제,” 22 December 1948, in 자료대한민국사, vol. 9, transcribing Official Gazette no. 25 (29 December 1948), https://db.history.go.kr/contemp/level.do?levelId=dh_009_1948_12_22_0030.

[7] Republic of Korea, “반민족행위처벌법,” Law No. 54 (4 October 1949), National Law Information Center, https://www.law.go.kr/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq=3401.

Citation and reuse

Suggested citation: Republic of Korea, “Act on the Organization of Special Investigation Agencies for Anti-National Acts” (반민족행위특별조사기관조직법), Law No. 14, December 7, 1948, with appendix on Law No. 55 (October 4, 1949), bilingual documentary edition, Gwangbok Archive (2026).

Rights and attribution

© 2026 Gwangbok Archive, to the extent copyright subsists in the translation and editorial material. Licensed under CC BY 4.0. You may share, adapt, and reuse this material for any purpose, including research, teaching, and commercial use, provided you credit Gwangbok Archive, link to the licence, and indicate changes. Do not present this translation as your own original work or imply endorsement. No copyright is claimed over the underlying Korean legislation. The archive name and logo are not licensed for use as your own branding.