

Address by Prime Minister Noda At the Screening of “ABDUCTION The Megumi Yokota Story”

December 16, 2011
Ikura House, MOFA
[Provisional Translation]
[JAPANESE](#)

Ambassadors and Excellencies, thank you very much for attending today's gathering. I'm very pleased to have so many of you here today. I also want to express my gratitude to the members of abductees' families including Mr. and Mrs. Yokota for participating in the screening of the film “Abduction The Megumi Yokota Story”, which I saw on the DVD with my wife last weekend. Taking this opportunity, I would like to emphasize the following three points:

First, the abduction is an absolute fact. What you saw in the film is by no means a fiction. Inconsiderable tragedies have actually happened and loving members of families have been forcefully torn apart.

Second, the abduction is a present issue that has not yet been resolved. Although North Korea claims that the abduction issue has been resolved and there is no Japanese abductees left there, there has been absolutely no convincing explanation about abductees who have not yet returned. I would like to strongly reiterate our demand that all abductees must be returned home immediately.

Third, the abduction is a global issue. The Governments of Republic of Korea, Thailand, Romania, and Lebanon have already officially acknowledged that their nationals have been abducted by North Korea. Abduction is a universal issue of violation of basic human rights making it a great mutual concern for the entire international community. And international coordination is essential in pursuing the solution of this abduction issue.

Immediately after the East Japan great earthquake disaster took place in March this year, the family members of abductees issued a message of sympathy to those who were affected. That message also said, “There are people who we know are buried under the rubbles but cannot be rescued. Likewise, we know our family members are trapped in North Korea but have not yet been rescued”.

After the earthquake, we received warm supports and assistances from more than 160 countries including the countries represented here today. We, Japanese will never forget the supports extended from all over the world after the disaster. And I would like to express my sincere hope that such strong supports from all over the world be provided for the rescue of all the abductees.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(Applause)