

We Need to Change

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Why had I never tried to find out about this in detail before? This made me feel bad about myself.

When you hear about the abductions of Japanese people by North Korea, what do you think of? Most people will probably just literally think that North Korea abducted of Japanese people by North Korea. I was one such person who thought like this. I did not try to learn in detail about the issue, but simply thought a little about it. I thought that I would continue to think about the issue in this way.

However, after watching the DVD “Megumi”, I felt pained. I was shaking with anger. When she was abducted by North Korea, Megumi Yokota was a first-year junior high school student, just 13 years old. In the darkness, she must have been scared about what was happening to her and what was going to happen to her. She suffered the sadness of separation from her beloved mother and father. I think she must have been overwhelmed by fear, sadness and desperation. I was so afraid to imagine that something similar happening to me that I was unable to stop shaking. The evening I watched the DVD, I was feeling very anxious, and I asked my mother

“What would you do if I suddenly disappeared?”.

My mom looked a little surprised and then she said

“I’ve never thought about that, and I don’t want to think about it”.

She scowled as she said this. I think that parents do not even imagine the sudden disappearance of a precious daughter. However, Megumi’s parents did lose their precious daughter suddenly. The truth of why this happened is still unclear.

17 victims of abduction, including Megumi Yokota, and their families are today still fighting in the belief that they can be reunited. Is it enough for us simply to “know about” the abductions of Japanese people by North Korea? Is it enough for us simply to think about it? Is it OK if nothing changes?

I don’t think so. Having learned about the problem, we must change. There must be something we can do. I haven’t yet found what I can do personally. However, I think that is a major step forward simply to have this attitude. It is a big step forward not to forget the abductions issue and to actively get involved if there is something that we can do.

Recently, I have kept a blue ribbon attached to my bag. The blue ribbon represents the wishes of the abductees and their families as they look upon the blue sky and blue sea, which have no borders, hoping to be reunited again. I hope to use the blue ribbon to raise awareness of the abductions of Japanese people by North Korea, an issue that is still unresolved. Do not forget about this. The most important thing is to show an interest in the issue. Rather than simply thinking vaguely about the issue, we need to move on to the next step. I will continue to work together with everyone else until the abductions issue has been completely resolved.