It is most regrettable that not a single abductee has returned to Japan since the five abductees came back home in 2002. I share the family members’ acute feelings and the sense of urgency that “not another second can be wasted.” The abductions issue is the most important and top priority issue of the Abe Cabinet. I have engaged in various activities for resolving the abductions issue as the Assistant Chief of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue. As I have now become Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue, I am determined to continue to make an utmost effort.

Now we face a critical moment. Upon instructions from Prime Minister Abe for my appointment as Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue, I am committed to strengthening the all-Japan efforts with determination not to miss any opportunity. I will fulfill my responsibilities, in close communication with the family members of the abductees and respecting their feelings.

October 2018

For further information on abductions of Japanese citizens, please refer to our website.

Photos provided by the Cabinet Public Relations Office, Jiji Press Ltd, AFP/Jiji and the National Association for the Rescue of Japanese Kidnapped by North Korea.

October 2018

Addresses of Homepages:
- Email address: g.rachi@cas.go.jp
- FAX: +81(0)3-3581-6011
- 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919 Japan, tel: +81-(0)3-3580-3311
- http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/
- 1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 100-8968, Phone: +81 (0)3-3581-8898  Fax: +81 (0)3-3581-6011
- http://www.rachi.go.jp/

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue

Your cooperation in helping resolve the abduction issue is vital. If you have any information concerning abductions, please contact the Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue by email or fax.

For further informaton, please contact
Chief Cabinet Secretary and Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue
Yoshihide SUGA

Search: Abduction issue

Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea
For Their Immediate Return!

Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, Government of Japan
For the Return of All of the Abductees!

The following is an outline of the cases related to the 17 abductees identified by the Government of Japan (GoJ) (information in brackets shows the age when abduction took place and the location where the abductee went missing).

With the recognition that there are other cases where the possibility of an abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out, the GoJ remains fully committed to demand North Korea take action to assure the safety of all abductees and their immediate return to Japan, regardless of whether they are officially identified as victims of abduction by North Korea or not.

1. **September 19, 1977**
   **Ushitsu Case**
   **Mr. Yutaka Kume**
   (52, Ishikawa Prefecture)
   Disappeared off the coast of Ushitsu, Ishikawa Prefecture. His whereabouts are unconfirmed. (North Korea denies he entered its territory.)

2. **October 21, 1977**
   **Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Woman**
   **Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto**
   (29, Tottori Prefecture)
   Disappeared on her way to a knitting school close to her home. Her whereabouts are unconfirmed. (North Korea denies she entered its territory.)

3. **November 15, 1977**
   **Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Girl**
   **Ms. Megumi Yokota**
   (13, Niigata Prefecture)
   Disappeared on her way home from school in Niigata city. Her whereabouts are unconfirmed. (North Korea claims she committed suicide.)

4. **In or around June 1978**
   **Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Former Restaurant Worker**
   **Mr. Minoru Tanaka**
   (28, Hyogo Prefecture)
   Disappeared after departing Japan for Europe. His whereabouts are unconfirmed. (North Korea denies he entered its territory.)

5. **In or around June 1978**
   **Suspected Abduction Case of Lee UnHae**
   **Ms. Yaeko Taguchi**
   (22, unknown)
   Her whereabouts are unconfirmed. (North Korea claims she died in a traffic accident.)

6. **July 7, 1978**
   **Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Couple**
   **Mr. Yasushi Chimura**
   (23, Fukui Prefecture)
   **Ms. Fukie Chimura**
   (Maiden name Hamamoto) (23, Fukui Prefecture)
   Disappeared after going out stating that they were going on a date. The couple returned to Japan in October 2002.

7. **July 31, 1978**
   **Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Couple**
   **Mr. Kaoru Hasuike**
   (20, Niigata Prefecture)
   **Ms. Yukiko Hasuike**
   (Maiden name Okudo) (22, Niigata Prefecture)
   Mr. Kaoru Hasuike disappeared after he went out stating that he was going out and would soon be back. Similarly, Ms. Yukiko Okudo disappeared after going out. The couple returned to Japan in October 2002.

8. **August 12, 1978**
   **Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Couple**
   **Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa**
   (23, Kagoshima Prefecture)
   **Ms. Rumiko Masumoto**
   (24, Kagoshima Prefecture)
   Disappeared after going out, stating that they were going to see the sunset on the beach. Their whereabouts are unconfirmed. (North Korea claims that each of the couple died of a heart attack while swimming in the ocean.)
The location where abduction took place is unknown.

In addition to the 17 Japanese citizens already identified as having been abducted by North Korea, the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out for 883 other missing persons (as of October 1, 2018). The GoJ has been conducting information gathering and investigation activities both in Japan and overseas.

Korean Domicile Victims Abducted in Japan

In April 2007, the police concluded that the disappearances in 1973 of Ko Kyonmi and Ko Kang, infant brother and sister and Korean domiciles, were due to abduction by North Korea.

The GoJ views all abductions as serious human rights violations regardless of nationality as well as violations of the sovereignty of Japan. Accordingly, the GoJ urges North Korea to return the abductees to Japan as a return to their original state and also urges that North Korea obtain a full account of what happened to all abductees.

The GoJ has been making concerted efforts to urge North Korea to return all the abductees, regardless of whether they are officially identified as such, back to Japan immediately.
Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea

During the 1970’s and 1980’s, many Japanese citizens disappeared under unusual circumstances. Subsequent investigations by the Japanese authorities and testimonies by former North Korean agents who had defected revealed that there was a strong possibility that these cases involved abductions conducted by North Korea. Therefore, since 1991, the GoJ has brought up the abductions issue at every available opportunity. North Korea had stubbornly kept denying any involvement, however at the First Japan-North Korea summit meeting held in September 2002, North Korea at last admitted for the first time that it had abducted Japanese citizens and apologized while promising to prevent any further recurrence. In October of the same year, five of the abductees returned from North Korea to Japan after 24 years.

However, as for those others whose whereabouts are currently unknown, despite North Korea’s explicit commitment at the Second Japan-North Korea summit meeting in May 2004 to immediately resume thorough investigations to obtain a full account of what had happened to all abductees, Pyongyang has yet to provide any convincing explanations. The remaining abductees are still denied all freedoms, having been long detained in North Korea, and to this day await rescue from North Korea.

In Japan, there have been active campaigns to rescue abductees, including the Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea formed in 1997, and the submission of petitions signed by more than 12 million people (as of October 2018) to the Prime Minister of Japan.

The abductions by North Korea are a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens. It is a highly pressing issue that must be resolved under the responsibility of the national GoJ. The GoJ has so far identified 17 Japanese citizens, including the five that have already returned to Japan, as victims of abduction by North Korea. In addition, there are other cases where the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be dismissed, such as the suspected abductions of non-Japanese nationals referred to as “Korean domiciles” (an alternative nationality for ethnic Koreans in Japan who do not hold Republic of Korea (ROK) citizenship) in Japan and cases of so-called “unidentified missing Japanese probably related to North Korea” (Note). While North Korea has not provided any satisfactory account or any convincing evidence, the GoJ remains fully committed to demanding that North Korea take action to assure the safety of abductees and immediately return them to Japan irrespective of whether they are officially identified, based on the premise that all abductees whose whereabouts are unknown are still alive. In addition, the GoJ shall tirelessly pursue the disclosure of the truth regarding all abduction cases and also demand the handover to Japan of the perpetrators of the abductions. The GoJ will, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK (the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea) Pyongyang Declaration, continue to make its utmost effort to realize the return of all the abductees as quickly as possible while settling the unfortunate past to normalize relations with North Korea.

(Note) The term “unidentified missing Japanese probably related to North Korea” is used by the private citizens’ group, the Investigation Commission on Missing Japanese Probably Related to North Korea to refer to all missing Japanese.
Talks between Japan and North Korea on the Abductions issue

1. First Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (September 2002)

At the first Japan-North Korea summit meeting held on September 17, 2002, Kim Jong-Il, Chairman of the National Defense Commission of North Korea, finally admitted, after years of denial, that the abductions of Japanese citizens took place and apologized. He also stated that among 13 abductees, four were alive, eight were dead and for one, entrance into North Korea could not be confirmed (Note). In addition, he acknowledged the abduction of Hitomi Soga, who wasn’t on the list for the investigation requested by the GoJ and confirmed that she was alive (On the other hand, he claimed that as a result of a subsequent investigation, Miyoshi Soga, Hitomi Soga’s mother who had disappeared at the same time, had not entered North Korea.). Moreover, while promising to punish those responsible and to prevent any recurrence, Kim assured Japan that he would facilitate meetings between the abductees and their families as well as the return of abductees to Japan.

In response, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi strongly protested to Kim Jong-Il, Chairman of the National Defense Commission, and demanded the continuation of an investigation, the return of those alive, and the prevention of any recurrence.

(Note) North Korea confirmed that four abductees, Yasushi and Fukie Chimura and Kaoru and Yukiko Hasuike, were still alive, where it reported that eight abductees, Megumi Yokota, Yaeko Taguchi, Shuichi Ichikawa, Rumiko Matsumoto, Toru Ishioka, Kaoru Matsuki, Tadaki Hara, and Keiko Arimoto, were dead, and that Yutaka Kume had never entered its borders. Note that the GoJ officially identified Miyoshi Soga in January 2003, Minoru Tanaka in April 2005, and Kyoko Matsumoto in November 2006 as abductees.

2. Dispatch of the Investigation Team of the GoJ (September and October 2002)

From September 28 to October 1, 2002, the GoJ dispatched an investigation team that met with victims and strived to collect information on abductees who have not yet been accounted for. Unfortunately, the information provided by North Korea was limited right from the start and inconsistent and dubious on many points. For example, North Korea handed over materials it claimed were the remains of Kaoru Matsuki, but forensic analyses showed that these remains were those of someone else. At the 12th round of the negotiations to normalize diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea held from October 29 to 30, 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the GoJ posed 150 questions concerning inconsistencies in the information provided by North Korea and requested more information, but did not receive an adequate response from North Korea.
3. The Return of Five Abductees (October 2002)

On October 15, 2002, five abductees (Yasushi and Fukie Chimura, Kaoru and Yukiko Hasuike, and Hitomi Soga) returned to Japan and were finally reunited with their families.

With the consideration that the five abductees returned to Japan should be provided with an environment in which they were free to determine their own future and the future of their families who were still in North Korea, on October 24, 2002, the GoJ announced that the five abductees will remain in Japan. The Government also strongly urged North Korea to ensure the safety of their family members still in North Korea and to promptly set a date for their return to Japan.


On May 22, 2004, then Prime Minister Koizumi visited North Korea for the second time and engaged in discussions with Kim Jong-II, Chairman of the National Defense Commission, concerning the abductions and other bilateral issues, as well as security issues such as North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs. Regarding the abductions issue, the two leaders agreed to the following points during their meeting:

- North Korea agrees to allow all five family members of Yasushi and Fukie Chimura, and of Kaoru and Yukiko Hasuike to return to Japan on the day of the summit meeting.
- North Korea would promptly resume investigations from scratch in order to provide a full account of the truth.

Based on this agreement, all five members of the families of Yasushi and Fukie Chimura and of Kaoru and Yukiko Hasuike returned to Japan with Prime Minister Koizumi. Three family members of Hitomi Soga subsequently arrived in Japan on July 18, 2004.

5. Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (2004, August and September in Beijing; November in Pyongyang)

(a) The Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations were held in Beijing in August (1st round) and September (2nd round) 2004. North Korea presented the preliminary results of its ongoing investigations into the abductees whose whereabouts remain unknown, but no concrete evidence or documentation to support the presented information was provided.

(b) The third Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations took place in November of the same year. They lasted for more than 50 hours and included a question-and-answer session with the Investigation Committee of North Korea, along with direct interviews with a total of 16 alleged witnesses and the onsite inspection of facilities and other locations related to the abductions. Evidentiary materials such as the remains that North Korea claimed to be those of Megumi Yokota were also collected.

Moreover, at these Consultations, Japan requested that North Korea provide relevant information on five of the missing people whom the GoJ has not identified as abductees, but who might have been abducted by North Korea (“missing Japanese probably related to North Korea”). The North Korean side, however, responded that it had been unable to confirm that the five people had entered North Korea. (The GoJ repeatedly demands at consultations and during any other opportunity that North Korea
provides relevant information about cases where the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be dismissed.

(c) The GoJ immediately conducted a close examination of the information and physical evidence presented by North Korea at the third Consultations, and concluded that there was no evidence to support the explanation given by the North Korean side that “eight had died and two were not confirmed to have entered North Korea” (Note). Moreover, the information and physical evidence provided to date so far has brought up numerous questions, and DNA testing on a part of the remains claimed to be those of Megumi Yokota resulted in detecting DNA belonging to someone else. The GoJ addressed these inconsistencies and firmly protested to North Korea.

Note: The “two not confirmed to have entered North Korea” refers to Yutaka Kume and Miyoshi Soga.

6. Japan-North Korea Comprehensive Talks (February 2006: Beijing)

The consultation on the abductions issue at the Japan-North Korea Comprehensive Talks held in February 2006 extended for a total of approximately 11 hours, and Japan once again resolutely demanded the return to Japan of the surviving abductees, the launch of a new investigation aimed at revealing the truth about what had happened, and extraditing those responsible for the abductions. In response, North Korea repeated the same explanation it had previously given that “all of the abductees who are still alive have already returned to Japan.” Regarding the search for the truth, Pyongyang did not vow to continue investigations into the abductees whose whereabouts are unknown and refused to extradite those responsible.

7. Working Group on the Normalization of Japan-North Korea Relations

(March 2007: Hanoi, September 2007: Ulaanbaatar)

The first meeting of the Working Group on the Normalization of Japan-North Korea Relations, which was established at the Six-Party Talks in February 2007, was held in March of the same year. The GoJ reiterated its demands for the securing of the safety of all abductees and their families and their swift return, a full account of the truth in all abduction cases, and the extradition of those responsible. North Korea, however, failed to show good faith towards the resolution of the abductions issue by again repeating its position that “the abductions issue has already been resolved.” Neither was there substantial progress achieved on the abductions issue at the second meeting of the Working Group held in September.

8. Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (June 2008: Beijing, August 2008: Shenyang)

(a) At the Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations in June 2008, Japan urged North Korea to take specific actions towards the resolution of outstanding issues of concern, including the abductions, by explaining that Japan would be ready to partially lift sanctions against North Korea if North Korea takes such actions. Japan also once again insisted that all abductees should be returned, a full account should be provided, and suspects should be handed over. Consequently, North Korea changed its existing position that “the abductions issue has already been resolved” and promised to reinvestigate the abductions issues in order to take concrete actions towards the resolution of the issue.

(b) At the Working-Level Consultations in August of that year, the two parties held candid discussions about the actions agreed upon at the Consultations in June, focused on how the reinvestigation of the abductions issue should be conducted by North Korea. As a result, both parties agreed that North Korea should create an authorized investigation committee and start full-scale investigations on all abductees in order to find and return them. Japan for its part announced that the government was prepared to remove sanctions on travel and chartered flights to and from North Korea as soon as North Korea launched their investigations.
Nevertheless, on September 4, 2008, North Korea notified Japan that, although they would still maintain the position of implementing the measures agreed upon during the Working-Level Consultations, they would postpone the launch of their investigations until they examine how the new GoJ would act in regards to the agreement after its sudden change of the administration (i.e. the resignation of then-Prime Minister Fukuda).


In November 2012, the Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations, which were the first consultations with North Korea in four years, were held. At the meeting, the two parties held in-depth discussions on the abductions issue and came to an agreement to continue deliberations in the future for further review in consideration of past progress and for discussion on individual points of view. In addition, the Japanese side brought up for discussion to North Korea the cases where the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be dismissed.

The second Consultations were scheduled for December 5 and 6, but Japan had no choice but to postpone the meeting due to North Korea announced a missile launch on December 1.

10. Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (March 2014; Beijing)

On March 3, 19 and 20, 2014, Japanese and North Korean officials held informal talks (director level) on the sidelines of meetings between the Japanese and North Korean Red Cross Societies in Shenyang, China for the first time in a year and four months. It was decided to make coordinations to resume official talks.

Subsequently, official talks between Japan and North Korea were held in Beijing, China, on March 30 and 31. Wide-ranged exchanges of views concerning issues of interest of either side took place in a sincere and candid manner, and it was concurred to continue the consultations.

11. Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (May 2014; Stockholm)

In May 2014, Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations were held in Stockholm, Sweden. North Korea promised to conduct comprehensive and full-scale investigation on all Japanese nationals, including abductees (the Stockholm Agreement). Japan, in response, decided that it would lift part of its unilateral measures against North Korea at the point of time when North Korea establishes the Special Investigation Committee for the investigations and starts the investigations.

12. Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (July 2014; Beijing)

On July 1, 2014, Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations were held in Beijing, China. North Korea explained the organization, structure, and key members of the Special Investigation Committee. Japan asked questions focused on whether the committee is authorized to investigate all relevant organizations.

On July 4, North Korea, through its state media, announced the beginning of the investigations on all Japanese nationals including the abductees. It publicly announced in North Korea and abroad, the authority, structure, and investigation methods of the Special Investigation Committee that were consistent with the understanding of the Japanese side. At the same time,
Japan lifted restrictions on visits of persons, special measures of restriction on North Korea regarding the amount of money requiring notification of the export of means of payments and report on the money transfer, and the embargo on the entry of North Korea flagged ships with humanitarian purpose into Japanese ports.

13. Japan-North Korea Diplomatic Authorities Meeting (September 2014; Shenyang)

On September 29, 2014, a meeting between Japan-North Korea diplomatic authorities was held in Shenyang, China, for North Korea’s explanation on the current status of the investigations. North Korea said that it was not be able to provide specific results on individual cases at this stage, but explained that, if a Japanese delegation visits Pyongyang and meet with the members of the Special Investigation Committee, they could hear clearer explanation of the current status of the investigations.

14. Consultations with the Special Investigation Committee (Oct. 2014; Pyongyang)

In October 2014, Consultations with the Special Investigation Committee were held in Pyongyang, North Korea. Japan reiterated that the resolution of the abductions issue is the most important for Japan, ensuring security of all abductees and their immediate return to Japan, providing full account of the truth in all abduction cases and the extradition of perpetrators who conducted the abductions are indispensable, and Japan seeks to find out whereabouts of abductees, whether or not officially identified as such by the Government, and to have them back safely to Japan as soon as possible. Japan also strongly urged North Korea to expeditiously conduct its investigations and report the results sincerely and swiftly to Japan.

North Korea provided an explanation of the organization such as the structure of the committee and its branches. It also explained its policy to conduct objective and scientific investigations with a focus on witnesses and physical evidence and to thoroughly deepen the investigations from new angles, regardless of the past investigation results. It also explained that the Committee is invested with special authority by the National Defense Commission, the highest guiding body of North Korea, to conduct a thorough investigation of all organizations, including special agencies. Regarding the abductions issue, North Korea said that it was investigating the specific cases, including whether or not abductees did enter North Korea, their living circumstances and the details of how each case took place, and that a new investigation into related places including guest houses where the abductees had stayed was being carried out while looking for new physical evidence and witnesses.

15. Unilateral Announcement by North Korea of Dissolution of the Special Investigation Committee

In response to North Korea’s January 2016 nuclear test and the launching of a ballistic missile purported to be a “man-made satellite” in February, that same month Japan announced it would implement autonomous measures against North Korea. In turn, North Korea unilaterally announced that it would completely cease comprehensive investigations concerning any and all Japanese persons, including abductees, and dissolve the Special Investigation Committee. Japan firmly protested these actions by North Korea and conveyed its position that it would not abandon the Stockholm Agreement. Japan also demanded that North Korea return abductees as soon as possible based on the Agreement.

16. Recent developments

Recently, Japan has repeatedly conveyed its basic position to North Korea. For example, at the reception of the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Olympic Winter Games hosted by President Moon Jae-in of the ROK in February 2018, Prime Minister Abe brought up the abductions, nuclear and missile issues and conveyed Japan’s basic position to Kim Yong Nam, the President of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of North Korea. In particular, Prime Minister Abe strongly urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue, including the return of all abductees to Japan.
In order to resolve the abductions issue, it is essential for Japan not only to proactively urge North Korea, but also to gain support and cooperation from other countries regarding the importance of resolving the abductions issue. Therefore, the GoJ has raised the issue at every diplomatic opportunity.

It is known that there are also many ROK people who were abducted by North Korea. Testimony from returned Japanese abductees and others has further revealed that there are people from Thailand, Romania, and Lebanon who may have been abducted by North Korea. It has also been said, according to the testimony from abductees of the ROK who have returned from North Korea and from others, that Chinese and other nationals have also been abducted.

As detailed above, abduction by North Korea constitutes a universal issue among the international community as a violation of fundamental human rights.

1. United Nations

(a) In the United Nations, Japan and the European Union (EU) have co-tabled the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK at both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. The resolutions have been adopted at the Human Rights Council 11 times for 11 consecutive years and at the General Assembly 13 times for 13 consecutive years (as of October 2018).

(b) During the March 2013 session of the Human Rights Council, the resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK that includes words to establish a Commission of Inquiry (COI) was adopted by consensus (without voting). The COI has investigated the human rights situation in North Korea including the abductions issue through their visits to Japan, the ROK, the US, the United Kingdom and Thailand, and released their final report (COI report) in February 2014.

(c) During the March 2014 session of the Human Rights Council, the resolution which reflects the contents of the COI report was adopted by an overwhelming majority. It is stronger in content than any such resolution to date at the Council. The resolution condemned the widespread and gross human rights violations in North Korea in the strongest terms, and urged North Korea to take immediate steps to end all human rights violations, including abductions. Based on the recommendations in the COI report, the resolution recommended the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to consider the referral of the situation to the appropriate international criminal justice mechanism that those responsible for the human rights violations are held to account. It also requested the establishment of a structure in order to follow up on the COI report.
(d) In December 2014, at the UN General Assembly, the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK was co-sponsored by a record number of countries, and adopted by an overwhelming majority. Its content is stronger than any such resolution adopted at the UN General Assembly. This resolution is based on the COI report and the Human Rights Council’s Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK adopted in March 2014. More specifically, along with the condemnation of North Korea’s systematic, widespread, and gross violation of human rights, this resolution refers to “crimes against humanity” and encourages the UNSC to take appropriate action, including consideration of referral of the situation of human rights in North Korea to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

(e) Thereafter, specific initiatives were implemented based on the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK, including the establishment of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) field-based structure in Seoul (in June 2015); the designation of independent experts to focus on issues of accountability for human rights violations in North Korea (in September 2016); and the adoption of a resolution to strengthen the capacity of the OHCHR, including its field-based structure in Seoul (in March 2017). The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK that was adopted at the Human Rights Council in March 2018 also strongly encourages to expedite the process for strengthening OHCHR’s capacity.

(f) In December 2014, UNSC discussed the situation in North Korea comprehensively, including the human rights situation. Since then, UNSC held meetings on “the situation in the DPRK” for four consecutive years. Japan has urged the fastest possible resolution of the North Korean abductions issue at these meetings.

2. Six-Party Talks

Japan has raised the abductions issue at the Six-Party Talks. In fact, taking steps to normalize relations between Japan and North Korea, on the basis of the settlement of the abductions issues and other outstanding issues of concern, was set as one of the goals in the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. Based on this goal, during the Six-Party Talks held in February 2007, the decision for the establishment of a Working Group for the “Normalization of DPRK-Japan Relations” was incorporated in an outcome document. At the Six-Party Talks held in October 2007, it was reaffirmed in another outcome document that “the DPRK and Japan will make a sincere effort to normalize relations expeditiously in accordance with the Pyongyang Declaration, on the basis of the settlement of ‘the unfortunate past’ and the outstanding issues of concern,” and that “the DPRK and Japan have committed themselves to taking specific actions towards this end through intensive consultations between them.” There is no doubt that the abductions issue is included in the “outstanding issues of concern.”
3. Multilateral Frameworks

The GoJ has raised the abductions issue in multilateral frameworks, including the G7 summit and the ASEAN-related summit meetings, and the importance of resolving the abductions issue and efforts the GoJ has been making towards this end have gained the clear understanding and support of other nations.

For example, at the G7 Charlevoix Summit in June 2018, Prime Minister Abe called for understanding and cooperation toward an immediate resolution of the abductions issue, and secured support from the G7 leaders and clear reference of the issue in the Summit's communique. In addition, Prime Minister Abe again called for the understanding and cooperation of every nation in the return of all abductees at the General Debate Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September of the same year.

4. Bilateral Consultations

The GoJ has addressed the abductions issue at bilateral summit talks and foreign ministerial meetings with countries such as the United States, the ROK, China and Russia, who offer their understanding and support for the position of Japan.

For example, when U.S. President Donald Trump visited Japan in November 2017, he met with the family members of the abductees and listened attentively to the family members’ emotional pleas, and shared the view with Prime Minister Abe that Japan and the United States will continue to work together towards the resolution of the abductions issue. Furthermore, based on a request from Prime
In September 2016, a resolution was adopted during the regular session of the US House of Representatives which urged the United States Government to coordinate with the governments of Japan, China, and ROK to investigate the matter of a US citizen possibly abducted by North Korea. In March 2017, an identical resolution was submitted to the US Senate, and was approved in February 2018 by the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The GoJ intends to continue to maintain a close watch on the attitudes of the United States Congress.

Minister Abe, President Trump raised the abductions issue with Chairman Kim Jong-Un at the U.S.-North Korea summit meeting in June 2018, and the United States has been raising the abductions issue at various opportunities, including visits to North Korea by the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. In addition, the ROK has also been raising the abductions issue with North Korea on successive occasions, including the Inter-Korean Summit in April 2018.

Moreover, during the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting in May 2018, Prime Minister Abe called on President Moon and Chinese Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang, for their support and cooperation towards the early resolution of the abductions issue. As a result of obtaining the understanding of both leaders, reference to the abductions issue was included in the outcome document of the summit meeting for the first time. It should also be noted that at the Japan-Russia summit meeting in September 2018, Prime Minister Abe called for Russia’s cooperation on resolving the abductions issue, and obtained the understanding of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Additionally, at the Japan-China summit meeting in the same month, Prime Minister Abe obtained the complete support of Chinese President Xi Jinping for Japan’s position regarding the early resolution of the abductions issue.
1. Establishment of the “Headquarters for the Abduction Issue”

In January 2013, the GoJ established a new “Headquarters for the Abduction Issue” consisting of all Ministers of State, in order to discuss measures to address the abductions issue and to promote strategic approaches and comprehensive measures for the resolution of this issue. The Headquarters is led by the Prime Minister serving as the head and the Minister of State for the Abduction Issue, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, and the Foreign Minister serve as the deputies. Individual Ministers closely collaborate with mainly the head and deputies and exert themselves to the utmost of their ability in their respective fields of responsibility towards the goal of resolving the abductions issue.

Moreover, the “Liaison Council of Government and Ruling and Opposition Parties Institutions for Measures against Abduction Issue” has been formed to strengthen bipartisan efforts towards the resolution of the abductions issue.
1. Policies

The abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea is a grave concern which affects the national sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of the Japanese people, and urgently needs to be resolved by the government. The government will firmly maintain its basic policy that the normalization of diplomatic relations with North Korea will not occur until the abduction issue is resolved, and will endeavor to have their safety secured and bring them back to Japan immediately, irrespective of whether they are officially identified as abductees. The government is committed to continuing its investigation of the truth and demanding the handover of those responsible for the abductions.

2. Concrete measures

With the initiative of the chief and the assistant chiefs of the Headquarters, all Cabinet ministers should cooperate in implementing the above-mentioned policy, and should make their utmost efforts in the following eight points within their respective areas of responsibility.

① to discuss further countermeasures and promote strict law enforcement under the current legal framework to urge North Korea to speedily resolve the abduction issue;
② to take every opportunity, including the Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Talks, to strongly demand that North Korea takes concrete action to resolve the abduction issue;
③ to strengthen the collection, analysis, and management of information on abductees and the situation in North Korea;
④ to strengthen the investigation and examination of cases in which the possibility of abduction can not be ruled out, and to continue investigating the individuals responsible for abductions domestically and internationally;
⑤ to reaffirm our determination not to let the abduction issue be fade away, and to make further efforts to raise public awareness on this issue through various domestic and international means, including education in schools;
⑥ to further enhance international cooperation by strengthening ties with the United States, ROK, and other relevant countries and by having discussions at UN meetings and other multilateral talks;
⑦ to take conscientious measures with regard to the family members of abductees, offer ongoing support for returned abductees, and carefully prepare for the future return of abductees; and
⑧ to discuss all other measures which can contribute to the resolution of the abduction issue.

(Policies and Concrete Measures for Resolving the Abduction Issue Set by the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue on January 25, 2013)
2. Investigations by the GoJ

The GoJ, with the continuous cooperation from the returned abductees, has been thoroughly investigating the cases of abduction by North Korea as well as the cases of disappearances in which the possibility of abduction by North Korean agents cannot be ruled out. As a result of such investigations, the GoJ has so far identified 12 separate incidents involving a total of 17 Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea.

The National Police Agency of Japan determined that a case in which an elder sister and younger brother of Korean nationality were abducted from Japan (two abductees) is also a suspected abduction case committed by North Korea. It has issued domestic arrest warrants for 11 suspects including North Korean agents, who were involved in abduction cases, and then also issued for them international arrest warrants.

Furthermore, regarding the investigations into the disappearances in which the possibility of abduction by North Korean agents cannot be ruled out, Japanese authorities have been striving to reveal the truth behind these cases by reinforcing their efforts, including 1) the installation of a Special Guidance Section in the Foreign Affairs Division of the National Police Agency in March 2013 to conduct supervision and coordination between prefectural police departments, 2) the recovery of physical evidence from family members for DNA testing, and 3) the posting of information on the websites of the National Police Agency and prefectural police departments, including a list of the people who are involved in the cases in which the possibility of abduction by North Korean agents cannot be ruled out in their disappearance. In addition, by enhancing their partnership, the Police and Japan Coast Guard have been collectively reinvestigating cases that were originally handled as marine accidents.

### Interpol Notice Suspects Connected with Suspected Abduction Incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Name</th>
<th>Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Japanese Woman in Europe</th>
<th>Ushitu Case</th>
<th>Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Couple (in Fukui)</th>
<th>Sin Kwang-Su Case</th>
<th>Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Mother and Daughter</th>
<th>Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Couple (in Niigata)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspect</td>
<td>Kimhiro Uomoto (aka. Abe, former family name)</td>
<td>Kim Se-Ho</td>
<td>Sim Kwang-Su</td>
<td>Kim Ki-Lik</td>
<td>Kim Myong-Suk</td>
<td>Choi Sun-Chai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Name</th>
<th>Suspected Abduction Case Involving a Couple (in Niigata)</th>
<th>Suspected Abduction Case Involving two Siblings</th>
<th>Suspected Abduction Case Involving Japanese Males in Europe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspect</td>
<td>(Commonly Known as) Han Geum-Nyeong</td>
<td>(Commonly Known as) Kim Nam-Jin</td>
<td>Sakiko Wakabayashi (Maiden name: Kuroda)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoko Kinoshita a.k.a. Hong Suhye</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoriko Mori</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Major Activities to Publicize and Promote the Understanding of the Abductions Issue

The Law Concerning Measures to Address the Abductions Issue and Other North Korean Human Rights Violations was promulgated and came into effect in June 2006 with the purpose of increasing awareness among Japanese nationals of the abductions issue and other human rights violations committed by North Korean authorities. In cooperation with the international community, the law also aims to elicit a full account of the situation surrounding the abductions issue and to prevent abductions from happening again in the future.
In addition to laying out the responsibilities of the GoJ in resolving the abductions issue, this law holds national and local governments responsible for raising awareness of the issue and to this end establishes North Korean Human Rights Abuses Awareness Week (December 10 – 16), which calls on national and local governments to hold educational events on the topic during this week. As part of the week, the GoJ distributes pamphlets and posters and also screens movies and cartoons which raise awareness about the abductions issue, dispatches lecturers for workshops and other educational events, and broadcasts radio programs (in Japanese and Korean) to North Korea and holds arts performances aimed at raising awareness of the issue, etc. In particular, during this week, many conferences and symposia, etc. are held by governments and NGOs to advocate the resolution of the abductions issue both inside and outside of Japan.
4. Actions against North Korea

On July 5, 2006, North Korea launched seven ballistic missiles. Since then, despite repeated warnings from the international community, Pyongyang again launched ballistic missiles in April 2009, April 2012 and December 2012. It also carried out nuclear tests in October 2006, May 2009 and February 2013. In addition, in March 2010, North Korea launched a torpedo attack on an ROK naval vessel. In response, the GoJ protested firmly, expressing the strong condemnation of these North Korean actions, and imposed a series of measures against North Korea. In addition to the sanction measures set out in the UNSC resolutions, Japan requested its own citizens to refrain from traveling to North Korea, banned the entry of North Korean nationals into Japan and of North Korean flagged ships into Japanese ports and also, prohibited export and import with North Korea.

Based on what was agreed in May 2014, Japan lifted restrictions on visits of persons, special measures of restriction on North Korea regarding the amount of money requiring notification of the export of means of payments and report on the money transfer, and the embargo on the entry of North Korea flagged ships with humanitarian purpose into Japanese ports.

However, in response to North Korea’s January 2016 nuclear test and February ballistic missile launch, in February that same year, Japan implemented restrictions on visits of persons; lowered the minimum amount of money requiring notification of the export of means of payment; prohibited in principle the payment of money to North Korea; prohibited the entry of North Korean flagged ships as well as ships carrying the flag of a third country which stopped at a port in North Korea, including those with humanitarian purposes, into Japanese ports; and also expanded the list of related organizations and individuals subject to asset freezing. In addition, Japan also implemented measures against North Korea based on UNSC resolution 2270 adopted in March of that year, including prohibiting the entry into Japanese ports of ships designated as subject to sanction and expanding the list of related organizations and individuals subject to asset freeze.

Furthermore, in September 2016, North Korea conducted the second nuclear test in the year. It also launched over 20 ballistic missiles in that year. Taking into account that it failed to resolve the abductions issue in spite of strong call to return all abductees as soon as possible, Japan upgraded restrictions on travel to North Korea, prohibited the entry into Japanese ports of Japanese flagged vessels which had stopped at a port in North Korea, and further expanded the list of related organizations and individuals subject to asset freeze in December of that year. Additionally, based on the UNSC resolution 2321 adopted in November that same year, Japan again further expanded the list of related organizations and individuals subject to asset freeze.

Moreover, in 2017, North Korea launched 17 ballistic missiles, including three with an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) range, and in September of the same year, North Korea carried out the sixth nuclear test, the scale of which is estimated to be the largest in its history. Meanwhile, UNSC adopted resolutions 2356, 2371, 2375 and 2397 in June, August, September and December of the same year respectively, and Japan expanded the list of related organizations and individuals subject to asset freeze based on those resolutions. In addition, Japan implemented autonomous measures in July, August, November and December of the same year, designating additional entities and individuals subject to asset freeze.
Kidnapped 13-year-old Girl, Miss Megumi Yokota

On November 15, 1977, more than 40 years ago, a 13-year-old girl suddenly vanished from a town in Niigata Prefecture, which faces the Sea of Japan.

That morning, as usual, Miss Megumi Yokota had busily eaten breakfast with her father, mother, and her twin younger brothers and then went off to her junior high school. That was to become the last time Megumi's family saw her.

Megumi didn't come home!

On that evening, Megumi didn't come home at her usual time, although she was supposed to come home after finishing badminton practice, which was the club she belonged to at school. Her family was worried and desperately searched for her. The police also conducted a search and an investigation assuming a variety of scenarios, such as a kidnapping, accident, runaway, or suicide. However, they found no eyewitnesses nor any items left behind.

On that night, Megumi was...

According to testimony heard much later, during that time when Megumi's father and mother were desperately searching to find her, she had been kidnapped by North Korean agents and was confined in the pitch-dark and cold hold of a boat heading to North Korea. She cried out "Mom! Mom!" and scratched everywhere on the door and walls so desperately that when she arrived in North Korea it was said that her finger nails had almost come off and were covered with blood.

Bright and cheerful Megumi

Megumi was a bright and cheerful girl. She was like the sun to the members of her family. She liked to sing and draw pictures, and she practiced Japanese calligraphy and classical ballet.

November 14, the day before she disappeared, was her father's birthday. She gave her father a comb as a gift, with the words "Please take good care of your appearance from now on."

Days of Sorrow for the Family

From the day that Megumi disappeared, the life of her family changed completely. For their lively dinner table, it was as if the fire had gone out.

Her father left the house a little early every morning and searched along the shore. When her mother finished her housework, she would walk to many different places in town and along the shore for several kilometers while calling Megumi’s name.

At night, her father cried in the bath. Her mother cried when alone so that the other members of the family would not know it. They both thought, "Why do we have to go through such a sad experience? I just want to die already."

However, while the family was experiencing such sorrow and pain, time went by without finding any clue.

Then 20 years later, January 21, 1997

Megumi is alive!

The family then heard the information that Megumi was alive in Pyongyang. Her father Shigeru and mother Sakie had made the name “Megumi Yokota” known to the public. And so newspapers and magazines simultaneously reported the news, and her case was raised in the National Diet.

Japan-North Korea summit meeting

On September 17, 2002, (then) Prime Minister Koizumi visited North Korea and had the first summit meeting with National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong-Il. Both Shigeru and Sakie had high expectations of finally seeing Megumi. On that very day, Kim Jong-Il admitted the abduction and apologized.

However, the information given by North Korea had the shocking claim that Megumi Yokota was deceased (among those that North Korea has claimed as the 5 alive, 8 deceased, and 2 no entry).

Unconvincing explanation from North Korea

However, the claim about Megumi was only what North Korea has claimed unilaterally. North Korea has not yet provided any convincing explanation or evidence of this claim. In November 2004, Pyongyang provided what they claimed were Megumi's remains, but forensic analysis on part of the remains has detected that DNA is not Megumi's.

We will never give up! Until we take you back!

The abductees, including Megumi, have been robbed of their lives, which are irreplaceable. The families are still awaiting the return of these most important persons in their lives in intense grief.

These abductions by North Korea are a serious human rights violation and an infringement of national sovereignty. We must rescue the abductees as soon as possible.

Sakie speaks in this way:

“I want to take Megumi into a very natural place when she returns because I believe that she is living now by doing her best not to make any mistakes, while being afraid of wiretaps and hidden cameras in North Korea. I want her to lie spread out on open ground, like on a ranch in Hokkaido, and let her say ‘I’m Free!’”

Over 40 years have passed since her disappearance, but Megumi still remains abducted by North Korea.
Q&A on the Abductions Issue

Q1 What is the abductions issue?
A1 In the 1970s and 1980s, many Japanese were abducted by North Korea against their will. ("Abducted" means they were taken against their will.) North Korea had denied for a long time that it had abducted Japanese citizens. At the Japan-North Korea summit meeting held in September 2002, however, North Korea’s leader Kim Jong-il, then Chairman of the National Defense Commission, admitted for the first time the abduction of Japanese people and apologized to then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. But only five of the abductees have returned to Japan.

The GoJ still strongly demands that North Korea immediately return home all of the other abductees.

Q2 Why did North Korea abduct Japanese people?
A2 The full truth behind the abductions remains unclear. However, it is deemed that North Korea committed these abductions, which are unprecedented state sponsored crimes, for the following reasons: 1) disguising North Korean agents as Japanese citizens; 2) forcing abductees to train North Korean agents to act as Japanese; 3) recruitment by the “Yodo-go” group*, which is still being harbored in North Korea.

*An inclusive term for the hijackers who hijacked Japan Airlines Flight 351 (commonly known as the “Yodo-go”) on March 31, 1970, and their family members.

Q3 Is North Korea making a false statement in claiming that abductions issue “has already been resolved”? A3 North Korea has been claiming that it has already returned all the surviving abductees and that the remaining abductees have either died or never entered its territory, and hence that the abductions issue has already been resolved.

North Korea, however, has only provided extremely unnatural and thoroughly unconvincing evidence of the “death” of abductees.

During the Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations held in May 2014, North Korea agreed to conduct a comprehensive and full-scale probe into all the abducted Japanese citizens and resolve the abductions issue and other issues with Japan. The GoJ will continue to do everything in its power to realize the return of all the abductees.

Q4 How many Japanese people were abducted by North Korea?
A4 17 are identified by the GoJ as victims of abduction by North Korea. Of those, five have returned to Japan, but 12 abductees still have not returned home.

In addition, it has also been revealed that two Korean domicile infants were abducted from Japan. Moreover there are many other missing Japanese people for whom the possibility of abduction cannot be ruled out*. The GoJ has been urging North Korea to return all the abductees, regardless of whether they are officially identified as such, back to Japan immediately.

*The GoJ is continuing information gathering, investigations and inquiries both in Japan and overseas about the missing 883 persons (as of October 1, 2018) for whom the possibility of abduction cannot be ruled out.

Q5 Why are there abductees who cannot come back to Japan although North Korea has admitted their abduction?
A5 It is suspected that North Korea considers it risky that inconvenient facts about the country such as committing espionage will be revealed by returning the abductees to Japan.

For instance, former North Korean agent Kim Hyon-hui passed herself as Japanese and blew up an airplane of the ROK in November 1987. Kim Hyon-hui gave testimony that she learned Japanese from an abductee (Ms. Yaseo Taguchi). In the meantime, North Korea has not admitted to having been involved in this incident, and has not returned Ms. Taguchi back to Japan for fear that the truth will be revealed if she returns.
Q6 When can we say that the abductions issue is resolved?

A6 It is necessary to achieve the following three items for the resolution of the abductions issue:
1) The safety of all abductees must be secured and they must be returned to Japan immediately.
2) North Korea must give a full account of the truth regarding all abduction cases.
3) North Korea must hand over to Japan the persons who carried out the abductions.

Q7 What actions is the GoJ taking to resolve the abductions issue?

A7 The GoJ has been strongly demanding North Korea to take actions to resolve the abductions issue, and implementing various measures on North Korea such as bans on imports from and exports to North Korea.
By taking the opportunities of bilateral talks and international conferences, the GoJ is seeking the understanding and cooperation of other countries on the abductions issue.
In addition, the GoJ is gathering information on the abductees, and conducting investigations and inquiries about the missing Japanese people for whom the possibility of abduction cannot be ruled out.

Q8 What kind of negotiation policy is the GoJ following against North Korea in order to resolve the abductions issue?

A8 In accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, the GoJ's policy towards North Korea is the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues.
As regards the GoJ's future efforts to resolve the abductions issue, the GoJ intends to continue to demand North Korea to fulfill the Stockholm Agreement and will take every measure to achieve the immediate return of all abductees.

Q9 How does the international community see the abductions issue?

A9 According to the final report published by the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Human Rights in the DPRK in February 2014, victims of abduction by North Korea are not only from Japan but also from other countries including the ROK, Lebanon, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Romania, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and China.
The abductions issue is a human rights issue that should be raised by countries around the world, regardless of whether their people have been abducted. International community demands that North Korea resolve the abductions issue immediately, as is evident from the adoption, by majority vote, of a resolution based on the report by the COI at the UN General Assembly in December 2014 and the annual adoptions of Resolutions on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

Q10 What can we as Japanese citizens do for the resolution of the abductions issue?

A10 Over 12 million Japanese people have signed a petition for the resolution of the abductions issue. The fact that that each individual citizen has expressed his or her strong determinations not to tolerate abduction in this manner will give a significant impetus for resolution of the abductions issue.
Chronology of Abductions

1977  Abduction cases occurred (Cases 1 through 3 on page 2 and 3)
1978  Abduction cases occurred (Cases 4 through 9 on page 2 and 3)
1980  Abduction case occurred (Case 10 on page 3)
1983  Abduction case occurred (Case 11 on page 3)
1991  The GoJ brought up the abductions issue with North Korea at every possible opportunity. However, North Korea persistently denied any involvement.
Mar. 1997  The Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea (the Families’ Association) was established.
August 1998  North Korea launched a ballistic missile.
Sept. 2002  The First Japan-North Korea summit meeting (in Pyongyang) and the signing of the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration.
Kim Jong-Il, Chairman of the National Defense Commission, himself admitted to the abductions of Japanese citizens and apologized.
A fact-finding team was sent to North Korea.


North Korea to Japan.
Kim Jong-Il, Chairman of the National Defense Commission, promised to immediately reopen a thorough investigation of the abductees whose whereabouts are unknown starting from scratch. Hitomi Soga reunited with her family members in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the family returned to Japan (July).

Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (in Pyongyang).
The forensic evidence showed that a part of the remains that North Korea handed over to Japan and claimed to be of Megumi Yokota contained DNA that did not belong to her. The GoJ strongly protested to North Korea.

Sept. 2005 The Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks was released.
The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK for the first time.

July North Korea launched ballistic missiles (7 launches).
Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.
Adoption of the UN resolution 1695.

Mar. 2007  The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue was established.

Mar. 2010 Torpedo attack by North Korea on ROK navy patrolship Cheonan.

May Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.
Nuclear Test by North Korea (2nd Time).
Adoption of the UNSC resolution 1874.
Nuclear Test by North Korea on ROK naval patrolship Cheonan.

Japan announced independent measures against North Korea.
The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue established (Former Headquarters Established in 2009 Abolished).

Both sides agreed to resume investigations on the abductions issue.
Both sides agreed on the specific details, etc. for complete reinvestigations of the abductions issue.
North Korea notified Japan that they would postpone the launch of their reinvestigations.
North Korea launched a ballistic missile (8 launches through July).
Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.

Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.

Adoption of the UN resolution 2087.
The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue established (Former Headquarters Established in 2009 Abolished).

“Policy and specific measures toward resolving the abduction issue” was adopted at the first meeting of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue.
Nuclear Test by North Korea (3rd Time).
Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2014</td>
<td>Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The UN Human Rights Council decided to set up the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the situation of human rights in the DPRK</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Yokota Meet Kim Eun-gyong (Daughter of Megumi Yokota) Meet (in Ulaanbaatar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Korea launched ballistic missiles (11 launches through July)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Beijing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US President Obama met with family members of abductees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan announced Statement by Keiji Furuya, Minister in charge of the Abduction Issue on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Second Japan-North Korea summit meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (in Stockholm)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Korea promised to conduct a comprehensive and full-scale investigations on all Japanese nationals, including abductees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Beijing)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Korea established the Special Investigation Committee and launched investigations. Japan lifted part of its measures against North Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan-North Korea government-level consultations (in Shenyang)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consultations with the Special Investigation Committee (in Pyongyang)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2015</td>
<td>The UNSC held a meeting on the situation in the DPRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Korea launched ballistic missiles (2 launches)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of a field-based structure was established in Seoul</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The UN Human Rights Council held a panel discussion on the situation of human rights in the DPRK (in Geneva)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nuclear Test by North Korea (4th Time)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Korea launched a ballistic missile (23 launches through October)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In response to North Korea's January nuclear test and February ballistic missile launch, Japan announced it would implement autonomous measures against North Korea. In turn, North Korea unilaterally announced it would cease comprehensive investigations concerning Japanese persons, including abductees, and dissolve the Special Investigation Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2270</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Defense Commission First Chairman Kim Jong-un assumed Office as the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Nuclear Test by North Korea (5th Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Korea launched a ballistic missile (17 launches through November)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of the UNSC Resolution 2356</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td>Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea</td>
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<td>Nuclear Test by North Korea (6th Time)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of the UNSC Resolution 2375</td>
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<td>U.S. President Trump mentioned the issue of abductions of Japanese citizens in his address at the UN General Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>U.S. President Trump met with family members of the abductees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The U.S. re-designated North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The UNSC held a meeting on the situation in the DPRK (fourth meeting in four consecutive years)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK at a Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly (13th time in 13 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td>Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2397</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK at the UN Human Rights Council (11th time in 11 consecutive years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>Inter-Korean Summit (in Panmunjeom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Inter-Korean Summit (in Panmunjeom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>U.S.-North Korea Summit (in Singapore)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>Inter-Korean Summit (in Pyongyang)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
It is most regrettable that not a single abductee has returned to Japan since the five abductees came back home in 2002. I share the family members’ acute feelings and the sense of urgency that “not another second can be wasted.” The abductions issue is the most important and top priority issue of the Abe Cabinet. I have engaged in various activities for resolving the abductions issue as the Assistant Chief of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue. As I have now become Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue, I am determined to continue to make an utmost effort.

Now we face a critical moment. Upon instructions from Prime Minister Abe for my appointment as Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue, I am committed to strengthening the all-Japan efforts with determination not to miss any opportunity. I will fulfill my responsibilities, in close communication with the family members of the abductees and respecting their feelings.

October 2018

For further information on abductions of Japanese citizens, please refer to our website

[Abduction issue]


Your cooperation in helping resolve the abduction issue is vital. If you have any information concerning abductions, please contact the Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue by email or fax.

◆ Email address g.rachi@cas.go.jp
◆ FAX +81(0)3-3581-6011

For further information on, please contact

Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue
1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 100-8968
Phone: +81 (0)3-3581-8898 Fax: +81 (0)3-3581-6011
http://www.rachi.go.jp/

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919 Japan
Phone: +81-(0)3-3580-3311 Fax: +81-(0)3-3580-3311
http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/

October 2018

Photos provided by the Cabinet Public Relations Office, Jiji Press Ltd, AFP/Jiji and the National Association for the Rescue of Japanese Kidnapped by North Korea