

## **Policy on the Abduction Issue**

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Japan and North Korea signed the Pyongyang Declaration on September 17, 2002, stating that, pursuant to the spirit and basic principles laid out in the declaration, they would tackle outstanding bilateral problems and make every possible effort for an early normalization of relations. However, since then North Korea has continued to act in extreme bad faith over the abduction issue, an issue that has violated Japanese sovereignty and imperiled the lives and security of Japanese citizens. In addition, it launched ballistic missiles in July 2006 and, in spite of repeated warnings from the international community, including Japan, later announced it had conducted nuclear testing.

In the face of these events, the GoJ established the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue on September 29, 2006, which adopted the ‘Policy on the Abduction Issue’ at its first meeting on October 16, 2006. A strong unified approach throughout the GoJ has been exerted to resolve the issue. Unfortunately, North Korea has failed to take concrete action to date to resolve this issue.

Six years ago to the day, on October 15, 2002, five Japanese citizens who were abducted by North Korea finally returned home to Japan. A number of abductees, however, including 12 identified by the GoJ, remain to this day in North Korea. It has already been more than 30 years since the abduction of Japanese citizens first occurred, and the resolution of these cases cannot be delayed a moment longer.

The GoJ is committed to the basic policy of normalizing relations between Japan and North Korea through the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues between the two parties: abduction, nuclear, missile, and settlement of past disputes. Japan, remains firm in its stance that there can be no normalization of relations with North Korea until the abduction issue is settled. The GoJ will continue to promote its policy of “dialogue and pressure,” in order to ensure that all Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea return safely to Japan as quickly as possible, and toward this end reaffirms its commitment to the Basic Policy adopted in 2006 (as summarized below).

The GoJ reiterates its demand that North Korea fully recognize Japan’s determination to resolve this issue, and to immediately and decisively work to bring about a swift resolution to abduction cases.

1. The GoJ will continue to call resolutely on North Korea to ensure the safety of all abductees, to allow them to return immediately to Japan, to reveal the facts behind the abductions, and to hand over those who carried out the abductions.
2. The Japanese Government has implemented a series of measures against North Korea, including a freezing of humanitarian assistance (announced December 28, 2004), the banning of the Mangyongbong-92 passenger ferry from entering any Japanese port (announced July 5, 2006), the prevention of fund remittances and transfers related to North Korean missile programs to North Korea (announced September 19, 2006), the prohibition of all ships of North Korean registry from entering Japanese ports, and an embargo on all imports from North Korea (announced October 11, 2006). The Japanese Government will consider implementing further measures, in accordance with the future stance adopted by North Korea.
3. The GoJ will continue to implement strict legal measures.
4. The GoJ, led by the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, will be in the forefront of efforts to gather and analyze information on this issue, and to promote without delay an examination of measures to resolve the issue. It will also further enhance its efforts to raise the awareness of the Japanese people regarding the abduction issue.
5. The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue will continue to promote every effort to study and investigate other cases in which the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea cannot be ruled out. These cases include the so-called “missing Japanese probably related to North Korea.” If studies and investigations identify other cases of abductions, the GoJ will raise such cases with North Korea.
6. To resolve the issue, the GoJ will further strengthen its international collaborative efforts in multilateral forums such as the United Nations, and through close cooperation with concerned countries.