



Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea

**Headquarters for the Abduction Issue,
Government of Japan**

For the Return of All of the Abductees!

During the 1970s and 1980s, there was a string of incidents in which Japanese citizens North Korea is suspected of committing abduction in many of those incidents. To date, the citizens as victims of abduction by North Korea, and there are still other cases in which the possibility out.

North Korea admitted for the first time in September 2002 that it had in fact abducted Japanese October. North Korean authorities, however, have not provided yet credible accounts of the

The abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea is a matter of grave concern that undermines and safety of the Japanese people. The GoJ will stand firm in the position that resolution of the normalization of diplomatic relations with North Korea. In line with this policy, we will spare no remaining abductees, regardless of whether they are officially recognized or not, and bringing them urging North Korea to reveal the whole truth of the abductions and hand over the perpetrators.

disappeared under unusual circumstances. Government of Japan (GoJ) has identified 17 of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled

citizens, five of whom returned to Japan in whereabouts of the remaining abductees.

the national sovereignty of Japan and the lives abduction issue is a prerequisite for effort for securing the safety of all of the back to Japan immediately, as well as strongly

17 Abductees Identified by the Government of Japan

1 Abducted on September 19, 1977, in Ishikawa Prefecture.



Mr. Yutaka Kume (then 52)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea denies all knowledge of his having entered North Korean territory.)

2 Abducted on October 21, 1977, in Tottori Prefecture.



Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto (then 29)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea denies all knowledge of her having entered North Korean territory.)

3 Abducted on November 15, 1977, in Niigata Prefecture.



Ms. Megumi Yokota (then 13)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea claims that she committed suicide.)

*Ms. Yokota has a daughter named Kim Hye Gyong in North Korea

4 Abducted around June 1978 in Hyogo Prefecture.



Mr. Minoru Tanaka (then 28)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea denies all knowledge of his having entered North Korean territory.)

5 Abducted around June 1978; location of abduction unknown.



Ms. Yaeko Taguchi (then 22)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea claims that she was killed in a traffic accident.)

6 Abducted on July 7, 1978, in Fukui Prefecture.



Mr. Yasushi Chimura (then 23)

▶ Returned to Japan in October 2002.



Ms. Fukie Chimura

(maiden name Fukie Hamamoto, then 23)

▶ Returned to Japan in October 2002.

7 Abducted on July 31, 1978, in Niigata Prefecture.



Mr. Kaoru Hasuike (then 20)

▶ Returned to Japan in October 2002.



Ms. Yukiko Hasuike

(maiden name Yukiko Okudo, then 22)

▶ Returned to Japan in October 2002.

8 Abducted on August 12, 1978, in Kagoshima Prefecture.



Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa (then 23)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea claims that he died of a heart attack while swimming in the sea.)



Ms. Rumiko Masumoto (then 24)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea claims that she died of a heart attack.)

9 Abducted on August 12, 1978, in Niigata Prefecture.



Ms. Hitomi Soga (then 19)

▶ Returned to Japan in October 2002.



Ms. Miyoshi Soga (then 46)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea denies all knowledge of her having entered North Korean territory.)

10 Abducted around May 1980 in Europe.



Mr. Toru Ishioka (then 22)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea claims that he died in a gas accident.)



Mr. Kaoru Matsuki (then 26)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea claims that he was killed in a traffic accident.)

11 Abducted in mid-June 1980 in Miyazaki Prefecture.



Mr. Tadaaki Hara (then 43)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea claims that he died of cirrhosis of the liver.)

12 Abducted around July 1983 in Europe.



Ms. Keiko Arimoto (then 23)

▶ Fate remains unclear

(North Korea claims that she was killed in a gas accident.)

※ The numbers correspond to these on the map on page 4

877 Other Cases of Missing Persons in Which the Possibility of Abduction by

In addition to the 17 Japanese citizens already identified as having been abducted by North persons (as of October 1, 2015), The GoJ has been conducting information gathering and

North Korea Cannot be Ruled Out

Korea, the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out for 877 other missing investigation activities both in Japan and overseas.

The GoJ has been making a concerted effort 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

During the 1970s and 1980s, there was a string of incidents in which Japanese citizens disappeared under unnatural circumstances. North Korea is suspected of committing abduction in many of these incidents. To date, the Government of Japan (GoJ) has identified 17 citizens as victims of abduction by North Korea, and there are still other cases in which the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out.

North Korea admitted for the first time in September 2002 that it had in fact abducted Japanese citizens, and five of them returned to Japan in October. However the North Korean authorities, have failed to provide credible accounts of the whereabouts of the remaining abductees, who are still awaiting rescue, deprived of all freedoms and have been held captive by North Korea for about 40 years.

The abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea is a matter of grave concern that affects the national sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of the Japanese people. All of the remaining abductees should have their safety secured and must be brought back to Japan immediately.



Major Recent Developments between Japan and North Korea

North Korea Started a Comprehensive and Full-scale Investigation into All Japanese Abductees and Missing People

At the First Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (September 2002), North Korea informed Japan that only five abductees were surviving, eight had died, and there was no record of entry into North Korea for two. In October of the same year, the “five living” abductees returned to Japan.

After the Second Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting in May 2004, family members of the five abductees returned in Japan.

However, forensic testing confirmed that the “remains” handed over and identified by North Korea as possibly those of Mr. Kaoru Matsuki in September 2002, belong to someone else. Also, DNA tests revealed that the “remains” North Korea presented as those of Ms. Megumi Yokota contained DNA from a different person. North Korea has provided neither sufficient information nor sufficient evidence about other abductees. North Korea's response has been thoroughly lacking in good faith.

In February 2006, Japan strongly reiterated its demands for North Korea to return the abductees, to reopen investigations to reveal the truth and to extradite those responsible for carrying out abductions to Japanese authorities.

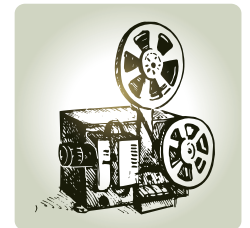
In July 2006, North Korea launched ballistic missiles, and the GoJ responded by implementing measures against North Korea. The GoJ imposed additional sanctions against North Korea upon its announcement of a nuclear test (October 2006), its launching of more missiles (April 2009), and its announcement of another nuclear test (May 2009), attack of a South Korean naval patrol ship (March 2010), and a third nuclear test (February 2013). The lack of concrete action by North Korea to resolve the abduction issue is also one of the reasons for these restrictions.

At the intergovernmental consultations held between Japan and North Korea in Stockholm, Sweden, in May 2014, North Korea agreed to conduct comprehensive and full-scale investigations on all Japanese nationals including victims of abduction and other missing persons who had been abducted possibly.

In July of the same year, North Korea established the Special Investigation Committee for comprehensive investigations and started its investigations. Following this, the GoJ lifted some of the restrictions against North Korea.



Return of Five Abductees after 24 Years (October 15, 2002)
Photo Credit: THE SANKEI SHIMBUN



Major Developments Related to Abductions (Timeline)

1977		Abduction cases occur (Cases 1, 2 and 3 on page 4)
1978		Abduction cases occur (Cases 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 on page 4)
1980		Abduction cases occur (Cases 10 and 11 on page 4)
1983		Abduction case occurs (Case 12 on page 4)
1990	October	Mihama Incident (A North Korean spy ship washes ashore in the Town of Mihama, Fukui Prefecture).
1997	March	The Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea (the Families' Association) is established.
2001	December	The suspicious boat incident in the sea area off the southwest coast of Kyushu (The boat explodes and sinks after engaging in a firefight with a Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel.)
2002	September	The first Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting is held and the Japan-North Korea Pyongyang Declaration is signed (in Pyongyang). *North Korea admits for the first time that it had in fact abducted Japanese citizens.
	September-October	A fact-finding team is sent to North Korea.
	October	Five abductees return to Japan.
	December	Act concerning Support for Victims Kidnapped by North Korean Authorities and Other Persons is enacted.
2004	May	The second Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (in Pyongyang)
	May	Five family members of the Chimura family and the Hasuike family return to Japan.
	July	Three family members of the Soga family return to or arrive in Japan.
	November	The third Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (in Pyongyang) *GoJ officials conduct a field investigation.
2005	September	The joint statement of the Six-Party Talks is released.
	December	The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK.
2006	April	US President Bush meets with family members of abductees.
	June	"Enforcement of the Law to Address the Abduction Issue and Other North Korean Human Rights Violations" is enacted.
	July	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
	July	The GoJ implements additional measures against North Korea.
	July	The UN Security Council Resolution 1695 is adopted.
	September	The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue is established.
	October	North Korea announces nuclear test
	October	The GoJ implements additional measures against North Korea.
	October	The UN Security Council Resolution 1718 is adopted.
	October	The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue decides on the "Policy on the abduction issue" at its first meeting.



Establishment of the Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea (known as "the Association of Families") (in 1997) Photo credit: Sukuukai

2007	March	First Working Group for normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea (in Hanoi)
	September	Second Working Group for normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea (in Ulan Bator)
2008	June	Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (in Beijing)
	August	Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (in Shenyang) *North Korea states it will carry out a new investigation into the abduction.
2009	April	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
	April	The GoJ implements additional measures against North Korea.
	May	North Korea conducts nuclear test.
	June	The UN Security Council Resolution 1874 is adopted.
	June	The GoJ implements additional measures against North Korea.
	July	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
	July	The GoJ implements additional sanction measures against North Korea (in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874).
	October	The new Headquarters for the Abduction Issue is established. (The previous Headquarters was dissolved.)
2010	March	Torpedo attack by North Korea on South Korean navy patrol ship Cheonan
	May	The GoJ implements additional sanction measures against North Korea.
	November	Bombardment of Yeonpyeong in South Korea by North Korea
2011	December	North Korea's National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong-il dies.
2012	April	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
	April	Kim Jong-un assumes position of First Chairman of North Korea's National Defense Commission.
	August	Preliminary consultations (at the director level) for Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Beijing)
	November	Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Ulan Bator)
	December	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
2013	January	The UN Security Council Resolution 2087 is adopted.
	January	The new Headquarters for the Abduction Issue is established. (The previous Headquarters was dissolved.)
	January	"Policy and specific measures toward resolving the abduction issue" is adopted at the first meeting of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue.
	January	Meeting of the Liaison Council of Government and Ruling and Opposition Parties
	February	Institutions for Measures against Abduction Issue is held.
	February	North Korea conducts nuclear test.
	March	The GoJ implements additional sanction measures.
	March	The UN Security Council Resolution 2094 is adopted.
	August	The UN Human Rights Council decides to set up the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the situation of human rights in the DPRK.

Major Developments Related to Abductions (Timeline)

2014	March	The Yokota family meets with their granddaughter Kim Eun Gyong (Megumi Yokota's daughter) (in Ulan Bator).
	March	The final report of the COI is officially submitted to the UN Human Rights Council.
	March	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
	March	Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Beijing)
	April	US President Obama meets with family members of abductees.
	May	Japan announces Statement by Keiji Furuya, Minister in charge of the Abduction Issue on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Second Japan-DPRK Summit Meeting.
	May	During Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Stockholm), North Korea promises to conduct comprehensive and full-scale investigations on all Japanese nationals including victims of abduction and other missing persons who had been abducted possibly.
	June	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
	July	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
	July	Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Beijing)
	September	Japan-North Korea government-level consultations (in Shenyang)
	October	GoJ officials are dispatched to Pyongyang.
December	The UN General Assembly adopts a Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK (for the tenth consecutive year).	
December	The UN Security Council holds a meeting on the situation in the DPRK.	
2015	March	North Korea launches ballistic missiles.
	March	The UN Human Rights Council adopts a Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK (for the eighth consecutive year).
	May	North Korea announces underwater launch test of submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM).
	June	The abduction issue is included in the outcome document of the G7 Elmau Summit (for the 13th consecutive year since the G8 Evian Summit in 2003).
	June	The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of a field-based structure is established in Seoul.
	August	Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida meets with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su-Yong (in Kuala Lumpur).
	August	A land mine blast and shelling occurs in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.
	September	The UN Human Rights Council holds a panel discussion on the situation of human rights in the DPRK (in Geneva).



the Families Shigeo Iizuka and Shigeru and Sakie Yokota accompanied Prime Minister Abe to meet with President Obama (in April 2014)
Photo credit: Public Relations Office of the Cabinet Office

Growing International Concern

It has become clear from the testimony of the Japanese abductees who have returned to Japan and others that there are also some peoples of the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Romania, and Lebanon who may have been abducted by North Korea. Moreover, the testimony of a person South Korea who has returned from North Korea indicates that there are abductees from China and other nations. In light of these facts, the abduction issue is an issue of human rights for the entire international community.

In response to the GoJ's strong assertion, the United Nations has recently been adopting resolutions every year that strongly demand that North Korea return abductees immediately and resolve the abduction issue promptly.

In response to the swelling momentum in international society, the UN Security Council holds a meeting on the situation of human rights in the DPRK including the human rights situation for the first time on December 22, 2014, where the abduction issue is also discussed.

A number of statements and documents of international meetings, such as the G7/G8 Summit, also have referred to the abduction issue. The GoJ's position on the abduction issue has received the clear understanding and support of the international community.

The Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (COI)



(The UN Human Rights Council Panel Discussion in Geneva) (September 2015)

On March 17, 2014, the COI submitted its final report to the UN Human Rights Council. On December 19, 2014, a resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, jointly submitted by Japan and the EU, was adopted by majority vote at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly (in New York), of which content is stronger than ever reflecting the final report.

Specifically, the resolution encourages the UN Security Council to take appropriate action, including through consideration of referral of the situation in the DPRK to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the scope for targeted sanctions, as well as the details of the above-mentioned UN Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution. In addition, based on the report's recommendation, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of a field-based structure is established in Seoul in June 2015 with a view to follow up on the work of the COI. As a part of follow-up efforts, the HRC held a panel discussion on the situation of human rights in the DPRK including the abduction issues in September 2015 by the proposal of the Special Rapporteur.

International Symposium on Human Rights Violations including Abductions by North Korea

On May 5, 2015, International Symposium: Human Rights Violations including Abduction by North Korea, organized by the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, was held in NY.

The GoJ strongly hopes for the improvement of the condition of human rights in North Korea, including the early resolution of the abduction issue, and will continue to cooperate with the international community to strongly urge North Korea to take concrete action.



International Symposium held in New York (May 2015)

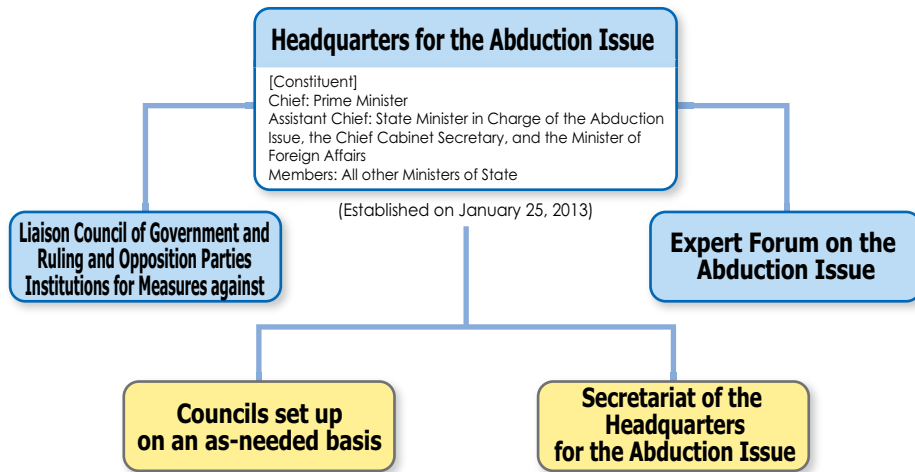
Toward Resolution of the Abduction Issue

The GoJ's Policy and Framework for Addressing the Abduction Issue

The GoJ established Headquarters for the Abduction Issue (the "Headquarters"), which consists of all of the Ministers of State, with the Prime Minister serving as chief and the Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs serving as assistant chiefs. Through the Headquarters, the government has been discussing various measures to address the abduction issue, including the promotion of strategic and comprehensive efforts.

The abduction issue is a matter of grave concern that affects the national sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of the Japanese people. Until this issue is resolved, there can be no normalization of relations with North Korea.

The GoJ is using all its power and is doing its utmost to bring about the prompt return of all victims of abduction.



Investigations and Inquiries by the GoJ

In addition to the 17 Japanese citizens already identified as having been abducted by North Korea, the GoJ is also aware of the fact that abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out in other missing persons cases, including those referred to as cases of missing Japanese probably related to North Korea. The Government is working on all fronts to gain a full accounting of those unresolved cases, while vigorously pursuing information gathering, investigations and inquiries both in Japan and overseas, to achieve the prompt return of all the abductees from North Korea.

Through such investigations and inquiries, the Japanese authorities have so far identified 11 people responsible for the abductions, and placed them on the international wanted list. (The National Police Agency website: <http://www.npa.go.jp/keibi/gaiji1/abduct/index.html>)

Policies and Concrete Measures for Resolving the Abduction Issue

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.

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 pressure 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 cannot 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, South Korea, 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.

(Set by the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue on January 25, 2013)

[The North Korean Human Rights Abuses Awareness Week] From December 10th to 16th

During the week, designated by the law as the annual North Korea Human Rights Abuses Awareness Week, variety of activities designed to push for an early resolution to the abduction issue.

Major Activities to Publicize and Promote the Understanding of the Abduction Issue

The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue has been conducting the following activities to publicize and promote the understanding of the abduction issue in cooperation with the relevant government agencies.

In order to realize the immediate return of all of the abductees, it is critical that each of us reflect on the abduction issue and take action accordingly.

- Distributing leaflets and posters
- Utilizing animation film MEGUMI as a teaching material in the classroom and other education programs.
- Running film *Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story*
- Distributing manga *Megumi* (foreign-language versions)
- Staging *The Pledge to Megumi – Rescue*, a play performance for raising awareness of the abduction issue
- Setting up a forum for learning about the abduction issue and lending touch panel monitors to schoolcultural festivals, for instance
- Accepting interviews from pupils and students
- Lending sets of exhibit panels on the abduction issue
- Holding symposiums on the abduction issue in Japan and overseas
- Holding concerts and symposiums during North Korean Human Rights Abuse Awareness Week
- Dispatching instructors to various workshops and gatherings
- Holding seminars for awareness of the abduction issue aimed at college students, etc.
- Broadcasting shortwave radio programs for North Korea (in Japanese and Korean)
- Release of a “Video Message from Families of Abductees - We shall never give up! For the return of our beloved family members!” (<http://www.rachi.go.jp/en>)
- Releasing *Seeking the Return of All Abductees!* on Japanese Government Internet TV (<http://nettv.govonline.go.jp>), for instance



AR

I learned about the story of Ms. Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korea, through this video. After watching it, I had two impressions. First, I thought that it must have been heartbreaking for Megumi and her parents. I'm sure that Megumi was scared, lonely, and distressed when she was abducted and that her parents were worried about her.

Second, I want to have Megumi returned to her family in Japan immediately. For Megumi's happy family, lost time is gone forever. In order for the family to take back the lost time even a little and have a good time together again, I want to have Megumi come back home to her family as soon as possible. Besides Megumi, there are other Japanese people who were abducted by North Korea. Those missing people and their families share the same feelings with the Yokotas. I think those family members of abductees should get their messages on the abduction issue across the world. I truly hope for all of the abductees to return to their families and for the day to come when Megumi's family hears her say, "I'm home."

An essay on the impressions of animation film MEGUMI, written by a sixth grader in Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture



Animation film MEGUMI

Q&A on the Abduction Issue ▶ Answers to 10 Questions

Q1 What is the abduction issue?

In the 1970s and 1980s, many Japanese were abducted by North Korea 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 is strongly urging North Korea the immediate return of other abductees.

Q2 Why did North Korea abduct Japanese people?

After World War II, the Korean Peninsula was divided into South Korea and North Korea. North Korea is said to have established many intelligence agencies to integrate the peninsula under its initiative.

Then Chairman of the National Defense Commission Kim Jong-il explained the reasons for abducting Japanese people were: (1) to teach Japanese to North Korean spies and (2) to help North Korean spies pass themselves off as Japanese

Q3 Is North Korea making a false statement in claiming that abduction issue “has already been resolved”?

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 abduction 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 abduction issue and other issues with Japan. The GoJ will continue to do everything in its power to realize the return of all the abductees.

*For the details, please refer to the government public relations materials “For the Return of All of the Abductees.”

Q4 How many Japanese people were abducted by North Korea?

The GoJ has identified 17 Japanese people as abductees, of which five have returned to Japan. The remaining 12 abductees have been unable to return to Japan.

In addition, 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 pursuing information gathering, investigations and inquiries both in Japan and overseas about the missing 877 persons (as of October 1, 2015) 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?

It is suspected that North Korea are afraid 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 a South Korean airplane in November 1987. Kim Hyon-hui gave testimony that she learned Japanese from an abductee (Ms. Yaeko 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 abduction issue is resolved?

The following three requirements must be met before we can say that the abduction issue is resolved:

- (1) North Korea secures the safety of all the abductees and returns them to Japan immediately;
- (2) North Korea discloses the whole truth regarding the abductions; and
- (3) North Korea hands over perpetrators of abduction to Japan.

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

The GoJ has been strongly urging North Korea to take actions to resolve the abduction issue, and placing pressure on the country by implementing various measures such as bans on imports and exports.

By taking the opportunities of bilateral talks and international conferences, the GoJ is seeking the understanding and cooperation of other countries on the abduction 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 Does the GoJ intend to provide economic assistance to North Korea to resolve the abduction issue?

The GoJ has no intention of providing assistance to North Korea in return for resolution of abduction issue.

Nevertheless, if the abduction issue, which is the biggest problem outstanding between Japan and North Korea, and other pending problems are resolved and diplomatic relations between the two countries are normalized, economic cooperation will be extended in accordance with the Japan-North Korea Pyongyang Declaration.

Q9 How does the international community see the abduction issue?

According to the final report published by the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the situation of human rights in the DPRK in February 2014, victims of abductions by North Korea are not only from Japan but also from other countries including South Korea, Lebanon, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Romania, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and China.

The abduction issue is a human rights issue that should be pursued by countries around the world, regardless of whether their people have been abducted. International society demands that North Korea resolves the abduction issue immediately, as is evident from the adoption, by majority vote, of a resolution based on the report by COI at the UN General Assembly in December 2014.

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

Over 10 million Japanese people have signed a petition for the resolution of the abduction issue.

The fact that each individual citizen has expressed his or her strong determination not to tolerate abduction in this manner will give a significant impetus for resolution of the abduction issue.

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[AR] The contents appear by passing the smartphone over **[AR]** image. Download application from App Store or Google Play to start, then pass smartphone over the image.

There is no time to waste considering the grief of aged family members, who are yearning to become reunited with their beloved family members, and abductees themselves who have long been waiting to be freed.

The issue of the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea is a matter of utmost importance for the Abe administration, the resolution of which needs to remain a top priority. We will devote our utmost efforts to enable all the abductees to return to Japan and hold their family members who have long been waiting to become reunited with them.



October 2015

Katsunobu KATO

Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue

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

Abduction issue

Search



● Addresses of Homepages >>> <http://www.rachi.go.jp/en/>

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 >>> 03-3581-6011

— For further information, please contact —

Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue

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October 2015

AR has been setup in this booklet.
Refer to page 15 for details.