

The Online Symposium in the UN on the Abductions Issue

Opening a Window of Opportunity for the Immediate Resolution of the Abductions Issue

The issue of abductions by North Korea is not a historical event but an ongoing problem, with victims still being denied all freedoms and unable to return home, constituting an international challenge that requires immediate resolution. Japan, Australia, the Republic of Korea, the United States and the European Union will co-host an online symposium on the issue, as a side event of the UN.

The symposium will present an appeal by the families of victims from Japan and other countries. Experts on the situation concerning North Korea will join to discuss and deepen understanding on ways for the immediate resolution of the abductions issue and its importance to the international community.

8:30 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. JST

7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. EST

2026
June 24 WED

PROGRAM

1/ Opening Remarks

YAMAZAKI Kazuyuki

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN

2/ Keynote Remarks

KIHARA Minoru

Chief Cabinet Secretary and Minister in charge of the Abduction Issue of Japan

3/ Remarks by the Representatives of Co-hosts

Michael G. WALTZ

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Representative of the United States to the UN

James LARSEN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN

CHA Jihoon

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN

Stavros LAMBRINIDIS

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Head of Delegation of the European Union to the UN

4/ Remarks by a Diet Member of Japan

FURUYA Keiji

Chairman of the Committee of Congressional Members
to Act for the Early Rescue of Japanese Victims Abducted by North Korea

5/ Appeal by the Families of Victims

YOKOTA Takuya

Representative of the Association of Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea

IIZUKA Koichiro

Secretary-General of the Association of Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea

YOSHIMI Miho

Vice-Chairman of the Family Association of the Missing Persons Probably Related to the DPRK

James SNEDDON

Brother of Mr. David SNEDDON

Banjong PANCHOI

Nephew of Ms. Anocha PANCHOI

6/ Panel Discussion

Moderator

NISHINO Junya

Professor of Keio University, Japan

Panelist

James HEENAN

Representative of the UN Human Rights Office in Seoul

Bruce KLINGNER

Senior Fellow of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

Greg SCARLATOIU

President and CEO of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK)

7/ Closing Remarks

YAMAZAKI Kazuyuki

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN



Please watch the live broadcast of the symposium on UN Web TV (in English) and the official YouTube channel of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, the Government of Japan (in Japanese, Korean and Thai). The recordings will also be made available in the archives after the symposium.

YouTube "the Official Channel
of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue,
the Government of Japan"

Japanese Korean Thai

<https://www.youtube.com/@rachitaichannel/streams>



UN Web TV

English

<https://webtv.un.org/>



Co-hosted by
Japan, Australia,
the Republic of Korea,
the United States,
and the European Union