

Chronology of Abductions

1977	Abduction cases occurred (Cases 1 , 2 and 3 on page 2 and 3)
1978	Abduction cases occurred (Cases 4 , 5 , 6 , 7 , 8 and 9 on page 2 and 3)
1980	Abduction cases occurred (Cases 10 and 11 on page 3)
1983	Abduction case occurred (Case 12 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.
Aug. 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. Five abductees returned to Japan.
Oct.	Act concerning Support for Victims Kidnapped by North Korean Authorities and Other Persons was enacted.
Dec.	The First Six-Party Talks
Aug. 2003	The Second Japan-North Korea summit meeting (in Pyongyang)
May 2004	Five family members of the abductees who had already returned to Japan in October 2002, came back from 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. SOGA Hitomi reunited with her family members in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the family returned to Japan (July).
Nov.	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 YOKOTA Megumi 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.
Dec.	The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK adopted for the first time at a Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly
Feb. 2006	Japan-North Korea Comprehensive and Parallel Talks (in Beijing)
Apr.	U.S. President Bush met with family members of the abductees (in Washington D.C.).
June	The Law to Address the Abduction Issue and Other North Korean Human Rights Violations" was enacted.
July	North Korea launched ballistic missiles (7 launches). Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.
Sept.	Adoption of the UNSC resolution 1695
Oct.	The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue was established. North Korea announced nuclear test. Adoption of the UNSC resolution 1718
Mar. 2007	The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue decided on the "Policy on the abduction issue" at its first meeting.
Sept.	First Working Group for normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea (in Hanoi)
June 2008	Second Working Group for normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea (in Ulaanbaatar) Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (in Beijing) Both sides agreed to resume investigations on the abductions issue.
Aug.	Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (in Shenyang) Both sides agreed on the specific details, etc. for complete reinvestigations of the abductions issue.
Sept.	North Korea notified Japan that they would postpone the launch of their reinvestigations.
Apr. 2009	North Korea launched a ballistic missile (8 launches through July). Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.
May	Nuclear Test by North Korea (2nd Time)
June	Adoption of the UNSC resolution 1874 Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.
Oct.	The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue Established (Former Headquarters Established in 2006 Abolished)
Mar. 2010	Torpedo attack by North Korea on ROK navy patrol ship Cheonan
May	Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea.
Nov.	Bombardment of Yeonpyeong in the ROK by North Korea
Dec. 2011	North Korea's National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong-Il died.
Apr. 2012	North Korea launched a ballistic missile (2 launches through December). Kim Jong-Un assumed the position of First Chairman of North Korea's National Defense Commission.
Nov.	Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (in Ulaanbaatar)
Jan. 2013	Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2087 The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue Established (Former Headquarters Established in 2009 Abolished)
Feb.	"Policies and Concrete Measures for 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.

Mar.	Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2094 The UN Human Rights Council decided to set up the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the situation of human rights in the DPRK.
Aug. Mar. 2014	The Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Human Rights in the DPRK paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe. Mr. and Mrs. Yokota met Kim Eun-Gyong (daughter of YOKOTA Megumi) (in Ulaanbaatar). The Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Human Rights in the DPRK submitted its Final Report to the UN Human Rights Council. North Korea launched ballistic missiles (11 launches through July).
Apr. May.	Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (in Beijing) U.S. President Obama met with family members of the abductees. Japan announced Statement by FURUYA Keiji, Minister in charge of the Abduction Issue, on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Second Japan-North Korea summit meeting. Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (in Stockholm) North Korea promised to conduct comprehensive and full-scale investigation on all Japanese nationals, including abductees.
July.	Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (in Beijing) North Korea established the Special Investigation Committee and launched investigations. Japan lifted part of its measures against North Korea.
Sept. Oct. Mar. 2015	Japan-North Korea government-level consultations (in Shenyang) Consultations with the Special Investigation Committee (in Pyongyang) North Korea launched ballistic missiles (2 launches).
June Sept. Jan. 2016	The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of a field-based structure was established in Seoul. The UN Human Rights Council held a panel discussion on the situation of human rights in the DPRK (in Geneva). Nuclear Test by North Korea (4th Time)
Feb.	North Korea launched a ballistic missile (23 launches through October). Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea. 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.
Mar. June.	Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2270 National Defense Commission First Chairman Kim Jong-Un assumed office as the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission.
Sept. Nov. Dec.	Nuclear Test by North Korea (5th Time) Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2321 Panel Discussion: "The Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" held in the UN Headquarters in New York.
Feb. 2017	Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea. North Korea launched a ballistic missile (17 launches through November).
June. July. Aug.	Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2356 Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea. Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2371
Sept.	Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea. Nuclear Test by North Korea (6th Time) Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2375
Nov.	U.S. President Trump mentioned the abductions issue of Japanese citizens in his address at the UN General Assembly. U.S. President Trump met with family members of the abductees. Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea. The U.S. re-designated North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism.
Dec.	Japan announced autonomous measures against North Korea. The UNSC held a meeting on the situation in the DPRK (fourth meeting in four consecutive years). Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2397
Apr. 2018	Inter-Korean Summit (in Panmun je om)
May. June. Sept.	Inter-Korean Summit (in Panmun je om) U.S.-North Korea Summit (in Singapore) Inter-Korean Summit (in Pyongyang)
Feb. 2019	U.S.-North Korea Summit (in Hanoi)
May. June.	North Korea launched ballistic missiles (over 20 launches through November) U.S. President Trump met with family members of the abductees. Meeting between U.S. President Trump and Kim Jong-Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of North Korea (in Panmun jeom)
Mar. 2020	North Korea launched ballistic missiles (8 launches).
Dec.	Adoption of the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK at a Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly (16th time in 16 consecutive years)
Mar. 2021	Adoption of the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK at the UN Human Rights Council (14th time in 14 consecutive years) North Korea launched ballistic missiles, etc. (6 launches through October).