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 (information in brackets shows the age when abducted and the location where the victim went missing).

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

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 has entered their country.)

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 has 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 has entered their country.)

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 has died in a traffic accident.)

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 was 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 was 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, saying that they were going to see the sunset on the beach. Their whereabouts are unconfirmed. (North Korea claims that each of the couple has died of a heart attack (while swimming in the ocean for Mr. Ichikawa).)
The location where the victim was abducted is unknown.

883 Other Cases of Missing Persons in Which the Possibility of Abduction by North Korea Cannot be Ruled Out

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 April 1, 2017). 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 Government of Japan views all abductions as serious human rights violations regardless of nationality as well as violations of the sovereignty of Japan. Accordingly, the Japanese Government 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 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 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 North Korean agents who had defected revealed that there was a strong possibility that these cases involved abductions conducted by North Korean. Therefore, since 1991, the Government of Japan has brought up the abductions issue at every available opportunity. North Korea had stubbornly kept denying any involvement, however at the First Japan-DPRK (The Democratic People’s Republic of 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 victims returned from North Korea to Japan after 24 years.

On the other hand, as for those others whose whereabouts are currently unknown, despite North Korea’s explicit commitment at the Second Japan-DPRK 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 victims 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 April 2017) to the Prime Minister of Japan.

The abductions by North Korea are a grave 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 government of Japan. The Government of Japan 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 South Korean 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 Government of Japan remains fully committed to demanding that North Korea take action to assure the safety of victims and immediately return them to Japan regardless of whether they are identified by the Government of Japan or not, based on the premise that all victims whose whereabouts are unknown are still alive. In addition, the Government of Japan 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 Government of Japan will, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, continue to make its utmost effort to realize the return of all the victims 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.
2 Talks between Japan and North Korea on the Abductions issue

1. First Japan-DPRK Summit Meeting (September 2002)

At the first Japan-DPRK 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 abduction victims, 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 Japanese Government 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 victims and their families as well as the return of victims 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 victims, Yasushi and Fukie Chimura and Kaoru and Yukiko Hasuike, were still alive, where it reported that eight victims, 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 Japanese Government officially identified Miyoshi Soga in January 2003, Minoru Tanaka in April 2005, and Kyoko Matsumoto in November 2006 as victims.

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

From September 28 to October 1, 2002, the Government of Japan 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 remain 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 Government of Japan 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 victims (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 victims 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 Government of Japan announced that the five victims would 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-Il, 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 reinvestigations 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 the North Korean Government provide relevant information on five of the missing people whom the Government of Japan 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 Japanese Government repeatedly demands at consultations
and during any other opportunity that the North Korean Government provides relevant information about cases where the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be dismissed.)

(c) The Government of Japan 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 part of the remains claimed to be those of Megumi Yokota have indicated their DNA belongs to someone else. The Government of Japan 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 Government of Japan 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.


(a) At the Japan–North Korea Working-Level Consultations in June 2008, Japan urged North Korea to take specific actions towards the resolution of pending 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 abduction victims 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 Government of Japan
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
victims of abduction (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 victims of abduction. 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 victims of abduction, 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 victims 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 victims 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 independent measures against North Korea. In turn, North Korea unilaterally announced that it would completely cease comprehensive investigations concerning any and all Japanese persons, including abduction victims, and dissolve the Special Investigation Committee. Japan firmly protested these actions by North Korea and strongly urged North Korea not to consider breaking the Stockholm Agreement and to return abduction victims as soon as possible.
Effort in the International Community

In order to resolve the abductions issue, it is crucial for not only Japan alone to strongly place pressure on the North Korean government, but to also gain support and cooperation from other countries regarding the importance of resolving the abductions issue. Therefore, the Government of Japan raises the issue at every diplomatic opportunity.

It is known that there are also many South Korean people who have been victims of abduction by North Korea. Testimony from returned Japanese abduction victims and others has further revealed that there are people from Thailand, Rumania, and Lebanon who may have been abducted by North Korea. It has also been said, according to the testimony from abduction victims of the Republic of Korea (ROK) who have returned from North Korea and from others, that Chinese and other nationals have also been abducted.

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

1. United Nations

(a) In the United Nations, Japan and the European Union (EU) have been co-sponsoring to both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK. The resolutions have been adopted at the Human Rights Council 10 times for 10 consecutive years and at the General Assembly 12 times for 12 consecutive years (as of April 2017).

(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 UN Security Council 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 UN Security Council 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, including the establishment of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Seoul office (in June 2015); the designation of independent experts predominately to investigate the issue of accountability concerning human rights violations in North Korea (in September 2016); and the enacting of a resolution to strengthen the abilities of the OHCHR, including the Seoul office (in March 2017).

(f) After the situation in North Korea, including the human rights situation, was discussed comprehensively in the United Nations Security Council in December 2014, United Nations Security Council meetings were held for three consecutive years on the North Korean abduction issue, and at these meetings Japan urged the fastest possible resolution of the matter.
2. Six-Party Talks

Japan has also been raising 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 Government of Japan has also 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 Japanese government has been making towards this end have gained the clear understanding and support of other nations.

For example, at the G7 Summit meeting held in Ise-Shima in May 2016, Prime Minister Abe raised the abduction issue, resulting in the G7 leaders’ declaring their concerns regarding the issue and its clear incorporation into the summit’s communiqué. In addition, Prime Minister Abe again asked for the understanding and cooperation of every nation in the return of all abduction victims at the General Debate Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September of that year.

4. Bilateral Consultations

The Government of Japan also addresses 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 instance, at the Japan-US Summit in February 2017, the leaders of both countries were in complete agreement regarding the importance of the swift settlement of the abduction issue, and for the first time, the "importance of an early resolution of the abductions issue" was affirmed in their joint statement. In addition, at the Japan-US Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in March and the Japan-US-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in April as well, Foreign Minister Kishida asked for understanding and cooperating regarding the abduction issue.

Japan also has been calling throughout summit talks with the Government of China for further understanding and cooperation by China to resolve the abductions issue, including reaching out to North Korea.

In addition, at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in December 2016, Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan’s determination to promptly resolve the abduction issue remained unchanged and that Japan wished to cooperate with Russia to resolve pending problems.
Steps Taken in Japan

1. Establishment of the “Headquarters for the Abduction Issue”

In January 2013, the Government of Japan 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.
2. Investigations by the Government of Japan

The Government of Japan, with the continuous cooperation from the returned abduction victims, 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 Government of Japan has so far identified 12 separate incidents involving a total of 17 Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea.

Policies and Concrete Measures for Resolving the Abduction 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 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 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, 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.

(Policies and Concrete Measures for Resolving the Abduction Issue) Set by the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue on January 25, 2013)
The National Police Agency of Japan determined that a case in which an elder sister and younger brother of North Korean nationality were abducted from Japan (two victims) is also a suspected abduction case committed by North Korea. They have also issued arrest warrants for 11 suspects including North Korean agents, who were involved in abduction cases, to make them wanted and subject to arrest internationally.

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

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<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-Ryeong</td>
<td>Yoko Kinoshiita a.k.a. Hong Suhye</td>
<td>Yoriko Mori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Commonly Known as) Kim Nam-Jin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sakiko Wakabayashi (Maiden name: Kuroda)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Law Concerning Measures to Address the Abduction 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 Government of Japan 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
national government distributes pamphlets and posters and also screens movies and animated cartoons which raise awareness about the abductions issue, dispatches lecturers for workshops and other educational events, and broadcasts short wave radio programs (in Japanese and Korean) to North Korea. In particular, during this week, many conferences, and symposia are held by governments and NGOs to advocate the resolution of the abductions issue both inside and outside of Japan.

Essay of the sixth grader in elementary school in Nagano city who watched MEGUMI (Japanese animation)

Posters distributed nationwide
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 Government of Japan protested firmly, expressing the strong condemnation of these North Korean actions, and imposed a series of measures against North Korea. In addition to the multilateral ones set out in the UN Security Council 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.

In response, however, 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 United Nations Security Council 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 by resolution of the United Nations Security Council.

Further, based on the execution of North Korea’s second nuclear test that year in September 2016, the launching of over 20 ballistic missiles in that year, and the failure to achieve a resolution to the abductions issue in spite of urgings to return all abduction victims as soon as possible, in December of that year, Japan strengthened 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 freezing. Additionally, based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321 adopted in November that same year, Japan again further expanded the list of related organizations 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-DPRK 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 recover you!

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 victims of these abductions 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 Abduction Issue

Q1 What is the abduction 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 Japanese Government still strongly demands that North Korea immediately return home all of the other abduction victims.

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 victims 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 abduction 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 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.

Q4 How many Japanese people were abducted by North Korea?

A4 17 are identified by the Government of Japan as victims of abduction by North Korea. Of those, five have returned to Japan, but 12 victims 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 pursuing information gathering, investigations and inquiries both in Japan and overseas about the missing 883 persons (as of April 1, 2017) 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 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?
A6  It is necessary to achieve the following three items for the resolution of the abductions issue:
1) The safety of all abduction victims 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 abduction issue?
A7  The GoJ has been strongly demanding 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  What kind of negotiation policy is the Government of Japan following against North Korea in order to resolve the abductions issue?
A8  In accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, the Government of Japan's policy towards North Korea is the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern between Japan and North Korea – namely, the abductions issue, nuclear weapons, and missiles.
   As regards the Government of Japan's future efforts to resolve the abductions issue, the Japanese Government intends to continue to demand North Korea to fulfill the Stockholm Agreement and will take every measure to achieve the swift return of all abduction victims based on the principles of “dialogue and pressure” and “action for action.”

Q9  How does the international community see the abduction issue?
A9  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?
A10  Over 12 million Japanese people have signed a petition for the resolution of the abduction issue.
   The fact that 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.
Chronology of Abductions

1977  Abduction cases occur (Cases ☞ and ☞ on page 2 and 3)
1978  Abduction cases occur (Cases ☞, ☞, ☞, ☞, ☞, ☞ and ☞ on page 2 and 3)
1980  Abduction cases occur (same as above)
1983  Abduction cases occur (same as above)
1991  The Government of Japan 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) is established
Sept. 2002  The First Japan-DPRK Summit meeting (in Pyongyang) and the signing of the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration

Kim Jong-II, Chairman of the National Defense Commission, himself admitted to the abductions of Japanese citizens and apologized
A fact-finding team is sent to North Korea
Five abductees return to Japan
Act concerning Support for Victims Kidnapped by North Korean Authorities and Other Persons is enacted
The First Six-Party Talks
The Second Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (in Pyongyang)
Five family members of the abduction victims who had already returned to Japan in October 2002, came back from North Korea to Japan
Kim Jong-II, 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)

A fact-finding team is sent to North Korea
North Korea launches a missile
Japan Announces autonomous measures against North Korea
The UN Security Council Resolution 1695 is adopted
The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue is established
North Korea announces nuclear test
The UN Security Council Resolution 1718 is adopted
The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue decides on the “Policy on the abduction issue” at its first meeting
First Working Group for normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea (in Hanoi)
Second Working Group for normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea (in Ulan Bator)
Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (in Beijing)
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

Japan Announces autonomous measures against North Korea
May 2004  The Second Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (in Pyongyang)
Hitomi Soga reunited with her family members in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the family returned to Japan (July)

Sept. 2005  The Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks is released
Feb. 2006  The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK
April 2006  Japan-North Korea Comprehensive and Parallel Talks (in Beijing)
US President Bush meets with family members of abductees
“Enforcement of the Law to Address the Abduction Issue and Other North Korean Human Rights Violations” is enacted

July 2006  North Korea launches a missile
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Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (in Beijing)

Aug. 2006  Both sides agreed to resume investigations on the abductions issue
Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (in Beijing)
Both sides agreed on the specific details, etc. for complete reinvestigations of the abductions issue

Sept. 2006  Both sides agreed that they would postpone the launch of their reinvestigations
North Korea launches a missile
Japan Announces autonomous measures against North Korea
May 2007  Nuclear Test by North Korea (2nd Time)
June 2007  The UN Security Council Resolution 1874 is adopted
Japan Announces Independent Measures against North Korea
North Korea launches a missile
The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue Established (Former Headquarters Established in 2006 Abolished)

Mar. 2008  Torpedo attack by North Korea on South Korean navy patrol ship Cheonan
May 2008  Japan Announces autonomous measures against North Korea
June 2008  North Korea launches a missile
May 2009  North Korea launches a missile
May 2010  The UN Security Council Resolution 1874 is adopted
North Korea launches a missile
The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue Established (Former Headquarters Established in 2006 Abolished)

Nov. 2010  North Korea launches a missile
Kim Jong-un assumes position of First Chairman of North Korea’s National Defense Commission
Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Ulan Bator)
North Korea launches a missile

Campaign in 2008 for collecting signatures by the Families
Jan. 2013  The UN Security Council Resolution 2087 is adopted
The Headquarters for the Abduction Issue Established (Former Headquarters Established in 2009 Abolished)
“Policy and specific measures toward resolving the abduction issue” is adopted at the first meeting of the
Headquarters for the Abduction Issue
Nuclear Test by North Korea (3rd Time)
Japan Announces autonomous measures against North Korea
The UN Security Council Resolution 2094 is adopted
The UN Human Rights Council decides to set up the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the situation of human
rights in the DPRK
Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Pays Respects to
Prime Minister Abe
Mr. and Mrs. Yokota Meet Kim Eun-gyong (Daughter of Megumi Yokota) Meet (in Ulaanbaatar)
The Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Submits its
Final Report to the United Nations Human Rights Council
North Korea launches a missile
Japan-North Korea intergovernmental consultations (in Beijing)
US President Obama meets with family members of abductees
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
Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations (in Stockholm)
North Korea promised to conduct a comprehensive and full-scale investigations on all Japanese nationals,
including victims of abduction
North Korea launches a missile
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
North Korea launches a missile
Japan-North Korea government-level consultations (in Shenyang)
Consultations with the Special Investigation Committee (in Pyongyang)
The UN Security Council holds a meeting on the situation in the DPRK
North Korea launches a missile
The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of a field-based structure is established in Seoul
The UN Human Rights Council holds a panel discussion on the situation of human rights in the DPRK (in Geneva)
Nuclear Test by North Korea (4th Time)
North Korea launches a missile
Japan Announces autonomous measures against North Korea
In response to North Korea's January nuclear test and February ballistic missile launch, Japan announced it
would implement independent measures against North Korea. In turn, North Korea unilaterally announced
it would cease comprehensive investigations concerning
Japanese persons, including abduction victims, and dissolve
the Special Investigation Committee
Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2270
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
National Defense Commission First Chairman Kim Jong-un
Assumes Office as the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
Nuclear Test by North Korea (5th Time)
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
Japan Announces autonomous measures against North Korea
The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK Adopted at the UN General Assembly (12th time
in 12 years)
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK Adopted at the UN Human Rights Commission
(10th time in 10 years)
North Korea launches a missile
North Korea launches a missile
As both the abduction victims waiting to be rescued amidst a harsh environment and their blood relatives ardently waiting to see them once more grow advanced in age, we can no longer forgive even a moment’s delay. The Japanese abductions issue caused by North Korea is a matter of the utmost importance to the Abe administration and a problem of top priority to be resolved. We will take every measure and make every effort to achieve the return of all abduction victims as soon as possible so that they may once again embrace their family members waiting so anxiously for this reunion.

May 2017
Katsunobu KATO

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.

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May 2017

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