

Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea

At the First Japan-DPRK (The Democratic People's Republic of Korea) summit meeting held in Pyongyang on September 17, 2002, North Korea admitted for the first time that it had abducted Japanese citizens, and apologized and promised to prevent any recurrence. Currently, the Government of Japan has identified 17 Japanese citizens as victims of abduction by North Korea, of whom five returned to Japan on October 15, 2002, for the first time in 24 years. As for the others whose whereabouts are unknown, despite North Korea's clear commitment to immediately conducting a thorough investigation to obtain a full account of what happened, North Korea has yet to provide an acceptable explanation.

The abduction is an important issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens. Because North Korea has not provided an acceptable account with convincing evidence, the Government of Japan is demanding that North Korea take actions such as immediately returning the victims and providing a full account of those victims whose safety is unknown, based on the premise that all victims whose safety is unknown are still alive.

The Government of Japan will, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, continue to make utmost effort to realize the return of all the victims as soon as possible, to settle the unfortunate past and to normalize relations with North Korea. This policy has remained unchanged since the death of Kim Jong-Il, which was announced on December 19, 2011.

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Background

During the 1970's and the 1980's, many Japanese citizens disappeared under strange circumstances. The investigations by the Japanese authorities and testimonies by defected North Korean agents revealed that, with a strong possibility, these cases involved



Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea was formed

abductions conducted by North Korea. Therefore, the Government of Japan has brought up the abduction issue at every opportunity. After its continual denial of any involvement, North Korea finally admitted at the First Japan-DPRK summit meeting held in Pyongyang on September 17, 2002, that it had conducted these abductions. It is deemed that North Korea committed these unprecedented state-sponsored crimes for the following purposes: identity theft for North Korean agents; forcing victims to train North Korean agents to act as Japanese; recruitment by the "Yodo-go" group*



Association of the Families collecting signatures to gain public support

which is still being harbored in North Korea.

As of today, while the Government of Japan has identified 17 Japanese citizens who were abducted by North Korea, it has also been investigating other cases where the possibility of abduction cannot be dismissed. This includes those cases referred to as missing Japanese probably related to North Korea**. As a result of these investigations, the government discovered cases of suspected abductions of non-Japanese citizens (Korean residents in Japan) and abductions conducted overseas.

In Japan, campaigns have been active to rescue victims as exemplified by the formation in 1997 of the Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea, and a petition signed by more than 8.5 million people (as of January 2012) has been submitted to the Prime Minister of Japan.

*The "Yodo-go" hijack group basically consists of those who hijacked Japan Airlines Flight 351, commonly known as "Yodo-go," on March 31, 1970, and their families.

** The term "missing Japanese probably related to North Korea" is used by a private citizens' group Investigation Commission on Missing Japanese Probably Related to North Korea to refer to cases of missing Japanese for which this organization is conducting its own investigation into the possibility that these are cases of abduction by North Korea.

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Talks with North Korea on the abductions

(1) First Japan-DPRK Summit Meeting (September 17, 2002)

(a) At the first Japan-DPRK summit meeting held on September 17, 2002, Kim Jong-Il, after years of denial, admitted the abductions of Japanese citizens and apologized. He also said that, of the 13 abduction victims, four were alive, eight were dead and that the entrance to North Korea could not be confirmed for one. In addition, he confirmed the abduction and existence of Hitomi Soga (although he claimed that Miyoshi Soga, her 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, he assured that he would facilitate meetings between the victims and their families as well as their return to Japan. Then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi strongly protested and demanded a continued investigation, the return of those alive and the prevention of any recurrence.

(b) On the same day, a spokesman of the North Korean Foreign Ministry made a public statement concerning the abduction issue and stated that North Korea was prepared to take necessary actions for the return of the victims to Japan.

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

From September 28 to October 1 in 2002, the Government of Japan dispatched an



Japanese victims back in Japan after twenty-four years

investigation team which met with the victims and tried to collect information on those not yet accounted for. However, the information provided by North Korea was limited, inconsistent, and dubious in many points. North Korea handed over the “remains” that it claimed could be those of Kaoru Matsuki, but the forensic analyses showed that these “remains” belonged to someone else. At the negotiations aimed at the normalization of 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 contained in the provided information and requested more information with no adequate response from North Korea.

(3) The Return to Japan by Five Victims (October 15, 2002)

(a) In response to the request by the Government of Japan, on October 15, 2002, five victims (Yasushi and Fukie Chimura, Kaoru and Yukiko Hasuie, and Hitomi Soga) returned to Japan and were reunited with their families.

(b) On October 24, 2002, under the consideration that the victims should be provided with an environment in which they were free to determine their own future and that of their families who were still in North Korea, 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 the family members still in North Korea and to promptly set a date for their return to Japan. Subsequently, the return to Japan by the family members and the investigation concerning the whereabouts of the other abduction victims whose safety remains unknown became a serious subject for negotiation between Japan and North Korea.

(4) Second Japan-DPRK Summit Meeting (May 22, 2004)

On May 22, 2004, then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited North Korea for the second time and engaged in discussions concerning the abduction and other bilateral issues as well as security issues such as North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs. Regarding the abduction issue, the two leaders agreed to the following points in their meeting:

- North Korea agreed to allow all five members of the families of Yasushi and Fukie



The Second Japan-DPRK Summit Meeting in
Pyongyang on May 22, 2004

Chimura and Kaoru and Yukiko Hasuike to return to Japan on the day of the summit meeting. (The three members of Hitomi Soga's family returned to Japan on July 18.)

- The North Korean side would promptly reopen a thorough investigation from scratch in order to provide a full account of the abductees whose safety remains unknown.

(5) Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations (August, September, and November 2004)

(a) The first and second Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations were held in Beijing from August 11 to 12 and September 25 to 26, 2004, respectively. North Korea presented the preliminary results of its ongoing investigation into the abductees whose whereabouts remain unknown, but no concrete evidence or documentation to support the presented information was provided.

(b) The third Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations took place in Pyongyang from November 9 to 14, 2004. These consultations which lasted for more than 50 hours included a question-and-answer session with the "Investigation Committee," as well as direct hearings with a total of 16 "witnesses" and on-site inspections of facilities and other locations related to the abductions. Evidentiary materials such as the alleged "remains" claimed to be those of Megumi Yokota were also collected.

Moreover, at the third Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations, Japan requested that North Korea provide information related to 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.

(c) The Government of Japan immediately conducted a close examination of the information and materials presented by North Korea at the third Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations, and made public the results on December 24, 2004. On the following day, December 25, the Government of Japan conveyed the following points to North Korea in both verbal and written form, and handed the results of its close examination and the analysis of the alleged "remains" claimed to be those of Megumi Yokota.

- The information and materials received at the third Working-Level Consultations included no evidence that supported the explanation provided by the North Korean side that "eight had died and two were not confirmed to have entered North Korea." This explanation is unacceptable and the Government of Japan strongly protests to the lack of sincerity in the response by the North Korean side.
- The information and materials provided by North Korea to date are insufficient to provide a full account of the abductees whose safety remains unknown. It is impossible to call this a thorough investigation "from scratch." There are many dubious points,

and the forensic analyses showed that from part of the “remains” that North Korea claimed to be those of Megumi Yokota, DNA of different people was detected.

- The Government of Japan strongly urges North Korea to provide a full account of the abductees whose safety remains unknown as soon as possible and to return the survivors to Japan without delay. The Government of Japan intends to take stringent measures if North Korea does not respond promptly and in good faith.

(d) On January 26, 2005, North Korea provided a “Memorandum” dated January 24 to Japan, presenting North Korea’s opinion, including that concerning the forensic analyses of the alleged “remains” claimed to be those of Megumi Yokota. North Korea called for the return of the “remains,” and on February 10, the Government of Japan issued a rebuttal to the Memorandum, and reiterated its strong demand for the immediate return to Japan of the victims and a full account of the abductees. The same opinions were conveyed from North Korea on February 24 and April 13 which were again rebutted by the Government of Japan, stressing the objectivity and scientific soundness of its forensic analyses.

(6) Japan-DPRK Comprehensive Talks (February 2006)

From February 4 to 8, 2006, the Japan-DPRK Comprehensive Talks (consultations on outstanding issues of concern including the abduction issue, consultations on security issues such as North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs, and the normalization talks) were held in Beijing. Consultations on the abduction issue were held for a total of approximately 11 hours and Japan once again strongly demanded the return to Japan of the abductees, launching of a new investigation aimed at revealing the truth about what had happened, and extraditing of those responsible for the abductions.

In response, the North Korean side repeated the same explanation it had previously given that “all of the abductees who are still alive have already returned to Japan.” North Korea insisted that it had investigated the matter in good faith, stood by the results of the previous investigations, and did not even promise to continue reinvestigations into the whereabouts of the abductees that were still unaccounted for. The North Korean side also insisted that Japan’s demand for extradition of those responsible for executing the abductions was of a political nature and refused to hand them over.

(7) Ballistic Missile Launches and the Announcement of a Nuclear Test by North Korea (July and October 2006)

(a) On July 5, 2006, North Korea launched seven ballistic missiles. In response, the Government of Japan introduced nine measures against North Korea, including a ban on entry of the North Korean ferry Mangyongbong-92 into Japanese ports, and strongly condemned the North Korean acts while outlining such measures.

(b) Moreover, despite repeated warnings from the international community, North Korea announced on October 9, 2006, that it had carried out a nuclear weapons test. The Gov-

ernment of Japan strongly protested and emphatically condemned the test, and on October 11, introduced a set of four additional measures, including a ban on the entry of all North Korean vessels into Japanese ports and a ban on all imports from North Korea.

(c) The Government of Japan introduced these measures against North Korea comprehensively taking into account various factors under the international situation surrounding Japan, one of which was the fact that North Korea had not acted in good faith to resolve the abduction issue.

(8) Working Group on the Normalization of Japan-DPRK Relations (March and September 2007)

On March 7 and 8, 2007, the first meeting of the “Working Group on the Normalization of Japan-DPRK Relations,” which was established at the Six-Party Talks in February 2007, was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. At this working group, the Government of Japan reiterated its demands that the safety of all the abductees and their families be ensured and they be swiftly returned, a full account be provided, and those responsible be handed over. North Korea, however, not only repeated its position that “the abduction issue is already resolved,” but also demonstrated a lack of good faith toward the resolution of the abduction issue by, for instance, demanding the lifting of Japan’s “economic sanctions” against North Korea.

On September 5 and 6, the second meeting of the Working Group was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Although both parties agreed to take concrete actions while holding active discussions, in order to resolve the outstanding issues of concern and normalize relations, no substantial progress was achieved on the abduction issue.

(9) Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations (June and August 2008)

(a) Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations were held in Beijing on June 11 and 12, 2008, and the heads of the two delegations engaged in in-depth negotiations on the abduction issue. Japan demanded again that all abduction victims be returned, a full account be provided, and suspects be handed over. Japan urged North Korea’s concrete action by explaining the possibility of lifting part of the sanctions against North Korea if North Korea takes concrete actions toward a resolution of outstanding issues of concern, including the abduction. As a result, North Korea changed its position that “the abduction issue is already resolved” and promised to reinvestigate the abduction issue as part of the concrete actions toward a resolution of the issue.

(b) Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations were held in Shenyang on August 11 and 12, 2008, and the two parties had candid discussions about the actions agreed to at the consultations in June, focusing on how the reinvestigation of the abduction issue should be conducted by North Korea. As a result, both parties agreed that North Korea should formulate an authorized investigation committee and start a full-scale investigation on all abduction victims to find and return the victims. Japan for its part announced that Japan was prepared to remove sanctions on travel to and from North Korea and chartered

flights as soon as North Korea launched the investigation.

(c) On September 4, 2008, North Korea notified Japan that although they would still execute the measures agreed on during the Working-Level Consultations, they would postpone the launching of investigation until they found out how the new Government of Japan after the sudden change of administration in Japan (i.e. the resignation of then Prime Minister Fukuda) would act with regard to the agreement.

(10) Missile Launches and a Nuclear Test Conducted by North Korea (April, May and July 2009)

(a) On April 5, 2009, North Korea launched missiles despite calls by Japan and other nations concerned to abandon the plan. In response, the Government of Japan decided, on April 10, to institute a ban on the entry of all North Korean vessels into Japanese ports and to continue the ban on the import of all items from North Korea. The government also decided to lower the minimum concerning the carry-on export of currency or checks destined for North Korea that required notification from over one million yen to over 300,000 yen, and to lower the minimum concerning money transfer including payment to natural persons with addresses in North Korea that required reporting from over 30 million yen to over 10 million yen.

(b) Moreover, North Korea carried out a nuclear weapons test on May 25, 2009. The Government of Japan, in response, banned the export of all items to North Korea and decided on June 16 to deny the “landing of convicted foreign sailors violating the trade and financial measures against North Korea” and the “reentry into Japan of foreign residents living in Japan who have been sentenced for such violations and who intend to go to North Korea”.

(c) The Government of Japan introduced these measures against North Korea, comprehensively taking into account a variety of factors under the international situation surrounding Japan. Most of all, Japan determined that taking these measures was necessary, considering the fact that North Korea failed to take any concrete action, including the reinvestigation agreed by the two parties in August 2008.

(d) On July 4, 2009, North Korea launched multiple ballistic missiles in violation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

(11) Torpedo attack on an ROK naval vessel by North Korea (March 2010)

On May 28, 2010, the Government of Japan, in response to a torpedo attack launched by North Korea on a naval vessel of the Republic of Korea in March of the same year, decided to further lower the thresholds of the amount of money above which notification and reporting is required to 100,000 yen and 3,000,000 yen respectively with regard to the monetary measures enacted in April 2009 (see 2(10)(a)). At the same time, Japan also decided to ensure further collaboration among its ministries and agencies to work on preventing indirect trade with North Korea by way of third countries and to take a tougher response.

3

Efforts by the International Community (International concern over the abduction issue)

(1) The Government of Japan raises the abduction issue at every possible diplomatic opportunity, including various international forums, such as the G8 summits and other meetings by the Prime Minister. Through these efforts, Japan has gained the understanding and support of other nations. For example, at the G8 Deauville Summit held in May 2011, Japan raised the abduction issue and the other G8 member countries expressed support for Japan's position. As a result, the G8 issued a strong statement by means of the Leaders Declaration urging North Korea to promptly resolve the abduction issue.

Japan's position on the abduction issue has also been supported at bilateral meetings with countries such as the United States, China, and the Republic of Korea. At the Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November 2011, for example, Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba expressed gratitude to the United States for referring to the abduction issue in the U.S.-North Korea dialogue, whereupon Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated that this issue was being taken up by the U.S., and North Korea was being urged to take actions, every time discussions with North Korea were held. At the Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in October 2011, Foreign Minister Gemba expressed gratitude to the Republic of Korea for its support and cooperation with regard to the abduction issue, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Kim Sung-Hwan reiterated the ROK's intention to provide support and cooperation. President Lee Myung-Bak also endorsed that intention during the courtesy call paid by Foreign Minister Gemba.

At the Japan-China summit meeting that took place in December 2011 following the death of Kim Jong-Il, Prime Minister Noda requested China's understanding and cooperation regarding the abduction issue. He also asked for cooperation from the viewpoint of the safety of Japanese nationals, including victims of abductions, and asked China to convey to the new leadership of North Korea that progress on the abduction issue is essential. Premier Wen Jiabao responded that he supported the improvement of Japan-North Korea relations and expressed the hope that the abduction issue together with related issues would be resolved appropriately by means of dialogue and discussion between Japan and North Korea. In addition, Foreign Minister Lavrov told Foreign Minister Gemba during the Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting in January 2012 that Russia supported a conclusive resolution to the abduction issue and had raised the issue in its dialogues with North Korea.

(2) Japan has also been raising the abduction issue in the Six-Party Talks. In fact, taking steps to normalize relations between Japan and North Korea, on the basis of the settlement of the abduction issues and other outstanding issues of concern, was set as one of the undertakings included in the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. Based on this, at the Six-Party Talks held in February 2007, a Working Group for the "Normalization of DPRK-Japan Relations" was established. At the Six-Party Talks



Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting in October 2011

held in October 2007, it was reaffirmed that “the DPRK and Japan will make sincere efforts 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 committed themselves to taking specific actions toward this end through intensive consultations between them.” There is no doubt that the abduction issue is included in the “outstanding issues of concern.”

(3) It is known that there are also many Korean people who are victims of abduction by North Korea. Testimony by returned Japanese abduction victims and others has further revealed that there are people in Thailand, Rumania, and Lebanon who may have been abducted by North Korea. It has been said, according to testimony by abduction victims in Republic of Korea returned from North Korea and others, that Chinese and other nationals have also been abducted. The abduction issue is a universal problem in terms of human rights which is a common norm in the international community. At the UN Human Rights Council a resolution to extend the mandate for the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was adopted for the fourth consecutive year in March 2011. In December 2011, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the human rights situation of North Korea for the seventh consecutive year, calling upon North Korea to improve its human rights situation, while expressing serious concerns over the status of human rights there. Moreover, this resolution was adopted with the largest number of affirmative votes ever (123 votes). In addition, Mr. Marzuki Darusman, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, made a recommendation in his report in 2011, as his predecessor Prof. Vitit Muntarbhorn had also done in his report, that North Korea should immediately provide effective cooperation toward a resolution of the abduction issue. Special Rapporteur Marzuki visited Japan in January 2011 and January 2012 to exchange views with Japanese governmental officials.



Prime Minister Noda giving a speech at the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly (September 2011)

4

Steps Taken in Japan

(1) Examinations and Investigations by the Government of Japan

Even after the Japan-DPRK summit meeting held in Pyongyang in September 2002, the Japanese investigation authorities, with the continuous cooperation of the returned victims of abduction, have continued necessary investigations concerning cases of abduction as well as 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 identified 12 separate incidents involving a total of 17 Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea and 10 suspects in abduction cases. In addition, the investigation revealed a case of abduction by North Korea of two siblings of North Korean nationality. The Government of Japan will continue to conduct necessary investigations, and if any new cases are identified as abductions, they will be duly taken up with the North Korean side. In addition, the investigation authorities intend to make utmost efforts to

obtain a full account of the abductions, including the identification of the suspects.

(2) Enforcement of Law Concerning Measures to Address the Abduction Issue and Other North Korean Human Rights Violations (June 2006)

This law came into force on June 23, 2006, for the purpose of deepening awareness among the Japanese people on the abduction issue and other human rights violations by the North Korean authorities. The law also aims to, in cooperation with the international community, elicit a full account of the situation regarding the abduction issue and to prevent it from happening again in the future.

In addition to laying out the responsibilities of the government in resolving the abduction issue, this law holds the national and local governments responsible for raising awareness of the issue, establishes North Korean Human Rights Abuses Awareness Week (December 10 – 16), and calls on the national and local governments to hold educational events on the topic during the week. Particularly, during the week, many conferences and symposia are held to advocate the resolution of the abduction issue both inside and outside Japan.

(3) Establishment of a new Headquarters for the Abduction Issue (October 2009)

In October 2009, the Government of Japan abolished the existing Headquarters for the Abduction Issue and established a new Headquarters for the Abduction Issue headed by the Prime Minister for the purpose of discussing measures to address the abduction issue, implementing measures for the immediate return of abductees, seeking an explanation for the abductees whose safety is unknown, and swiftly taking comprehensive measures including strategic planning on the issue. The Headquarters is now composed of the Prime Minister as the head, and the Minister of State for the Abduction Issue, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, and the Foreign Minister as the deputies. The government has set an effective system to resolve the abduction issue where the new Headquarters plays a central role.

At its first meeting in October 2009, the Headquarters confirmed that the government would strengthen the capabilities of the Headquarters' Secretariat in information-related efforts and promote efforts by the entire government to realize the immediate return of all abduction victims to Japan. At the fourth meeting held in November 2010, the Headquarters released an eight-principle directive towards a resolution of the abduction issue based on the "Efforts at Solving the Abduction Issue" confirmed at the second meeting in June 2010. It was confirmed at the sixth meeting in December 2011 as well that the entire government would join in taking measures in accordance with this policy.

Under the consistent policy to realize the return of all abduction victims, to settle the unfortunate past, and to normalize relations with North Korea based on the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, the Government of Japan will use every opportunity to strongly urge North Korea to immediately make a decision to resolve the abduction issue.

Individual Cases – 17 Abductees Identified by the Government of Japan

Below is an overview of the cases involving 17 people whom the Government of Japan has identified as victims of abduction by North Korea (numbers and places in parentheses indicate the ages of victims at the time and the site of their abduction). Initially, 15 abduction victims were identified

by the Government of Japan based on the law that became effective in January 2003, but as a result of investigation, Minoru Tanaka and Kyoko Matsumoto were additionally identified as victims on April 27, 2005 and November 20, 2006 respectively.

1. September 19, 1977: Ushitsu Case

- **Victim: Yutaka Kume** (52, Ishikawa Prefecture)
- Disappeared off the coast of Ushitsu, Ishikawa Prefecture.
- North Korea denies all knowledge of Yutaka Kume ever having entered North Korea.
- In January 2003, the Japanese authorities issued an arrest warrant for a North Korean agent Kim Se-Ho, the main suspect in this case, and placed him on the international wanted list. The Government of Japan has also demanded that North Korea extradite Kim Se-Ho to Japan. In the Japan-DPRK Comprehensive Talks held in February 2006, the North Korean side stated that it had “no knowledge of Kim Se-Ho” and that if Japan provides North Korea with all the relevant information it will conduct an investigation in order to identify him.

Victim



Suspect



Kim Se-Ho

2. October 21, 1977: Abduction Case Involving a Young Woman

- **Victim: Kyoko Matsumoto** (29, Tottori Prefecture)
- Disappeared on her way to a knitting school close to her home.
- The Government of Japan urged North Korea to provide information at the 12th round of the Japan-DPRK normalization talks held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2002 and all three Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations held in 2004. During the third Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations, North Korea replied that it could not confirm that Kyoko Matsumoto had ever entered North Korea.
- Since November 2006, when Kyoko Matsumoto was identified as an abductee, the Government of Japan has repeatedly demanded that North Korea immediately return her, and give a full account of the case, but has received no response to date.



3. November 15, 1977: Abduction Case Involving a Young Girl

- **Victim: Megumi Yokota** (13, Niigata Prefecture)
- Disappeared on her way home from school in Niigata city.
- During the third Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations held in November 2004, North Korea said that Megumi Yokota died in April 1994 and her widower handed over alleged “remains” claimed to be those of hers. The forensic analyses, however, showed that DNA belonging to other people was detected from part of these “remains.”
- In April 2006, a DNA test conducted by the Government of Japan found out that it is highly likely that Megumi Yokota’s husband is Kim Young-Nam, a Korean citizen abducted from the Republic of Korea in 1978 when he was a high school student.



4. In or around June 1978: Abduction Case Involving a Former Restaurant Worker

- **Victim: Minoru Tanaka** (28, Hyogo Prefecture)
- Disappeared after departing Japan for Europe in June 1978.
- The Government of Japan urged North Korea to provide information on this case at the 12th round of the Japan-DPRK normalization talks held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2002 and all three Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations held in 2004. During the third Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations, North Korea replied that it could not confirm Minoru Tanaka’s entry to North Korea.
- Since April 2005, when Minoru Tanaka was identified as an abductee, the Government of Japan has demanded that North Korea immediately return him and give a full account of the case, but has received no response to date.



5. In or around June 1978: Lee Un-Hae Case

- **Victim: Yaeko Taguchi** (22, unknown)
- Kim Hyon-Hui, a North Korean agent convicted of the bombing of a Korean Airlines jet in November 1987, claims to have learned how to act like a Japanese person from a woman named “Lee Un-Hae.” This “Lee Un-Hae” appears to be the missing Yaeko Taguchi.
- North Korea asserted that Yaeko Taguchi married Tadaaki Hara (See case 11) in 1984 and that, immediately after Tadaaki Hara’s death from illness in 1986, was killed in an automobile accident. North Korea has, however, provided no evidence supporting these claims.
- In March 2009, during a meeting between Kim Hyon-Hui and members of the Iizuka family, Kim provided new and important information to the family.* The Government of Japan is currently working to confirm the information. *Kim Hyon-Hui said, “I was back from Macao in January 1987, and I heard from a driver sometime around February and March that Ms. Taguchi had been taken to an unknown location. I heard in 1986 that an abductee living alone had been made to marry, so I thought she must also have gone somewhere to get married.”



6. July 7, 1978: Abduction Case of a Couple

- **Victims: Yasushi Chimura** (23, Fukui Prefecture) and **Fukie Chimura** (nee Hamamoto) (23, Fukui Prefecture)
- Disappeared after going out on a date on July 7, 1978.
- The couple married in 1979 and returned to Japan in October 2002. Their daughter and two sons returned to Japan on May 22, 2004.
- In February 2006, the Japanese authorities issued an arrest warrant for North Korean agent Sin Kwang-Su, who is responsible for their abduction, and put him on the international wanted list. The Government of Japan is also demanding that North Korea extradite him to Japan.



Sin Kwang-Su

7. July 31, 1978: Abduction Case of a Couple

- **Victims: Kaoru Hasuike** (20, Niigata Prefecture) and **Yukiko Hasuike** (nee Okudo) (22, Niigata Prefecture)
- Kaoru Hasuike did not return home on July 31, 1978, even though he was saying as he was going out that he would be back soon. Similarly, Yukiko Okudo disappeared after going out.
- The couple married in 1980 and returned to Japan in October 2002. Their son and daughter returned to Japan on May 22, 2004.
- In February 2006, the Japanese authorities issued an arrest warrant for the North Korean agent, who called himself Kenzo Kosumi, commonly known as Choi Sun-Chol, who is responsible for their abduction. In February 2007, the Japanese authorities also issued arrest warrants for two coconspirators of North Korean Labor Party and put them on the international wanted list: one of them called himself Han Myeong-II and is commonly known as Han Geum-Nyeong, and the other is commonly known as Kim Nam-Jin. The Government of Japan is demanding that North Korea extradite them to Japan.

Victim

Suspect



Choi Sun-Chol



Han Geum-Nyeong Km Nam-Jin

8. August 12, 1978: Abduction Case of a Couple

- **Victims: Shuichi Ichikawa** (23, Kagoshima Prefecture) and **Rumiko Masumoto** (24, Kagoshima Prefecture)
- Disappeared after going out on August 12, 1978. They were saying that they were going to see the sunset on the beach.
- North Korea asserted that the couple married in July 1979, but that Shuichi Ichikawa died of a heart attack in September 1979, and Rumiko Masumoto died also of a heart attack in 1981. North Korea has not, however, provided any evidence supporting these claims.



9. August 12, 1978: Abduction Case of a Mother and Daughter

- **Victims: Hitomi Soga** (19, Niigata Prefecture) and **Miyoshi Soga** (46, Niigata Prefecture)
- Disappeared after going out on August 12, 1978. They were saying that they were going shopping.
- Hitomi Soga returned to Japan in October 2002. Her husband (Charles Jenkins, a US citizen) and their two daughters arrived in Japan in July 2004.
- North Korea asserted that Miyoshi Soga never entered North Korea.
- In November 2006, the Japanese authorities issued an arrest warrant for a North Korean agent known as Kim Myong-Suk, who is responsible for their abductions, and put him on the international wanted list. The Government of Japan has demanded that North Korea extradite him to Japan.



Kim Myong-Suk

10. In or around May 1980: Abduction Case Involving Two Japanese Males in Europe

- **Victims: Toru Ishioka** (22, Europe) and **Kaoru Matsuki** (26, Europe)
- Both disappeared during their stay in Europe in 1980. A letter sent by Toru Ishioka in 1988 to his family in Japan (bearing a Polish postmark) indicated that he, Kaoru Matsuki and Keiko Arimoto (See case 12) were all residing in North Korea.
- North Korea claims that Toru Ishioka and Keiko Arimoto died in a gas accident in November 1988, but has given no evidence to support this claim. North Korea asserted that Kaoru Matsuki died in an automobile accident in August 1996. In September 2002 and during the third Japan-DPRK Working-Level Consultations held in November 2004, North Korea handed over the "remains" that it claimed could be those of Kaoru Matsuki, but the forensic analyses showed that DNA from other people was detected in part of these "remains."
- In June 2007, the Japanese authorities issued arrest warrants for Yoriko Mori and Sakiko Wakabayashi (formerly Kuroda) (wives of "Yodo-go" hijack members) for conducting the abductions. The Government of Japan has put them on the international wanted list and demanded that North Korea extradite them to Japan.



Yoriko Mori



Sakiko Wakabayashi

11. Mid-June 1980: Sin Kwang-Su Case

- **Victim: Tadaaki Hara** (43, Miyazaki Prefecture)
- Disappeared in Miyazaki Prefecture in mid-June 1980.
- North Korean agent Sin Kwang-Su confessed to authorities in the Republic of Korea that he was responsible for the abduction of Tadaaki Hara. Japanese authorities issued an arrest warrant for Sin Kwang-Su as the person responsible for the abduction and put him on the international wanted list. The Government of Japan has demanded that North Korea extradite him to Japan and in April 2006 issued a new arrest warrant that names him as the main suspect in this abduction case. Showing no willingness to extradite him to Japan, North Korea is honoring him as a "hero." Japanese authorities have also issued an arrest warrant for Kim Kil-Uk, an accomplice for the abduction of Tadaaki Hara, and have taken actions such as placing him on the international wanted list.
- North Korea has asserted that Tadaaki Hara married Yaeko Taguchi (See case 5) in 1984, but died of hepatic cirrhosis in 1986. North Korea has not provided any evidence to support this claim.



Sin Kwang-Su



Kim Kil-Uk

12. In or around July 1983: Abduction Case of a Japanese Woman in Europe

- **Victim: Keiko Arimoto** (23, Europe)
- Disappeared in Europe in or around July 1983.
- A former wife of a "Yodo-go" hijack member acknowledges that she abducted Keiko Arimoto in cooperation with North Korean authorities. In September 2002, Japanese authorities issued an arrest warrant for a "Yodo-go" hijack member Kimihiro Uomoto (formerly Abe) for conducting the abduction, and put him on the international wanted list. The Government of Japan has demanded that North Korea extradite him to Japan, but North Korea has not responded to this request.
- North Korea asserted that Keiko Arimoto died in a gas accident along with Toru Ishioka (See case 10) in November 1988, but has not given any evidence to support this claim.



Kimihiro Uomoto





Blue Ribbon

Blue. That is the color of the Sea of Japan that separates Japan, the victims' homeland, and North Korea. The color also represents the blue sky, the only thing that connects the victims and their families.

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