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Raymond Scicluna
Skrivan tal-Kamra

**11th General Meeting of the International
Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korea
Refugees and Human Rights (IPCNKR)**

**21 - 23 August 2014
Bucharest, Romania**

**Hon Anglu Farrugia, Speaker
Hon Carmelo Abela
Hon David Agius
Ms Eleanor Scerri**

Report to the House of Representatives

11th General Meeting of the International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korea Refugees and Human Rights (IPCNKR)

Date: 21 – 23 August 2014

Venue: Senate of Romania, Bucharest, Romania



Maltese delegation: Hon. Anglu FARRUGIA, Speaker
Hon. Carmelo ABELA, Government Whip
Hon. David AGIUS, Opposition Whip
Ms Eleanor SCERRI, Research Analyst

Opening Remarks

Hon. Woo-Yea HWANG opened the meeting. He recalled that the group was formed in order to inform about the situation and contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation in North Korea. He added that Romania, in view of its history and the close friendship that existed between Nicolae Ceausescu and Kim Il Sung, is an important example of how an oppressive dictatorship can be overthrown, which can happen soon in North Korea. He concluded by thanking the Members of Parliament for their strong will and participation.

Hon. Masaharu NAKAGAWA said that Japan will continue to maintain sanctions put in place by the United States against North Korea. He urged the North Koreans to understand that there is a future and that they do not have to accept the situation. He concluded by saying that humanitarian aid remains important even in the bounds of economic sanctions.

Mr Ben-Oni ARDELEAN welcomed the participants to the meeting room of the Bureau of the Senate, including Members of Parliament, representatives of NGOs, governments and ambassadors. He explained the history of the building which he described as interesting. He said that this year Romania is celebrating the 25th anniversary of freedom, which is a very relevant to the current situation in North Korea. He concluded by saying that the aim of the meeting was threefold:

- i. To raise international awareness about the situation in North Korea;
- ii. To send a strong message to the people of North Korea that they are not alone; and
- iii. To do whatever stands in our power to put pressure on the North Korean regime.

Congratulatory Remarks

In his address, **Speaker Anghu Farrugia** referred to the 372-page report by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPKR), which contained a number of recommendations intended to address the serious human rights violations found to be committed by the DPRK. He likewise referred to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK as well as to the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council drawn up in preparation for the 27th Session of the Human Rights Council due in September 2014. The Speaker also spoke about the various contributions by the European Union *vis-à-vis* the human rights situation in the DPRK, particularly the outcome of the Foreign Affairs Council of 10th February 2014 where the EU declared its support to the "work of the Commission of Inquiry investigating the human rights situation in the DPRK" and also ensured "follow-up to its report and recommendations". In conclusion, Speaker Farrugia appealed to the North Korean people not to despair as the countries represented gathered for the meeting are on their side.

First Deputy Speaker Sediq Ahmad OSMANI said that the people of the world should work together against human rights violations in North Korea. He said that torture, humiliation and intimidating practices, according to various reports, are causing vast migrations to other countries especially as more opportunities are available. He also referred to problem of a strong military presence in North Korea which is used as a threat to neighbours. In his remarks he appealed to the United Nations and to the international community to take the necessary action so that dictators do not remain unpunished.

Vice-President Chafik RACHADI spoke about the acute situation of refugees, estimated at 15.5 million around the world. Through the work of the UNHCR Morocco has contributed actively to the protection of refugees and is meeting its commitments in terms of human rights.

Plenary Session

Hon. Woo-Yea HWANG introduced the plenary session of the meeting by saying that it is important to draw on the experience of Romania as an example of how power can be returned to the people. The agenda of the meeting was approved without amendments or discussion.

At the beginning of the session a part of the film '**Apostle**' was shown. The film depicts the anguish of North Koreans who attempt to practice their faith in secret, and the merciless pursuit of them by the authorities who hunt them down. The film offers a glimpse into the complete control over the population that the leadership imposes.

Session I - European Experiences on Resolution of Human Rights Issues in their History

Hon. Tadeusz IWINSKI spoke as a representative from one of the larger European democracies and member of the Council of Europe, which is the foremost human rights organisation. He also spoke about the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and of its committee on migrations and refugees, and encouraged Korea to participate in the meetings of the Council of Europe.

Hon. Adrian ANGHEL, Member of the Romanian Senate, spoke of his experience as a student in 1980 when he fled from Romania. He was encouraged by the fact that there are people ready to help people who are in the same position he was in and also said that his experience did not stop him from moving on to become a Senator later on in life, and it is for this reason that North Koreans should not lose faith that they can be free.

Hon. Corneliou DEBROZU, Member of the Romanian Senate, spoke about the importance on the strengthening of parliaments of the true representatives of the people, especially in democratic countries. He thus called upon the other members to make their voices heard by condemning these human tragedies.

Hon. John STANLEY spoke about the variable experience of furthering human rights in Europe, which in the UK goes back to the 13th Century when the Magna Carta was drawn up. He said that this document was important as it established two important principles: that the person in power is not above the law and that the King had to share his power with the Barons. He said that a civil war between the King and Parliament was followed by a bout of religious extremism and totalitarian rule, which is not very different from what we can see in certain countries nowadays. Eventually this was followed by the evolution of the parliamentary system and, over time, the extension of the right to vote and by the necessary social reforms. In this present day there is total ban on discrimination.

The three important principles that come to light from this history are that:

- i. Minority views are of crucial importance as most achievements were the results of actions by minority groups;
- ii. Freedom of expression leads to huge advancements in human rights; and
- iii. The importance of enshrining human rights in a text. An example is the Vienna Declaration on human rights; Article 5 of this declaration, stating that all human rights are universal, is of crucial importance. Dictators and some religious leaders do not adhere to this principle as they continue to enforce certain practices such as female genital mutilation.

Hon. Frank HEINRICH spoke as a human rights activist, and member of the committee on human rights of the Bundestag. For many years he was the Head of the Salvation Army's youth work in Eastern Germany and Berlin. He compared the current situation in North Korea of human rights violations to that in East Germany when he was growing up, where certain categories of people, like disabled people, Jews and homosexuals, were not considered by the Nazis as worthy of living. He

also spoke about the work of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights and commitment to human rights and the rule of law, and said that Germany joined in 1951, as soon as possible after the end of World War 2. Like Hon. John Stanley, Hon. Heinrich also referred to the fact that most of the advancements in human rights were the result of the actions of minorities.

Hon. Andreas KARLSBOECK spoke about the persecution of Christians in Syria and Iraq, similar to that in North Korea, and that everyone should have the right to practice their faith free from fear of persecution and it is in our interest to promote this universal human rights.

Chair Hon. Hak Yong SHIN concluded the first session by reiterating a proposal made in the 10th meeting: it should be in the interest of South Korea to follow the example of Japan and become a partner of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in order to share their experiences.

Session II Repatriation of North Korean Defectors and Effects of the Final Report of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK on the Current Situation and the North Korean Regime

Hon. Il-Pyo HONG spoke about the fact that the relatives of North Korean defectors are guilty by association. It is thus not only the defectors but also their relatives who suffer. He explained that China regards these immigrants not as refugees but as economic migrants and are subject to repatriation agreements between China and North Korea. This goes against the principle of *non-refoulement*. The defectors who find themselves repatriated are subjected to various forms of humiliation and torture, including invasive body searches and forced abortions on women. He then explained that the Thai government does not regard them as refugees either but detain defectors until they can be moved to a safe third country. The final appeal by Hon. Il-Pyo Hong was for China to stop these repatriations.

Hon. Dong Wan KIM started by referring to the speech by Speaker Anglu Farrugia saying that it conveys a strong message. In his intervention he made three recommendations to the ICPNKR:

- It is imperative for this group to continue the regular sessions in order to monitor progress;
- It should continue to promote humanitarian assistance; and
- It should put pressure on countries involved, such as China, to respect and promote human rights.

Hon. Barry DEVOLIN spoke about two major issues, the findings of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights (CoI) in the DPRK and whether the term 'refugee' is the correct word when talking about those who are fleeing North Korea. On the CoI Ho. Devolin said that this was a success, something that would not have been seen as possible three years ago. Although the report does not really contain any new information as it was already public knowledge, for the first time it puts all the issues together in one document and is presented in a way which is understandable. Furthermore it is a document which has the necessary legitimacy and authority. For the first time there is also a direct reference to China. This is relevant as so far the easiest way to leave North Korea is to China as the border with South Korea is heavily guarded and that with Russia is very small and not easily accessible. Those who manage to make it to China, however, are not safe as if they are found they will be repatriated to North Korea and cannot ask for protection. Unless immigrants decide to stay in China, they often decide to proceed to Thailand, which is the most sought destination.

Hon. Devolin added that the United Nations definition of 'refugees' does not cover North Korean defectors as according to this definition they should not have a safe place to go to; but they could move to South Korea. North Korean defectors cannot claim refugee status in Canada since it uses the UN definition of refugee. Many North Koreans are afraid to go to South Korea as they fear for their own safety and that of their relatives who are left behind. Canada believes that a new definition of

'refugee' is needed and it is an issue that Canada is ready to discuss. Canada already has an agreement to take a small number of North Korean defectors, in fact there was even a North Korean intern working at the Parliament. He concluded his remarks by saying that the most important step that needs to be taken is to get China to cooperate, even though this is not the solution as long as the totalitarian regime remains.

Hon. Florica CHERECHES approached the subject from a practical point of view: how is this relevant to us living so far away? She finds that the issue is relevant not only because there is significant abuse of women going on but also because the persecution of Christians, as seen in the film that was shown, is very touching. There is widespread kidnapping and killing of pastors who are regarded as a threat to the authority of the 'dear leader'. She gave the example that there is life imprisonment for those found to own a Bible for three generations. She also spoke from personal experience coming from a former Communist country, which thrived on the attack of human dignity and freedom of thinking.

On the subject of trafficking of people Hon. Chereches said that although one usually thinks of this being carried out by criminal networks, in Romania it was even the government that sold people as these were regarded as commodities. In North Korea there is the problem that there is a great demand for marriageable and fertile women, giving way to networks of human traffickers. She said that the international community should admit that it is not only the women who try to escape with most ending up abused and exploited, when all they wanted was freedom and dignity.

She concluded that the ultimate goal should be that of the reunification of Korea, following on the example of Germany, where the West was ready to absorb the problems that prevailed in the East. In this respect her appeal was directed at South Korea.

Mr Peter JUNG spoke about the human rights violations in North Korea, where all sorts of atrocities are committed. The main cause of this the repatriation of migrants by China. He said that a visit is necessary to really understand the situation. He said that it was evident that taking such a risky decision could not be based only on economic reasons. He called on ICPNKR to urge China to stick to the principle of non-*refoulement* and follow the recommendations of the UN Col.

Session III Efforts of the International Community to Resolve Abduction Issue

Hon. Shu WATANABE spoke about the fact that Japan is involved in both bilateral and multilateral cooperation for the democratisation of North Korea. He said that one of the greatest problems is that North Korea has a very strong military but there is no freedom of thought and belief, being ruled by a third-generation dictator. Although there have been slight improvements over the years, the North Koreans are subject to great suffering.

Mr. Gabriel BUMBEA spoke about at a personal experience as the brother of abductee Doina Bumbea, a young Romanian who had gone to Italy to study art history was offered a career as a painter in Hong Kong or Japan in July 1978. She fell into the trap and finished up in North Korea. There she married an American deserter with whom she had two children. From 1984 she shared an apartment with Soga and Jenkins, and died of cancer in 1997. Her Romanian father and Russian mother live in Romania. The information concerning Doina was transmitted by Japan to the Romanian authorities through diplomatic channels, but to this day, no missing Romanian citizens match her description. The Romanian government has inquired about Doina in North Korea, but North Korean officials have said that this woman was never found on their territory. Mr Bumbea concluded by saying that he wanted to send a message to all the participants to take measures to resolve the problem of abductees in North Korea and thanked the Japanese and South Korean governments and NGOs for their support. The participants observed a moment of silence in honour of Ms Bumbea.

Mr Tomoharu EBIHARA also spoke about the story of an abductee, Ms Anocha Panjoy, the only Thai abductee known. Anocha Panjoy was snatched from the Portuguese colony of Macau on May 21, 1978, where she had been working as a massage therapist in a hotel, sending money home so her poor family could build a new house in San Kamphaeng village in Chiang Mai province. Her disappearance remained a mystery for almost three decades until former US army deserter Charles Jenkins revealed in a book that a Thai woman called Anocha had been his neighbour in Pyongyang, telling him she had been ambushed on a beach in Macau, forced on to a boat and taken to North Korea.

Anocha and Doina are two of more than 500 people across the world, many of them Japanese, who were abducted by North Korean agents in a bizarre program ordered by the dangerous and eccentric Kim dynasty in the 1970s and 80s.

In conclusion of the session the **Chair** appealed for the reunification of Korean and for an international network aimed at resolving the issue of abductees, which can affect any country. It is for this reason that the human rights situation in North Korea is relevant to everyone. The aims of the meeting can be summarised as:

- Raising awareness about the human rights situation in North Korea; and
- Establishing an information sharing system about human rights violations, which do not happen only at times of war.

He also referred to the recent visit to Korea by Pope Francis, who also met with the parents of a number of abductees. He said that although the visit was mainly of a religious nature, it had a strong emphasis on human rights, love and peace.

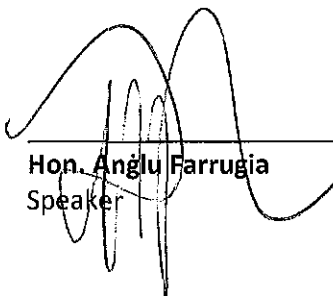
Closing Session

During the closing session it was announced that the 12th meeting of the ICPNKR would be hosted by Austria, with the date still to be announced.

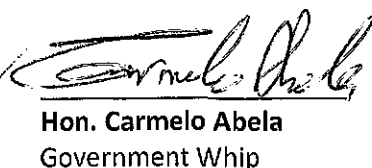
On the adoption of the 11th Joint Statement, the Maltese delegation proposed an amendment to paragraph 8 where after the words '...legislatures; and' were to be added the words 'recommends that these countries which have diplomatic relations with North Korea will continue to assist in this regard'.

A number of participants were reluctant to accept this amendment due to different understanding of the term 'diplomatic relations' and whether this should mean diplomatic ties or an embassy representation in the country.

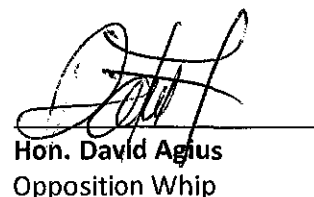
As a compromise it was agreed that this issue would be discussed in the meeting which was agreed to be held in Austria in 2015.



Hon. Anglu Farrugia
Speaker



Hon. Carmelo Abela
Government Whip



Hon. David Agius
Opposition Whip

DAY	TIME	PROGRAM
Day 1	15:00-19:00	Registration
	19:00-19:30	Transfer from the hotel to the restaurant
	19:30-21:30	Welcome Dinner
	07:00-08:30	Breakfast
	08:30-08:45	Transfer from the hotel to the Senate of Romania
Day 2	09:00-09:50	Opening Ceremony 1) Opening Remarks - Hon. Woo-Yea HWANG (ROK) - Hon. Masaharu NAKAGAWA (Japan) - Hon. Ben-Oni ARDELEAN (Romania) 2) Congratulatory Remarks - Speaker Angelo FARRUGIA (Malta) - First Deputy Speaker Sediq Ahmad OSMANI (Afghanistan) - Vice-President Chafik RACHADI (Morocco)
	09:50-10:00	Coffee Break
	10:00-10:30	Plenary Session Chair: Hon. Woo-Yea HWANG - Adoption of Agenda - Admission of New Members
	10:30-11:00	Film on North Korean Human rights " <i>The Apostle</i> "
	11:00-12:00	Session I European Experiences on Resolution of Human Rights Issues in their History Chair: Hon. Hak Yong SHIN (ROK) (1) Hon. Ben-Oni ARDELEAN (Romania) (2) Hon. John STANLEY (UK) (3) Hon. Frank HEINRICH (Germany) (4) Hon. Andreas F. KARLSBOECK (Austria)
	12:00-13:10	Luncheon
	13:10-14:10	Session II Repatriation of North Korean Defectors and Effects of the Final Report of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK on the Current Situation and the North Korean Regime Chair: TBD (1) Hon. Il-Pyo HONG (ROK) (2) Hon. Dong Wan KIM (ROK) (3) Hon. Barry DEVOLIN (Canada) (4) Hon. Florica CHERECHES (Romania) (5) Mr. Peter JUNG (ROK)
	14:10-14:20	Coffee Break
	14:20-15:20	Session III Efforts of the International Community to Resolve Abduction Issue Chair: Hon. Masaharu NAKAGAWA (Japan) (1) Hon. Shinkun HAKU (Japan) (2) Hon. Shu WATANABE (Japan) (3) Hon. Hahn Koo LEE (ROK) (4) Mr. Gabriel BUMBEA (Romania) (5) Mr. Tomoharu EBIHARA (Thailand)
	15:20-16:00	Coffee Break (*Closed meeting of the Chairmen)
	16:00-17:00	Closing Session Chair: Hon. Woo-Yea HWANG - Review of Joint Statement - Adoption of Joint Statement - Decision on th 12th General Meeting (Venue, Month, Agenda) - Closing Remarks
	17:00-17:15	Transfer from the Senate of Romania to the hotel
	18:00-20:00	Farewell Dinner
Day 3	09:30-14:00	City Tour (Optional)

11th Joint Statement of the International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights

Reaffirming its commitment to collaborating with the international community in raising global awareness of human rights abuses in North Korea, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other treaties on human rights,

Recalling that North Korea signed the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity (1968), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1981), the Convention on the Prevention and punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1989), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (2001),

The International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights:

1. *Expresses* its gravest concern at the persisting human rights violations occurring in North Korea under the Kim Jong-un's leadership and at the systematic, widespread, and serious infringements of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights on the North Korean people committed by its regime;
2. *Takes* seriously the final report of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in North Korea, which found that the crimes against humanity have been committed by the regime of North Korea, and *calls upon* the United Nations Security Council to refer the crimes against humanity in North Korea to the International Criminal Court;
3. *Expresses* the deepest concerns on the long-existing unresolved cases of abduction of foreign nationals, particularly Japanese and Korean nationals, planned and executed by the North Korean regime, and demand North Korea to reveal their status and expedite their return, recalling that Kim Jong-Il admitted to kidnapping and returned five Japanese nationals in 2002;
4. *Urges* all States including China to respect the principle of non-*refoulement*, and, accordingly, to abstain from forcibly repatriating any persons to North Korea, particularly women and children, and to provide them with appropriate assistance and protection in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
5. *Expresses* its serious concerns on the North Korean women extremely vulnerable to trafficking in person by force or deception into or within China for the purposes of exploitation in forced marriage or prostitution;
6. *Demands* that all other countries, in which the North Korean people are seeking refuge or through which they transit, provide them with protection and humane treatment and ensure their security until they reach the destination of their choice;
7. *Requests* the members of the IPCNKR to cooperate with non-governmental organizations which assist North Korean stateless children and trafficked women staying in other countries;
8. *Recommends* the members of the IPCNKR to facilitate the enactment of a North Korean Human Right Act or adopt a resolution on North Korean Human Rights in their domestic legislatures; and
9. *Conveys* this 11th Joint Statement of the IPCNKR to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as part of its effort to cooperate with international and regional organizations, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe in order to terminate the tragedies of North Koreans.

Congratulatory Remarks
by
The Honourable Dr Angelo Farrugia
Speaker of the House of Representatives of the
Republic of Malta
at
The 11th General Meeting of the International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korean
Refugees and Human Rights
Bucharest, Romania
21st – 23rd August 2014

Honourable Hwang, Woo-Yea
Honourable Masaharu Nakagawa
Honourable Senator Ben-Oni Ardelean
Honourable First Deputy Speaker of Afghanistan
Honourable Vice-President of Morocco
Honourable Members
Excellencies
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honour and privilege for me today to be present in this beautiful building and to be given the opportunity of addressing such a distinguished and prominent gathering on the occasion of the 11th General Meeting of the International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights (IPCKNR).

Allow me, at the outset, to express my sincerest gratitude to the Senate of Romania, particularly Senator Ben-Oni Ardelean, for offering to graciously host the 11th IPCKNR Meeting, which for the second consecutive time is taking place in a European Union Member State, following last year's meeting which was held in Warsaw, Poland.

I would also like to thank the organisers of this 11th IPCKNR General Meeting, namely the Honourable Woo-Yea Hwang and the Honourable Masaharu Nakagawa, Co-Chairmen of IPCKNR, for inviting me once again to participate in this important assembly of International Parliamentarians who are dedicating their efforts and energy towards the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including North Korean refugees, in order to safeguard all their human rights.

I still cherish the memories of last year's meeting, especially when I put forward my amendments to the concluding paragraph of the 10th Joint Statement, whereby the IPCKNR conveyed the said Joint Statement *"to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as part of its effort to co-operate with international and regional organisations, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, toward the termination of the tragedies of North Koreans."*

Indeed, I am extremely pleased to note that this final paragraph features once again in this year's draft Joint Statement, which will be adopted this afternoon during the closing session of this 11th IPCKNR General Meeting.

Following my participation for the first time in the 10th IPCKNR General Meeting, throughout these last twelve months I have followed regularly, assiduously and with great interest all the documentation forwarded to me concerning the dreadful situation in North Korea. Indeed, I was terribly aghast, horrified and shocked by some of the clips depicting the barbaric torture inflicted by the oppressive and totalitarian authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on their own Korean brethren.

Co-Chairmen
Honourable Members
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Last year, this august Coalition supported the activity of the UN Commission of Inquiry in its investigation of the human rights violations committed by the despotic authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, both within the territory of North Korea as well as outside it.

Earlier this year, namely in February 2014, the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea came out with a three hundred and seventy-two page report which contains the Commission's detailed findings on the abuse of human rights in the DPRK, based on first-hand testimony from victims and witnesses, and a number of conclusions and recommendations aimed at the DPRK, China and other States as well as the International Community and the United Nations.

As I am sure that everyone present in this hall is fully aware of, the very first paragraph of the Conclusions and Recommendations, made by the UN Commission of Inquiry in its report on human rights in the DPRK, opens with a very clear statement, namely that *"Systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations have been and are being committed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, its institutions and officials. In many instances, the violations of human rights found by the Commission constitute crimes against humanity."*

The report continues that *"the gravity, scale and nature of these violations reveal a State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world."* It adds that *"Political scientists of the twentieth century characterised this type of political organisation as a totalitarian State: a State that does not content itself with ensuring the authoritarian rule of a small group of people, but seeks to dominate every aspect of its citizens' lives and terrorises them from within."*

I am really petrified when I read in the Commission's report that the crimes against humanity committed by the North Korean regime include *"extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence, persecution on political, religious, racial and gender grounds, the forcible transfer of populations, the enforced disappearance of persons and the inhumane act of knowingly causing prolonged starvation"*.

I am likewise anguished and miserable to learn that the UN Commission of Inquiry has found out that *"Crimes against humanity are ongoing in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea because the policies, institutions, and patterns of impunity that lie at their heart remain in place."*

Following its findings and conclusions, the Commission came out with nineteen recommendations directed to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, six addressed to China and other States, while ten other recommendations were made to the International Community and the United Nations in particular. Without going into each and every recommendation found in the Commission's report, it suffices to highlight the gravity of the crimes against humanity committed by the DPRK despotic rulers by quoting the first recommendation addressed to the United Nations Security Council, namely that *"the Security Council should refer the situation in the Democratic people's Republic of Korea to the International Criminal Court for action in accordance with that court's jurisdiction. The Security Council should also adopt targeted sanctions against those who appear to be most responsible for crimes against humanity."*

The report by the UN Commission of Inquiry was followed by the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, Marzuki Darusman. In his report, the Special Rapporteur, building on the outcome of the UN Commission of Inquiry, highlighted his initial thoughts on the way forward required to fulfill his mandate. He considered the Commission's report as a unique opportunity to the international community to help make a difference in the lives of the North Korean people. He stated that *"there is no turning back; it cannot be 'business as usual' as the international community presses on to ease the ongoing suffering of the people and to ensure accountability, justice and reconciliation."*

In the final Section of his report, 'The way forward: the responses required of all parties concerned', the Special Rapporteur, 'inter alia', encouraged *"Member States to follow up the recommendations made by the commission of inquiry to form human rights contact group to raise concerns about the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to provide support for initiatives to improve it, fully utilizing all available mechanisms to achieve tangible results."*

Apart from the reports of the UN Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the DPRK and that of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, this year North Korea was also involved in a periodic review by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council.

In the report, which has been published on 2nd July 2014, there are no less than one hundred and eighty-five recommendations which have to be examined by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in order to provide responses in due time, but no later than the 27th Session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014. It is also worth mentioning that another eighty-three recommendations did not enjoy the support of the DPRK and thus they were only noted.

This means that, strictly speaking, there were two hundred and sixty-eight recommendations addressed to the North Korean authorities, while eighty-five delegations made statements during the interactive dialogue. These are no small figures, which demonstrate that the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is more than worrying.

Co-Chairmen
Honourable Members
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

The 11th General Meeting of the IPCKNR has adopted as its theme "The Role of International Organisations in Resolving the Human Rights Issue in North Korea". Indeed, the European Union, including Malta as a Member State of the EU, has remained focused on the issue of human rights in the DPRK.

At the Foreign Affairs Council Meeting held in Brussels on 10th February 2014, the Council adopted conclusions on EU priorities ahead of the 25th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council and following the conclusions of the Third Committee of the 68th UN General Assembly. 'Inter alia', the Council referred to *"the grave and systematic human rights violations"* in North Korea, which *"deserve the attention of the international community"*. The EU declared its support to the *"work of the Commission of Inquiry investigating the human rights situation in the DPRK"* and also ensured *"follow-up to its report and recommendations"*.

The European Union was also instrumental in leading the resolution on the *"Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea"* during the 25th Session of the Human Rights Council. In the said resolution, the Human Rights Council, 'inter alia' condemned *"in the strongest terms the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations and*

other human rights abuses” and urged the DPRK Government “to acknowledge these violations and to take immediate steps to end all such violations and abuses”. The Human Rights Council also encouraged “all States who have who have relations with the DPRK to use their influence to encourage it to take immediate steps to end all human rights violations”.

The European Union intervened as well at the 26th Session of the UN Human Rights Council during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, Marzuki Darusman, on the human rights situation in the DPRK. In its intervention, the European Union urged the DPRK Government “*to take immediate steps to halt all such violations”* and supported the COI recommendation that the Security Council refers the situation in North Korea to the International Criminal Court. Moreover, it also expressed the hope that a credible investigation by the DPRK into the fate of Japanese abductees is carried out and urged *the DPRK to implement the recommendations made in the UPR-process”*.

In concluding my brief intervention, I would like to bring to your attention and in particular to the attention of the people of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, a famous quotation by Mahatma Gandhi:

“When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they will always fall. Think of it -always.”

Dear North Koreans, do not despair. You are not alone. All of us here and the countries that we represent are definitely on your side. Without any doubt, the time will come when you too will experience the words of wisdom of the great father of India.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Press Release dated 22 August 2014:

DOI PR 141873

SPEAKER ANĠLU FARRUGIA LEADS A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE 11TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS' COALITION FOR NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES AND HUMAN RIGHTS (IPCNKR)

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon Anglu Farrugia, has today participated in the 11th General Meeting of the International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights (IPCNKR), which was held in Bucharest, Romania. The theme of this year's meeting was the Role of International Organisations in Resolving the Issue of North Korean Human Rights.

This was the second time that the Maltese Parliament was represented in this gathering, which for the second consecutive time took place in a European Member State. Speaker Farrugia made congratulatory remarks at the opening of the meeting where he recalled his contribution to the 10th Joint Statement adopted during the 2013 meeting and expressed his satisfaction that the last paragraph of this Statement, which asked for it to be conveyed 'to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as part of its effort to co-operate with international and regional organisations, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, toward the termination of the tragedies of North Koreans', was also part of the Statement of the 11th IPCNKR.

In his address, Speaker Farrugia referred to the 372-page report by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPKR), which contained a number of recommendations intended to address the serious human rights violations found to be committed by the DPRK. He likewise referred to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK as well as to the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council drawn up in preparation for the 27th Session of the Human Rights Council due in September 2014.

The Speaker also spoke about the various contributions by the European Union *vis-à-vis* the human rights situation in the DPRK, particularly the outcome of the Foreign Affairs Council of 10th February 2014 where the EU declared its support to the "work of the Commission of Inquiry investigating the human rights situation in the DPRK" and also ensured "follow-up to its report and recommendations".

In conclusion, Speaker Farrugia appealed to the North Korean people not to despair as the countries represented gathered for the meeting are on their side.

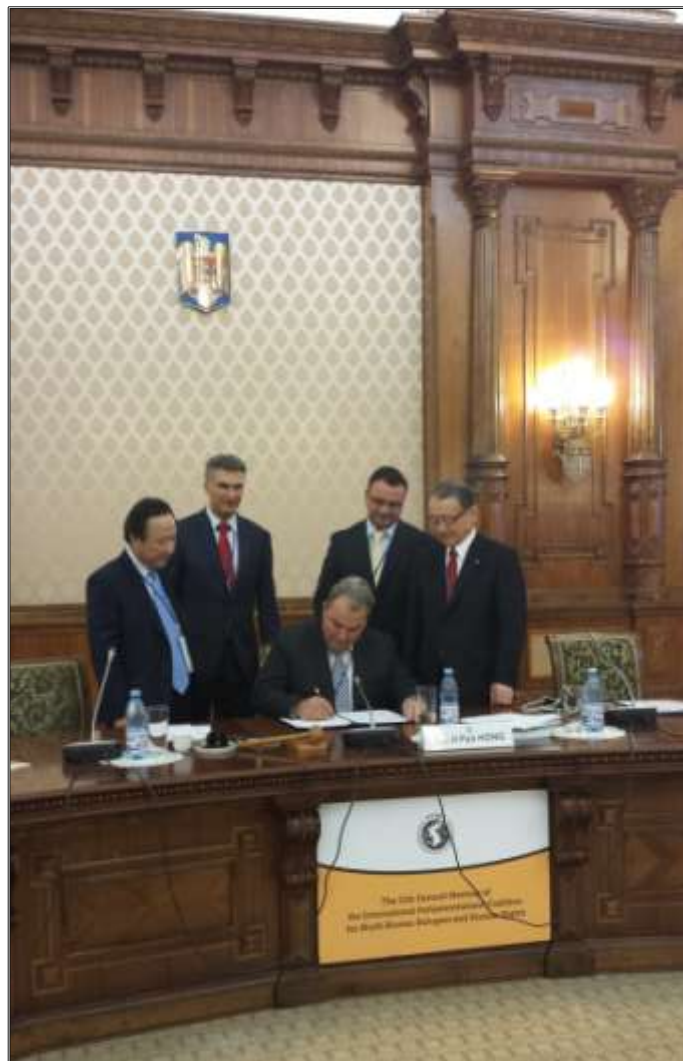
At the end of the meeting, the delegates approved the 11th Joint Statement of the ICPNKR. During the closing session of the meeting it was agreed that the meeting in 2015 will be hosted by Austria.

Government Whip, Hon. Carmelo Abela, and Opposition Whip, Hon. David Agius, formed part of a Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker, which participated in the 11th General Meeting of the IPCNKR.

The full text of the address by Speaker Farrugia and the 11th Joint Statement are attached.



Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addressing the 11th Meeting of the ICPNKR



Signature of the 11th Joint Statement of the ICPNKR by the delegation of the Maltese Parliament



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

THE 11TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
PARLIAMENTARIANS' COALITION FOR NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES AND
HUMAN RIGHTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Country	Name	Position
1	AFGHANISTAN	Hon. Sediq Ahmad Osmani	First Deputy Speaker of House of the People
2		Hon. Ashequllah Wafa	Member of House of the People
3		Hon. Zahir Sadat	Member of House of the People
4		Hon. Abdul Rahman Shahidani	Member of House of the People
5		Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Sarwari	Secretary of First Deputy Speaker
6		Mr. Reshaddudin Ameen	Language Translator
7	AUSTRIA	Hon. Andreas F. Karlsboeck	Member of National Council
8	CANADA	Hon. Barry Devolin	Member of House of Commons
9		Mrs. Ursula Devolin	Spouse
10	CROATIA	Hon. Ingrid Anticevic Marinovic	Member of Croatian Parliament
11		Hon. Romana Jerkovic	Member of Croatian Parliament
12	EL SALVADOR	Hon. Enrique Valdes	Vice Speaker of Legislative Assembly
13		Hon. Ernesto Angulo	Member of Legislative Assembly
14	GEORGIA	Hon. Eka Beselia	Member of Parliament
15		Hon. Otar Chrdileli	Member of Parliament
16		Hon. Phati Khalvashi	Member of Parliament
17		Hon. Omar Megreldze	Member of Parliament
18		Hon. Gedevan Popkhadze	Member of Parliament
19	GERMANY	Hon. Frank Heinrich	Member of German Bundestag
20		Mrs. Bogdana Daniela Marinache	Assistant

21	JAPAN	Hon. Masaharu Nakagawa	Member of House of Representatives
22		Hon. Shu Watanabe	Member of House of Representatives
23		Hon. Shinkun Haku	Member of House of Councillors
24		Mr. Ryohei Tobibayashi	First Secretary of Embassy of Japan
25	LITHUANIA	Hon. Egidijus Vareikis	Member of Parliament
26	MALTA	Hon. Angelo Farrugia	Speaker of House of Representatives
27		Hon. Carmelo Abela	Member of House of Representatives
28		Hon. David Agius	Member of House of Representatives
29		Ms. Eleanor Scerri	Research Analyst
30	MOROCCO	Hon. Chafik Rachadi	Vice Speaker of House of Representatives
31		Mrs. Faouz El Achchabi	Ambassador of Morocco
32	PHILIPPINES	Hon. Rufus Rodriguez	Member of House of Representatives
33		Mrs. Ferina Rodriguez	Spouse
34	POLAND	Hon. Tadeusz Iwinski	Member of Sejm
35	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Hon. Lee Hahn Koo	Member of National Assembly
36		Hon. Kim Choon Jin	Member of National Assembly
37		Hon. Hong Il Pyo	Member of National Assembly
38		Hon. Kim Dong Wan	Member of National Assembly
39		Hon. Ham Jin Gyu	Member of National Assembly
40	ROMANIA	Hon. Ben-Oni Ardelean	Member of Senate
41		Hon. Corneliu Dobritoiu	Member of Senate
42		Hon. Ioan Cupsa	Member of Chamber of Deputies
43		Hon. Florica Chereches	Member of Chamber of Deputies
44		Hon. Adrian Anghel	Member of Senate
45		Mr. Ioan Coriolan Garboni	Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea in Timisoara
46		Mr. Aurelian Neagu	Director with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

47		Mr. Chung Hong Ki	Adviser
48	UNITED KINGDOM	Hon. John Stanley	Member of House of Commons
49	NGO	Mr. Gabriel Bumbea	Chair of H.A.R.K.V.S.D.P.-DONIA BUMBEA
50		Mr. Tomoharu Ebihara	ARNKA
51		Mr. Peter Jung	Representative of Justice for North Korea
52		Ms. Lee Han Byeol	Chief of Administration of J.N.K
53	SECRETARIAT OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Mr. Shin Bongjin	Deputy Director
54		Ms. Lee Jee-hae	Human Rights Policy Adviser
55		Ms. Cha Yeun-kyeng	Protocol Officer and Interpreter
56		Mr. Choi Dongwan	Program Officer
57		Ms. Kim Eun-jung	Program Officer
58		Ms. Ko Eun Kyeong	Interpreter
59	SECRETARIAT OF ROMANIA	Mrs. Cristina Ionescu	Deputy Secretary General, Senate of Romania
60		Mr. Cristian Valeriu Buzea	Director General, General Direction for External Parliamentary Cooperation
61		Ms. Cristina Dumitrescu	Director, External Multilateral Relations Directorate
62		Ms. Adriana Badea	Counsellor, EMRD
63		Ms. Adelina Cirneanu	Counsellor, EMRD
64		Mr. Razvan Tanase	Counsellor, EMRD
65		Ms. Andreea Dumitru	Expert, EMRD
66		Ms. Maria Vacaru	Head of the Protocol Service
67		Ms. Daniela Zaharie	Counsellor, Protocol Service
68		Ms. Ana Maria Bera	Expert, EMRD
69		Mrs. Lilioara Popa	Interpreter
70		Mrs. Silvia Stefan	Interpreter
71		Mrs. Anca Flostoiu	Interpreter
72		Mr. Paul Grigoriu	Interpreter

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

Aug. 22. 2014

PH . D Dongwan Kim

Member of the National Assembly in the Republic of Korea

✉ dowakim@daum.net © 010-9029-5806

Distinguished Members and Guests,

How do you do? Nice to meet you. Let me introduce myself.

I am Dongwan Kim, a Member of the National Assembly representing Dangjin constituency of Chungnam Province in the Republic of Korea.

It is my honor to speak of the influence of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights (hereafter referred to as COI Report) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (hereafter referred to as DPRK) before the parliamentarians across the globe, with collective volition on human rights issues in the DPRK.

1. Background of the COI Report

It is known that three methods of torture among ten most egregious ones in the world were devised at the prison camps in the DPRK. This shows how various grave human rights violations such as murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, sexual violence, forced abortion and more are taking place within the DPRK jurisdiction. Since the international community became aware of these conditions in the mid-1990s, it has persistently pursued intervention strategies at the UN-level to improve the situation. However, it is not making much progress.

* In 1997, the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights adopted the Resolution on Human Rights in North Korea and began formal discussions at the United Nations. The Resolutions were adopted for three consecutive years since the 59th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 2003.

* In 2004, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK was appointed and incepted his mandate.

While it was the execution of Jang Song-taek in December 2013 that

shed light on the undeniable inhumanity of the North Korean regime to the international community, the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK was established in March 2013 and carried out its mandate since.

The COI made visitations to countries such as Japan, United Kingdom, China and the Republic of Korea and conducted investigations on nine specific substantive areas of human rights violations including torture and arbitrary detention. This was conducted by confidential individual interviews of witnesses, victims' testimonies and public hearings where families of abductees and North Korean escapees attended. Based on the investigation, the UN Human Rights Council published a 372-page Report in February 2014. This Report reveals the infringements on human rights inflicted by policies and decision-makings established by the DPRK elites.

2. Principal Findings of the COI Report

Regardless of the limited condition for investigation under a short period of one year, the COI organized existing discussions on topics overall in a systematic manner and made policy recommendations in consideration of various aspects. This report has made conclusions on the human rights condition in the DPRK in four different perspectives.

First, the Commission finds that systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations have been committed in the DPRK. In these instances on such scale, the Commission concludes that these violations are cases of 'crimes against humanity' pursuant to State policies.

Second, the Commission expresses that the international community bears the Responsibility to Protect(R2P) in the light of manifest failure of the DPRK to protect its population and that it should pursue a multi-faceted

strategy to promote human rights in the DPRK. This includes accountability measures targeting those responsible for the failure to protect its people to justice.

Third, the Commission states that human rights violations such as imposing deliberate starvation on detainees in political prison and ordinary prison, religious believers, political dissidents, people those who attempted defection, the abduction of foreigners as well as the decisions that drove the people to famine amount to 'crimes against humanity.'

Finally, the Commission urges that it is necessary to hold relevant individuals and state organizations such as Supreme Leader and State Security Department accountable for the human rights violations such as crime against humanity while making them face charges for criminal responsibilities and bringing fundamental changes to promote human rights.

Along with these findings, the report presents specific recommendations for the DPRK, China and the international community.

Also, the Commission recommends that the DPRK to take efforts for the promotion of human rights in 19 categories. These include political and institutional reforms such as establishing an independent and impartial judiciary, dismantling all political prison camps, reforming the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, abolishing the death penalty, ensuring the freedom of press, belief and religion, abolishing the discrimination based on personal background (*songbun*), dismantling the surveillance system, protecting women's rights, right to food, and the individual freedom to movement, decriminalizing border crossing, resolving issues on abductees and separated family, punishing the perpetrators who committed crimes against humanity and establishing OHCHR office(field-based structure) in the DPRK.

Further, the Commission recommends that China and other States to respect the principle of *non-refoulement* and protect persons fleeing the

DPRK and victims of human trafficking, regularize the status of women and men from the DPRK who marry with a Chinese citizen, take measures to prevent agents of the DPRK from carrying out abductions, and protect the repatriated people.

The Commission requests that relevant States and civil society organizations foster civil activities that strengthen exchanges with the DPRK residents and promotion of their human rights.

The Commission recommends that the Korean people foster inter-Korean dialogue and contact in a phased approach that leads to exposure of DPRK residents to outside information and an agenda for reconciliation. Inter-Korean dialogue could be furthered through initiatives such as friendly sporting events; academic and business interactions; exchanges between civil society organizations, including national Red Cross Societies, and the re-establishment of transport and communication links. Also, it asks foundations and engaged business enterprises to provide more support for the work of civil society organizations to improve the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Lastly, with regard to the international community and the United Nations, the Commission makes the recommendations that the Security Council should refer the situation in the DPRK to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for action in accordance with that court's jurisdiction. The Security Council should also adopt targeted sanctions against those who appear to be most responsible for crimes against humanity. Also, it requests the relevant UN bodies to maintain and strengthen country-specific human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms on the DPRK to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK. It further recommended establishing of a field-based structure within the OHCHR system to ensure collection of evidence on human rights violation, providing humanitarian assistance in accordance

with humanitarian and human rights principles, intensifying regional cooperation, and making the final peaceful settlement of the Korean War.

3. Assessment on the COI Report

Conventionally, fact-finding reports were used to settle the conflicts between states. While the result of the report itself is not legally binding, it was commonly accepted by state parties in conflict situations.

The COI Report clarified the abstract facts on human rights conditions in the DPRK and provided a new opportunity for further discussions on human rights issues in DPRK by making recommendations to the DPRK and the international community according to the Report.

Second, this Report addressed the principle of Responsibility to Protect(R2P) that indicates the responsibility of the international community to help a state with its primary responsibility to protect its own citizens. The assistance should be conducted through the United Nations in diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means.

Third, with the expected objections from China at the UN Security Council, difficulties are anticipated to refer this case to the International Criminal Court. However, it is significant that the report worked as a momentum to stipulate the demands in detail to deal human rights issues in the DPRK as a 'crime' in international law.

4. Policy Recommendations to the International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights(IPCNKR)

In the process of report writing, the DPRK did not provide the relevant information or field visitation that is crucial to fact-finding investigation. Also, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK made a statement that it is farcical to bring issues to ICC and the UN

Security Council on the pretext of improving human rights. Such comments clearly illustrate that the DPRK intends to deny the COI report.

So, based on the aforementioned condition, I would like to make policy recommendations to the IPCNKR with the focus on the following points.

First, it is an imperative for the IPCNKR to have regular evaluation sessions so that the adoption of the report leads to the actual improvement of human rights for the North Korean population.

Second, it is necessary for the IPCNKR to approach the promotion of North Korean human rights and humanitarian assistance from a balanced point of view. While we actively participate in the activities to promote the human rights of the DPRK through the UN's Human Rights Mechanisms, we need to convey optimistic messages about humanitarian assistance focusing on vulnerable groups including infants and pregnant women for the amelioration of the inter-Korean relations.

Third, at the international level, we should make concerned countries, including China, to participate in the efforts to promote the human rights of the DPRK.

Thank you for listening.

**THE 11TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS'
COALITION FOR NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

21-23 August 2014
Bucharest, ROMANIA

Session II: Repatriation of North Korean Defectors and Effects of the Final Report of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DRPK on the Current Situation and the North Korean Regime

Mrs. Florica CHERECHEȘ
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Romania

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

My name is Florica Chereches, I am Member of Parliament and member of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with South Korea. Thank you very much for inviting me to this conference and for giving me the opportunity and privilege to address to the honourable audience. This year in March I visited South Korea for the first time, when I participated at the National Prayer Breakfast. I experienced a little bit of the Korean culture and I was impressed by the strong desire of everybody for reunification of Korea. It was a short trip but full of events and I have pleasant memories from it.

My presentation will refer to two groups who suffer most from discrimination and exploitation: Christians and women.

When I read the joint statement that this conference plans to launch at the end, and we were asked for feed back, I realized that something is missing from it. I suggested to be completed with an article about respecting the fundamental human rights, including the Article 18 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says „ Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.” I know that many international organizations, like Christian Solidarity Worldwide, make efforts to defend this right.

I made this suggestion because I read about the persecutions and discrimination that North Korean Christians face from the authorities.

Last week, South Korea welcomed Pope Francis, his aim being to highlight the hopes of spreading the Christian faith and reaching out to young people. At the beginning of his visit, he expressed hope for peace and reconciliation on the divided Korean Peninsula. The President, Ms. Park, spoke of the pain of the division of the Korean Peninsula, reminding the pope that the Communist North had kidnapped and killed Christian pastors and priests and confiscated their churches.

I also read that before the President Kim Il-Sung, aprox. 25-30% of the population of Phenian was Christian. Today, Christians are much fewer and there is an increased persecution and discrimination of them. This happens because the Christianity is seen as a danger to the cult of personality and the North Korean regime started a war against its citizens. There are many

signs of this genocide. The refugees, who return to North Korea for a reason or another, suffer terrible punishments if they are known of having had contact with missionaries or churches in China. They are tortured to speak about their activities with the religious groups. Those who witness are killed or imprisoned. The persecution and discrimination of the Christians in North Korea is a reality and recently we heard about 33 Christians who were killed by the communist regime because Christians are seen as dangerous and not enough loyal to the leader. We will never know how many North Koreans are in prison or were killed because of their Christian faith.

If the communists discover that a Christian has a Bible, he and his family and the next three generations, are imprisoned for life! The Open Doors organization estimates that 50,000 – 70,000 Christians are in prisons or concentration camps today. The worst one is Yodok, where tens of thousands of people die annually because of hunger, forced labour, torture and illnesses.

I remember those times in Romania when Christians were seen as dangerous for the regime also and their gatherings were not liked by the Communists who always sent some people to observe what are they doing and if they do anything to harm the system. Information was considered as having the power to open one's mind and therefore, they didn't want the Christians to have access to much information. People with less information are easier to manipulate and lead. I will refer only to three aspects from my life under the Communist regime:

- 1) Romanians were not allowed to host foreigners in their homes and if they had to meet them, they were supposed to take them to public places and then, send a written report to the secret police, about the purpose of the meeting and issues discussed. They were not supposed to have Bibles or Christian literature either.
- 2) Romanians could travel abroad only once in two years and only in Communist countries.
- 3) Typing machines were all registered at the secret police because Communists were afraid that they will be used to multiply all kind of books which had the potential of opening eyes and minds. If they had a sample of how each machine worked, they could easily identify who multiplied a certain document or book. But Christians took the risk and produced good materials. I remember when my husband went one day urgently to a pastor and took his typing machine from his home because he was afraid that he will have a search of the house.

I could tell you lots of examples of Communists attacking our human dignity and freedom of thinking and choosing our religion or of churches being closed and pastors being taken to prison for their faith and teaching, some of them died there. A whole church, the Greek Catholic one, was declared illegal, their properties were taken by the Communists and their priests had to suffer persecution.

Now, speaking about human trafficking, because this is another aspect related to NK which I want to address, we think at networks formed by people with different roles, who get money and possibly other benefits too, for their involvement.

But this is not the only scenario and I remember an article that I read recently about how the Romanian communist state sold its citizens, especially Germans and Jewish. The information was recently presented in a conference and I found it interesting because I knew that it happened but I didn't know when it started and how it worked. In the 50's, Romania had some commercial transactions with Great Britain, concerning live stocks and the one who intermediated, at a moment, offered to the Romanian Minister of internal affairs, \$ 10,000 to release his father for the prison but also, to give him a visa to immigrate in Israel. That was the first documented case and it happened in 1959. From that moment on, they were lots of

requests for people being released from the prison and given visas, the only request coming from the Romanian government being that the people who emigrate will not speak against the Communist regime.

Mid 70's, I read that a woman or a child „valued”1,800 Deutsche marks, a student 5,500, a University professor or a Doctor, 11,000. We had also very low prices like 100 \$ for unqualified workers. Between 1967 and 1989, the Romanian government got 1.4 billion German Marks for giving visas to the German population. And on top if this was the bribe offered to the intermediaries, which could not be quantified. This shows that in those times, people were seen as merchandise, it was a strong attack against human dignity!

The stories and articles that I read on Internet about North Korean women trafficking horripilated me. As of 2006, tens of thousands of North Koreans had fled to China for food, survival, opportunity, and for life. If caught attempting to leave North Korea, they are “shot-on-site,” arrested and executed, or indefinitely imprisoned. If caught in China, they are deported by China to North Korea, and face the same consequences.

North Korean women are often coerced or abducted into China's illegal sex trafficking industry where they are sold and re-sold to Chinese men, sometimes for little amounts like 50-100 \$, most frequently as “wives” in forced marriages. Once sold into sex-slavery and forced marriage to Chinese men, North Korean women often face poverty, abuse, forced labor, exploitation, and rape.

In some parts of China, the male to female ratio is as high as 14:1, meaning that there is great demand for “marriageable” and “fertile” women in China. The demand for “marriageable” women and the willingness of Chinese men to pay substantial sums of money for North Korean women has created a trafficking market that sells North Korean women to Chinese men for the purposes of “forced marriage”, treating them as merchandise.

With so few North Koreans able to safely leave North Korea, fewer are safe enough to advocate for the North Korean people without risking their security and the security of their family who remain in North Korea. In turn, the international community must recognize and prioritize the rights of both North Korean refugees and of North Koreans living in their country, to stop the North Korean human rights crisis.

We have to admit also that some of the people who try to escape from North Korea or some of those who succeeded to do so, are vulnerable and there are always people who will take advantage of their vulnerability. Some dream about a life in freedom, dignity and prosperity and end up by being abused and exploited.

I remember the first years after the fall of communism in Romania, when we were literally hungry for everything that came from abroad: food, drinks, music, movies, clothes and so many others..., when we wanted to have the same life like people in developed countries, instantly. We didn't realize that it took them several generations and different mind sets to get where they are now. Lots of mistakes were done and we still bare the consequences of some. We didn't have any political culture and didn't choose wisely, from the political point of view. Democracy was misunderstood by some who considered it as being synonym to no rules, no laws, everybody has the right to do whatever, it was a wrong perception of freedom. Industry started to collapse; agriculture fell apart, because people considered that all structures were communist and couldn't distinguish between good and bad. Mentalities were changed but unfortunately, the culture of work was damaged. After all the years when people were not encouraged to have initiative, to take responsibility, it was very difficult to change mentality in this regard.

We didn't have a culture or experience in business and most of the first ones were not started on sound moral principles but on the philosophy that people wanted to make profit regardless the means.

I come back to the initial affirmation that the big goal is the reunification of Korea. I have in mind the European example of the reunification of Germany. It was a big difference between the two countries but the Federal Germany knew it and applied a strategy to help the Eastern part grow fast and recuperate the delay as soon as possible.

It is very important that, when the reunification happens, to help the North Koreans limit the mistakes and offer them your own example and strategy for development.

The three things that you considered essential when you started to develop South Korea should become priorities for North Korea also. They are: massive investment in education, in the medical system and treating women with more respect and consideration, giving them equal chances to men and encourage them to use their potential.

It will be also important to offer them access to information in order to reduce the trafficking because this is one of the biggest dangers in democracy and freedom.

We still fight this phenomenon in Romania, after 25 years of democracy, although the numbers are smaller every year, in 2013 being less than 1,000 people trafficked. As a woman and a mother, I am very sad to read that one of three victims of sexual exploitation is 14-17 years or that one of three victims is a female or that one of three is sexually exploited.

It is very important to have an excellent international cooperation to reduce the demand for trafficked people and reduce also the demand for the services offered by the victims: sex, agriculture, constructions and tourism.

Another issue that generates lots of problems is the fact that many adults leave the country for jobs and leave behind families, spouses, children. There are lots of social problems because some tend to „forget” their families and don't send money home or children suffer a lot, some become victims of sexual trafficking and sometimes even commit suicide. Romania still needs to work on preventing these problems and allocate budget for creating shelters for the victims.

In conclusion, I want to appreciate the initiative of forming such an international coalition and discuss ways of helping people in North Korea. When I prepared my presentation, I wondered how many people, for how many years, worked to find ways to help Romanians under the Communist regime. I am sure that those organizations knew more than we, ordinary citizens, knew about what happen in our country. I want to commend the organizers for choosing a very inspired title for this conference, which is “The role of international organizations in resolving the issue of North Korean human rights”. I am sure that soon, the day will come when the wall between North Korea and South Korea will fall down and the world should be ready to help and assist in the integration process for the benefit of those who suffered for too long.

Thank you!

For the Return of All of the Abductees

Points of Contention with the North Korean Position



Headquarters for the Abduction Issue
Government of Japan

Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea

During the 1970s and 1980s, Japanese nationals were frequently abducted by North Korea. At present, 17 people are officially recognized as abductees by the government of Japan. In addition to these officially recognized abductees, there are the so-called "missing Japanese probably related to North Korea" (Note) and other persons for whom the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out.

At the first Japan - North Korea summit meeting in September 2002, North Korea admitted the abduction of Japanese nationals and extended an apology. After the meeting, five victims returned home, but North Korea has provided no clear explanations with regard to the remaining abductees.

(Note) "Missing Japanese probably related to North Korea" refers to missing persons that a private organization, the Investigation Commission on Missing Japanese Probably Related to North Korea, has independently investigated upon request by families of the missing persons who suspect their abduction by North Korea.

Points of Contention with the North Korean Position

North Korea has made the following claims:

- Of the 12 abductees whose safety remains uncertain, eight have died and four have never entered its territory.
- North Korea has returned five survivors and their families to Japan. It has provided necessary information for those they found dead through their investigations and handed over the 'remains' of two abductees.
- Japan is asking for the impossible by demanding that the abductees, who have passed away, be brought back to life.

The GoJ cannot accept such claims by North Korea for the reasons listed below. The GoJ is not making any "impossible demands." It is simply asking North Korea to conduct a search for the abductees on the premise that they are alive, as there is no evidence in the explanations presented by North Korea that corroborates their deaths.

The abduction issue must be resolved immediately.

This brochure aims to clarify the points of contention with the North Korean position.

1 Not only are there too many unnatural causes of 'deaths' among the eight abductees, North Korea has not produced any objective evidence which corroborates their claim that they have 'died'.

North Korea claims that most of the eight abductees, who were in their 20s and 30s, succumbed to causes such as gas poisoning, traffic accidents, heart attacks, and suicide. These explanation are not only unnatural, but lack objective evidence as shown below.

North Korea's account of the eight missing abductees
(in order of name, age, and cause of their alleged 'deaths')

Ms. Megumi Yokota	29	Suicide	Ms. Yaeko Taguchi	30	Traffic accident
Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa	24	Heart attack	Ms. Rumiko Masumoto	27	Heart attack
Mr. Toru Ishioka	31	Gas poisoning	Mr. Kaoru Matsuki	43	Traffic accident
Mr. Tadaaki Hara	49	Liver cirrhosis	Ms. Keiko Arimoto	28	Gas poisoning

The above include the case of Mr. Ichikawa, who allegedly died of a heart attack while swimming during an urgent business trip. Mr. Ichikawa was not known to have been able to swim while he was in Japan. In addition, Ms. Masumoto, who was in her twenties, allegedly 'died' of a sudden heart attack, but was in perfect health with no previous record of illness before she was abducted by North Korea. These elements, combined with the lack of proof of the unnatural 'deaths' of the abductees, leaves the credibility of the North Korea's claims in great doubt.

(1) No 'remains' of the victims

North Korea claims that the 'bodies' of six of the eight abductees (excluding Ms. Yokota and Mr. Matsuki) had been buried at three burial grounds but were washed away by torrential rainfall.

North Korea handed over 'remains' of Ms. Yokota and Mr. Matsuki to the Japanese side, but DNA tests revealed that they belong to other individuals.

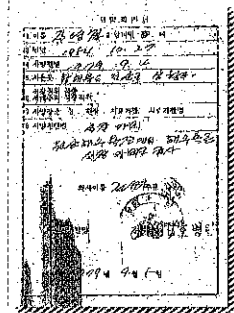
(2) No genuine documents have been put forward to prove the 'deaths' of the abductees.

The 'death certificates' given to the Japanese investigation team in 2002 were thrown together hastily upon the team's visit. Moreover, the names of the victims do not appear in the traffic accident reports.

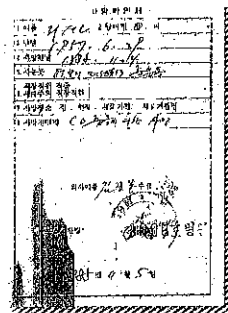
Copies of 'Death Certificates'

Presented in 2002. In parentheses are the 'date of death' claimed by North Korea. Despite the chronological and geographical differences among the 'deaths,' all 'certificates' were issued from the same hospital with identical certification stamps.

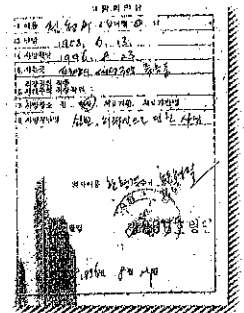
North Korea admitted in 2004 that these 'certificates' were hastily drafted upon the visit of the Japanese delegation in 2002.



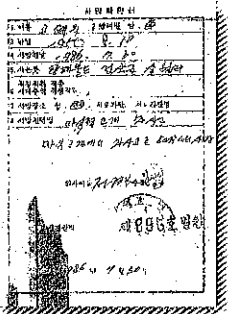
Mr. Shulchi Ichikawa (1979.9.4)



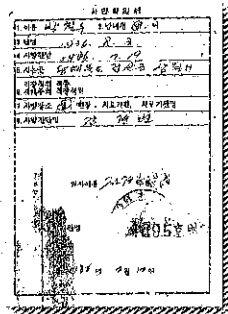
Mr. Toru Ishioka (1988.11.4)



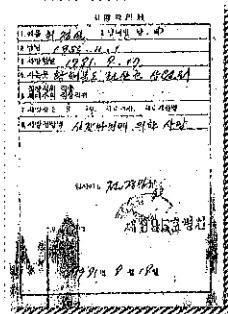
Mr. Kaoru Matsuki (1996.8.23)



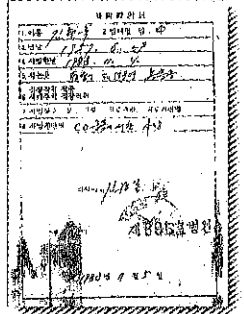
Ms. Yaeko Taguchi (1986.7.30)



Mr. Tadaaki Hara (1986.7.19)



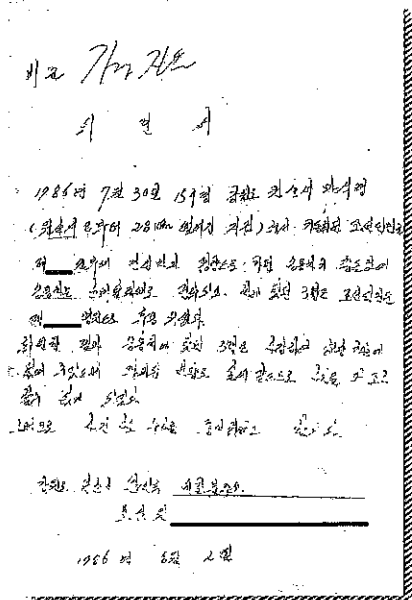
Ms. Rumiko Masumoto (1981.8.17)



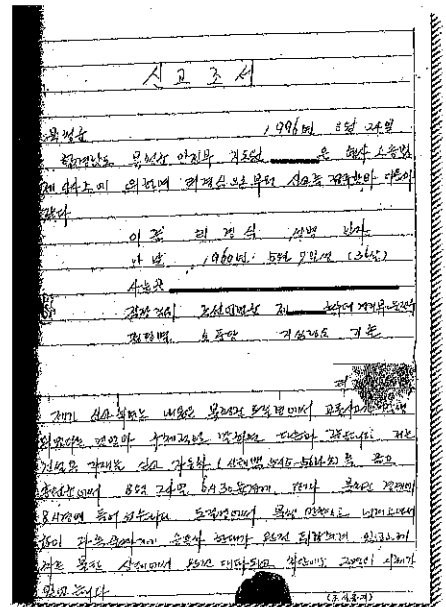
Ms. Keiko Arimoto (1988.11.4)

'Records' of traffic accidents

Several sentences have been blacked out and no names appear on the 'records.' Such documents hardly prove the claims of North Korea that Ms. Taguchi and Mr. Matsuki 'died' in traffic accidents.



Ms. Yaeko Taguchi



Mr. Kaoru Matsuki

North Korean explanations are unnatural and ambiguous. They contradict the findings in domestic investigations within Japan as well as testimonies of returned abductees. Such contradictions only add suspicion to the credibility of North Korea's account.

(1) Ms. Megumi Yokota

There are a number of ambiguous and unnatural points in the accounts provided by North Korea on the 'death' of Ms. Megumi Yokota. North Korea has altered the date of her 'death' and handled her 'remains' in an unnatural manner.



Ms. Megumi Yokota (13, Niigata Prefecture) (abducted November 15, 1977) (safety unconfirmed) (North Korea claims that she 'committed suicide'.) (Ms. Yokota has a daughter Kim Hye-Gyong in North Korea.)

Ms. Megumi Yokota's ex-husband and her doctor initially explained that she 'died' in 1993. However, after the Japanese media reported that Ms. Yokota was alive after 1993, they changed their explanation, saying that the year of 'death' was in fact 1994.

(The information in the parentheses after the name indicate their age (at the time of abduction) and the location of abduction.)

Handwritten Japanese text, likely a letter or document related to the case.

행복한 가정생활을 하다가 1993년 뜻하지 않게 평온하게 세상을 떠나게 된 불행이 안타깝게도 두 자 상상이나 할 수 있었겠습니까
Translation of the letter (extract)
"Who could have imagined that we would tragically lose Megumi in 1993 due to sudden illness."

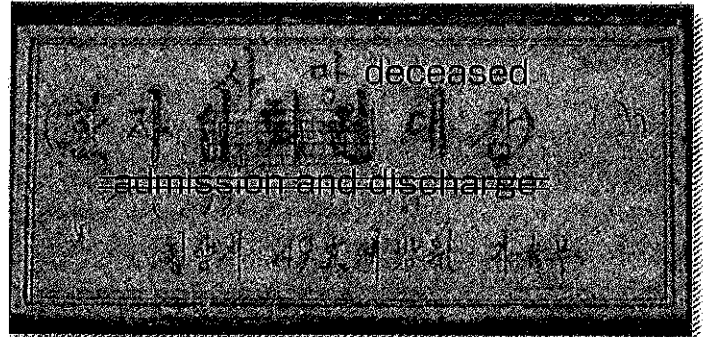
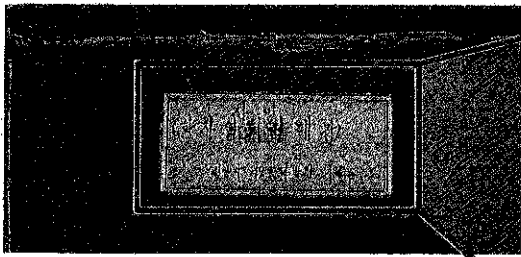
(A letter from Ms. Yokota's ex-husband, Kim Young-Nam to her parents (dated September 2002))
The letter mentions that Ms. Yokota 'died' in 1993, but investigations have confirmed that she was alive at least until 1994. Asked about this contradiction, Ms. Yokota's ex-husband explained that it was an 'illusional mistake.'
In June 2006, more than three years after this letter was written, a private Japanese organization questioned the authenticity of the handwriting. Confronted with this statement, the ex-husband confessed in a press conference held in July 2006 that the letter was written by another individual.
The letter uses a false name 'Kim Chol-Jung' instead of the real name of the ex-husband.

Small image of a document, possibly a death certificate or official record.

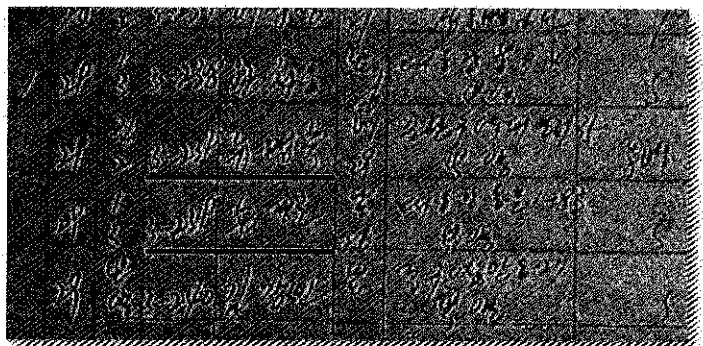
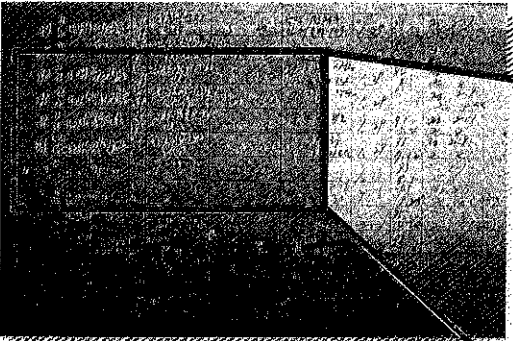
사망 확인서 'Death certificate'
1. 이름 유영숙 1954년 10월 5일생
2. 성별 ...
3. 사망일 1993년 3월 13일
4. 사망원인 ...
5. 사망장소 ...
6. 사망부위 ...

('Death certificate' written by Ms. Yokota's doctor)
The death date here is March 13, 1993. However, it has been confirmed that she was alive at least until 1994.

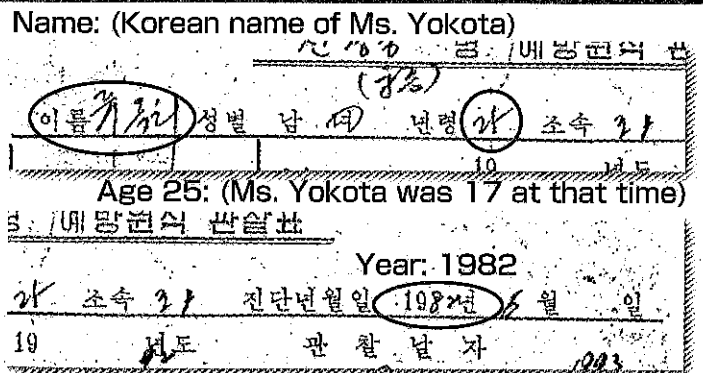
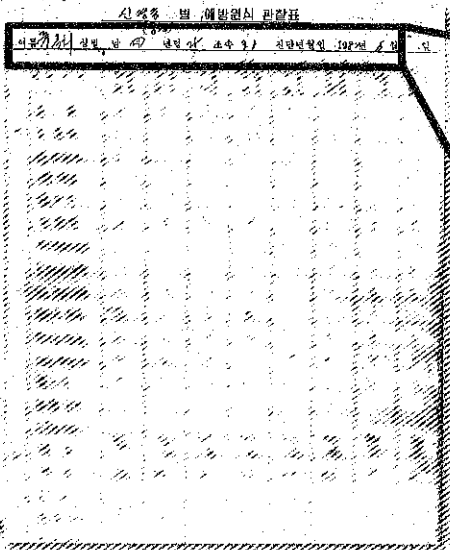
2 Hospital records contain many fabrications and errors, making them unreliable.



(Cover page of the 'deceased register')
Presented by the North Korean side in 2002. The title was originally labeled 'admission and discharge' but was overwritten to 'deceased.'

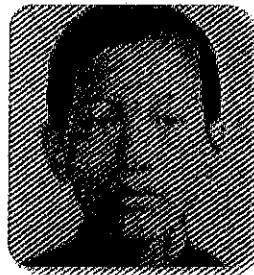


(Identification number in the 'deceased register')
No. 3-239 is allocated for a female alleged to be Ms. Yokota, but the same number is used for a male in the next line.



(Medical records of Ms. Yokota)
Presented by the North Korean side in 2004. Descriptions of Ms. Yokota's age in various sections of the medical record contradict her actual age.

3 Ms. Yokota's ex-husband explained that he exhumed her 'body' with the help of his fellow villagers from the burial grounds three years after her 'death'. He explained that he then cremated her 'body' and took her 'remains' back home. These are extremely unnatural accounts. (The ex-husband, himself an abductee from the Republic of Korea, may not have been in a position to freely speak the truth.)



Mr. Kim Young-Nam at the time of abduction (as a high school student)



Mr. Kim Young-Nam at a press conference

(2) Ms. Yaeko Taguchi and Mr. Tadaaki Hara

It has become clear from the testimonies given by North Korean agent Kim Hyon-Hui, who was responsible for the 1987 Korean Air jet bombing and who had disguised herself as a Japanese national, that she had been trained by Ms. Taguchi.

North Korea rejects Kim Hyon-Hui's testimony and denies any involvement in the incident.

However, it is known that Ms. Taguchi told the abductees who returned to Japan in 2002 that she lived together with a female agent called 'Ok-Hwa' (Kim Hyon-Hui's alias) during 1981-83.

North Korea claims that Ms. Taguchi married another abductee, Mr. Hara, in 1984, and that a few weeks following his 'death' in July 1986, she herself 'died' in a traffic accident during a trip to alleviate her grief. An abductee who later returned to Japan, however, has testified that she and Ms. Taguchi lived together until July 1986, and that Ms. Taguchi was not married during that time. Thus, North Korea's account of Ms. Taguchi is highly questionable.

The above suggest that North Korea is attempting to conceal the truth about the Korean Air jet bombing incident.

Ms. Yaeko Taguchi
(22, location of abduction
unknown)
Abducted around June, 1978
(safety unconfirmed)
(North Korea claims that she
was 'killed' in a traffic accident.)



(Ms. Taguchi Yaeko and 'Lee Un-Hae')

The left is a photograph of Ms. Taguchi. The right is a drawing of 'Lee Un-Hae' who taught Japanese language and customs to the perpetrator of the Korean Air jet bombing, Kim Hyon-Hui. Investigations revealed that 'Lee Un-Hae' is Ms. Taguchi.

Mr. Tadaaki Hara
(43, Miyazaki Prefecture)
Abducted in mid-June, 1980
(safety unconfirmed)
(North Korea claims that he
'died' of liver cirrhosis.)



Kim Hyon-Hui, perpetrator of the Korean Air jet bombing (center)

(Korean Air jet bombing)

In November 1987, North Korean agents Kim Sung-II and Kim Hyon-Hui, with false passports under Japanese names, set a time bomb that blew up a Korean Air jet flying from Baghdad to Seoul.

Results of investigations, including testimonies from Kim Hyon-Hui, revealed that the two agents belonged to the Foreign Information and Research Department of the Korean Labor Party and were instructed to bomb a Korean Air jet to obstruct the Seoul Olympics (to be held the next year).

(3) Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa and Ms. Rumiko Masumoto

North Korea states that Ms. Masumoto and Mr. Ichikawa married in July 1979, but it has become clear from testimonies from abductees who later returned to Japan that Ms. Masumoto lived with another abductee from 1978 to October 1979, and that Ms. Masumoto and Mr. Ichikawa were not married then.



Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa (23, Kagoshima) and Ms. Rumiko Masumoto (24, Kagoshima)
Abducted on August 12, 1978 (safety unconfirmed)
(North Korea claims that they 'died' of a heart attack.)

(4) Mr. Toru Ishioka, Mr. Kaoru Matsuki and Ms. Keiko Arimoto

From the testimonies of the wives of the "Yodo-go" hijackers, it is evident they were involved in the abduction of Mr. Ishioka, Mr. Matsuki, and Ms. Arimoto. However, North Korea vehemently denied the involvement of the hijackers. It can be assumed that North Korea is trying to cover up its involvement in criminal acts committed by terrorists whom North Korea continues to sponsor.



Mr. Toru Ishioka (22, Europe, left picture) and Mr. Kaoru Matsuki (26, Europe, right picture) Abducted in May 1980 (safety unconfirmed) (North Korea claims that they 'died' of gas poisoning.)



Ms. Keiko Arimoto (23, Europe) Abducted in July 1983 (safety unconfirmed) (North Korea claims that she 'died' of gas poisoning)

("Yodo-go" Hijack)

On March 31, 1970, nine armed activists hijacked Japan Airlines Flight 351 and surrendered themselves to North Korean authorities after arriving at an airbase in North Korea.

Japanese investigation authorities believe that the Yodo-go hijackers are deeply involved in the abduction of Japanese nationals. Japan has issued arrest warrants for North Korean resident Kimihiro Uomoto, wanted for the abduction of Ms. Arimoto, and for Yoriko Mori and Sakiko Wakabayashi (nee Kuroda), the wives of two of the hijackers, wanted for the abduction of Mr. Ishioka and Mr. Matsuki. These three have been placed on Interpol's wanted list.

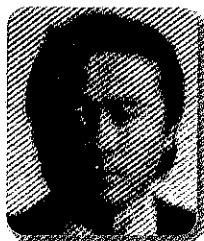
(5) Mr. Yutaka Kume, Mr. Minoru Tanaka, Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto and Ms. Miyoshi Soga

North Korea claims that the above four abductees have never entered its territory, or that they have not confirmed their entry. However, North Korean involvement is clear from the results of the investigation. North Korea's claim that they have no knowledge about their safety is unacceptable.



Mr. Yutaka Kume (52, Ishikawa Prefecture) Abducted on September 19, 1977 (safety unconfirmed) (North Korea denies entry.)

Evidence shows that Mr. Kume was lured off a beach by an accomplice who was instructed by North Korean authorities. This accomplice handed Mr. Kume over to North Korean agents.



Mr. Minoru Tanaka (28, Hyogo Prefecture) Abducted around June 1978 (safety unconfirmed) (North Korea denies entry.)

An accomplice living in Japan successfully deceived Mr. Tanaka and took him overseas. Later on, Mr. Tanaka was taken to North Korea.



Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto (29, Tottori Prefecture) Abducted on October 21, 1977 (safety unconfirmed) (North Korea denies entry.)

Evidence, such as testimonies of witnesses at the abduction sight, show that Ms Matsumoto was abducted by North Korea.



Ms. Miyoshi Soga (46, Niigata Prefecture) Abducted August 12, 1978 (safety unconfirmed) (North Korea denies entry.)

A female agent told Ms. Soga's daughter, Hitomi, who was abducted with her mother, that she and other agents "returned her mother to Japan." Hitomi returned to Japan in 2002. This female agent must have some knowledge of Ms. Soga's safety.

3 North Korea's claim that they have punished those responsible for the abductions is dubious from various angles.

North Korea presented trial records as evidence of punishment of two perpetrators responsible for the abductions. However, numerous sections of the records have been deleted, and references to the abductions are extremely limited. Thus, the punishment of those responsible has not been confirmed.

Furthermore, if the above two figures actually did face trial in 1998 and 1999 as the North Korean authority claims, the North Korean side must have been aware of the abduction of Japanese citizens at that time. Nevertheless, North Korea continuously denied responsibility for the abductions until 2002. This raises serious doubts about the sincerity of North Korea and the credibility of its claim that it punished those responsible.

<Policies and Concrete Measures for Resolving the Abduction Issue>

The abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea is a grave issue which concerns national sovereignty and public life and safety, 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 ensure the safe return of all abductees as soon as possible, irrespective of whether they are officially approved as abductees. The government is committed to continuing its investigation of the truth and demanding the handover of those responsible for the abductions.

With the initiative of the chief and the assistant chiefs of the Headquarters, all Cabinet ministries should cooperate in achieving the above-mentioned policy, and should make their utmost efforts to meet the following eight goals within their respective areas of responsibility:

- (i) to discuss further countermeasures and promote strict law enforcement under the current legal framework to pressure North Korea to speedily resolve the abduction issue;
- (ii) to take every opportunity, including the Japan - North Korea Intergovernmental Talks, to strongly demand that North Korea take concrete action to resolve the abduction issue;
- (iii) to strengthen the collection, analysis and management of information on abductees and the situation in North Korea;
- (iv) to strengthen the investigation and examination of cases in which the possibility of abduction cannot be denied, and to continue investigating the individuals responsible for abductions domestically and internationally;
- (v) to reaffirm our determination to promote continued awareness of the abduction issue, and to make further efforts to mobilize public opinion on this issue through various domestic and international means, including education in schools;
- (vi) 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;
- (vii) 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
- (viii) to discuss all other measures which can contribute to the resolution of the abduction issue.

●● Request for Information ●●

If you have information concerning the abduction issue, please e-mail or fax the Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

e-mail: info@rachi.go.jp

Fax: +81-3-3592-2300 (in Japan: 03-3592-2300)

●● For further information about the abduction issue, ●●
please refer to the following website:

Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea
<http://www.rachi.go.jp/en>

Secretariat, Headquarters for the Abduction Issue,
Cabinet Secretariat
1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8968, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5253-2111
Fax: +81-3-3581-3781

Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea



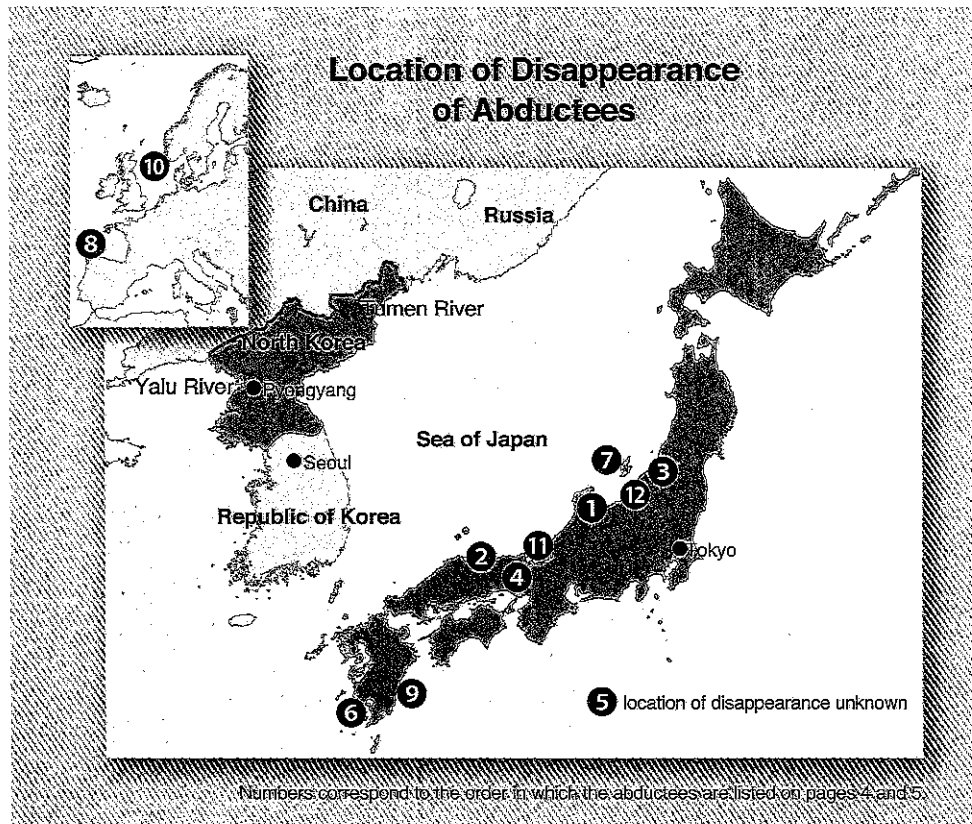
Headquarters for the Abduction Issue,
Government of Japan

Abductions of Japanese Citizens

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

North Korea admitted for the first time in September 2002 that it had in fact abducted Japanese citizens, and five of them returned to Japan in October. However, the North Korean authorities have failed to provide credible accounts of the whereabouts of the remaining abductees, who are still awaiting rescue, deprived of all freedoms and have been held captive by North Korea for about 30 years.

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



Major Recent Developments between Japan and North Korea

September 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (North Korea admitted for the first time that it had in fact abducted Japanese citizens.)
October 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Five abductees return to Japan.
May 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Second Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (The family members of the five returned abductees returned to/arrived in Japan.)
November 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Third Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (GoJ officials conducted a field investigation.)
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Japan-North Korea Comprehensive Talks
July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Korea launches ballistic missiles (The GoJ implemented measures against North Korea.)
October 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Korea announces nuclear testing (The GoJ implemented additional measures against North Korea.)
June & August 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Japan-North Korea Working-Level Consultations (North Korea stated it would carry out a new investigation into the abduction.)
April 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Korea launches missiles (The GoJ implemented additional measures against North Korea.)
May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Korea announces nuclear testing (The GoJ implemented additional measures against North Korea.)
November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Japan - North Korea Intergovernmental Talks (talks on the abduction issue continued)
December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Korean launches missile (2nd Intergovernmental Talks suspended)

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

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

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

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

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

In June 2008, North Korea agreed to carry out a new investigation into the abduction cases. In August the same year, Japan and North Korea agreed that as soon as North Korea launched the new, thorough investigation, Japan would remove some of the sanctions imposed against North Korea. However, North Korea is yet to start any investigation to fulfill this agreement.

17 Abductees Identified by the Government of Japan

The GoJ has identified the following 17 individuals in 12 cases as having been abducted by North Korea. (Ages at the time of abduction and locations of disappearance are in parentheses. The numbers correspond to those on the map on page 2.)



Mr. Yutaka Kume

(52, Ishikawa Prefecture)

Abducted on September 19, 1977.

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

1



Mr. Minoru Tanaka

(28, Hyogo Prefecture)

Abducted around June 1978.

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

4



Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto

(29, Tottori Prefecture)

Abducted on October 21, 1977.

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

2



Ms. Yaeko Taguchi

(22, location of abduction unknown)

Abducted around June 1978.

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

5



Ms. Megumi Yokota

(13, Niigata Prefecture)

Abducted on November 15, 1977.

Fate remains unclear.
(North Korea claims that she committed suicide.)

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

3



Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa

(23, Kagoshima Prefecture)

and

Ms. Rumiko Masumoto

(24, Kagoshima Prefecture)

Abducted on August 12, 1978.

Fate remains unclear.
(North Korea claims that both died of heart failure and that Mr. Ichikawa had a heart failure while swimming in the sea.)

6



Ms. Miyoshi Soga

(46, Niigata Prefecture)

Abducted on August 12, 1978.

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

*She was abducted with her daughter, Hitomi Soga, who returned to Japan in October, 2002.

7



Mr. Toru Ishioka

(22, Europe)

and



Mr. Kaoru Matsuki

(26, Europe)

Abducted around May 1980.

Fate remains unclear.
(North Korea claims that Mr. Ishioka was killed in a gas accident, and that Mr. Matsuki was killed in a traffic accident.)

8



Mr. Tadaaki Hara

(43, Miyazaki Prefecture)

Abducted in mid-June 1980.

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

9



Ms. Keiko Arimoto

(23, Europe)

Abducted around July 1983.

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

10

Abductees who have returned to Japan.



Mr. Yasushi Chimura

(23, Fukui Prefecture)

and



Ms. Fukie Chimura

(nee Hamamoto, 23, Fukui Prefecture)

Abducted on July 7, 1978.

Returned to Japan in October 2002.

11



Mr. Kaoru Hasuike

(20, Niigata Prefecture)

and



Ms. Yukiko Hasuike

(nee Okudo, 22, Niigata Prefecture)

Abducted on July 31, 1978.

Returned to Japan in October 2002.

12



Ms. Hitomi Soga

(19, Niigata Prefecture)

Abducted on August 12, 1978.

Returned to Japan in October 2002.

*She was abducted with her mother, Miyoshi Soga, whose fate remains unknown.

7

In addition to the 17 Japanese citizens already identified as having been abducted by North Korea, abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out in other missing persons cases, including those referred to as cases of "missing Japanese probably related to North Korea."

Toward the Resolution of the Abduction Issue

Policies and Actions of the Government of Japan

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

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

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

"The North Korean Human Rights Abuses Awareness Week" December 10-16

During this week designated by law, the GoJ and local governments in Japan organize a variety of activities designed to push for an early resolution to the abduction issue.



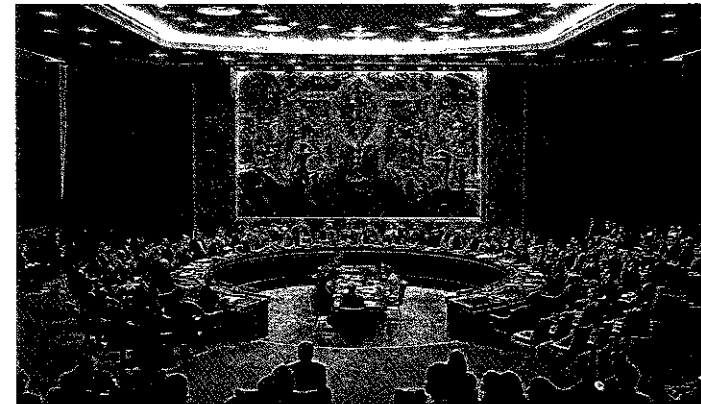
Establishment of the Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea (known as "the Association of Families")

Growing International Concern

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

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

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



Adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1874 (June 12, 2009)

Photo credit: (C) UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Investigations and Inquiries by the GoJ

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

Through such investigations and inquiries, Japanese authorities have so far identified 11 people responsible for abductions, and placed them on the international wanted list.

(*) "Missing Japanese probably related to North Korea" means missing persons who a private entity considers might be abducted by North Korea. After filing reports from family members of the missing persons, the private entity "Investigation Commission on Missing Japanese Probably Related to North Korea" starts their investigation.

<Policies and Concrete Measures for Resolving the Abduction Issue>

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.

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:

- (i) to discuss further countermeasures and promote strict law enforcement under the current legal framework to pressure North Korea to speedily resolve the abduction issue;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) to strengthen the collection, analysis and management of information on abductees and the situation in North Korea;
- (iv) to strengthen the investigation and examination of cases in which the possibility of abduction cannot be ruled out, and to continue investigating the individuals responsible for abductions domestically and internationally;
- (v) to reaffirm our determination not to let the abduction issue be faded away, and to make further efforts to raise public awareness on this issue through various domestic and international means, including education in schools;
- (vi) 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;
- (vii) 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
- (viii) to discuss all other measures which can contribute to the resolution of the abduction issue.

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


<http://www.rachi.go.jp/en/index.html>

In order to resolve the abduction issue, your cooperation is crucial.

If you have any information concerning abductions, please contact the Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue by e-mail or fax.

Email address : info@rachi.go.jp

FAX : +81(0)3-3592-2300



Blue represents the color of the Sea of Japan, which lies between the abductees' homeland of Japan and North Korea. It also represents the color of the sky, which is the only physical link between the abductees and their families.

For further information please contact:

Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue

1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 100-8968

Phone: +81(0)3-5253-2111 Fax: +81(0)3-3581-6011

April 2013

Photo credit: National Association for the Rescue of Japanese Kidnapped by North Korea

- 8. France 3 ?
- 9. The Netherlands 2 ?
- 10. Singapore 1 ?
- 11. Italy 3 ?
- 12. Jordan 1 ?

6. ACTION BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT

The Thai government has shown comparatively quick movement. After verifying Anocha's identity and nationality, the government has taken the position that she is most likely still alive and still somewhere in North Korea.

In a July 2006 meeting between the North Korean and Thai ministers for foreign affairs, the Thai minister proposed the establishment of a joint committee to investigate the case of Anocha Panjoy in cooperation with North Korean authorities. The North Korean government has yet to respond to the Thai request for setting up such a committee. In response to the Thai government's inquiries about Anocha, the North Koreans have repeatedly answered that "no such person has been found."

As the Thai government takes more action on the case of Anocha Panjoy, this should encourage and influence other nations whose citizens are suspected of having been abducted by North Korea to take more action.

7. IS ANOCHA THE ONLY THAI ABDUCTEE?

Anocha is the only known Thai abductee, but it is suspected that other Thai nationals may have been abducted by North Korea, and there have been cases of North Korean agents working in Thailand and Thai nationals becoming involved, willingly or unwillingly, in those activities.

On July 31, 2006, North Korean spy Jung Kyoung Hak was arrested in South Korea, and it became clear that he had repeatedly used a false Thai passport on many trips back and forth from Thailand to South Korea for espionage purposes.

In another example of North Korean espionage work in Thailand, in 1982 a group of Thai women who had been promised "work in Japan" were then taken to Pyongyang. The Thai women were freed by the North Koreans the following year.

Please raise your voice for the return of Ms Anocha Panjoy and all people who have been abducted by North Korea:

The Association for the Rescue of North Korea Abductees, Chiangmai (ARNKA)

Mr. Tomoharu Ebihara, Director

P.O. Box 29, Bo Sang Post Office
A. Sankampheang, Chiang Mai
Thailand 50131

Tel. 081-972-9863

Email. infoarnka@gmail.com

Donations via bank transfer are welcome:

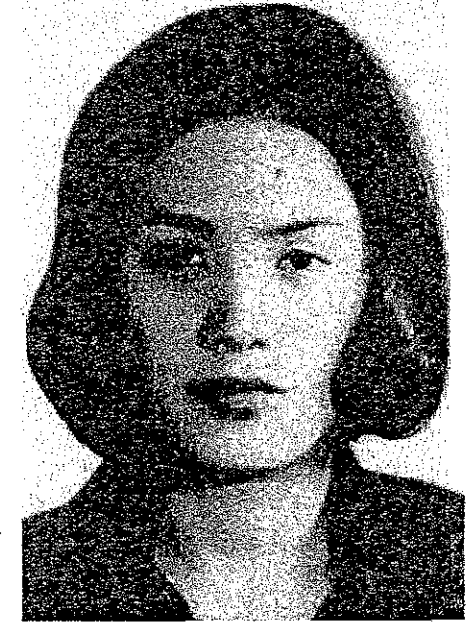
To: TOMOHARU EBIHARA (ARNKA)

Siam Commercial Bank

Payap University Sub Branch

802-2-06137-3

Thai national believed to have been abducted by North Korea



Ms. Anocha Panjoy

Born 12 July 1954 in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Disappeared in Macau in 1978

Last seen in North Korea from 1980 - 89

We hope for her return as soon as possible!

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE RESCUE OF
NORTH KOREA ABDUCTEES, CHIANGMAI
(ARNKA)

1. MISSING FROM MACAU: NO NEWS FOR 27 YEARS

Ms. Anocha Panjoy (Born in Sankampaeng District, Chiang Mai Province on July 12, 1954) went to work away from home with 2 friends in Macau in January 1978 at the age of 23. According to a friend's testimony, she went out of her Macau apartment on May 21, 1978 saying that she was going to a beauty parlor.

She was finally officially reported missing by Macau police, along with two native Macau women, on July 2 of the same year, although it is assumed she went missing some time before that date. Just where Ms. Anocha went to from Macau, no one knew for the next 27 years.

2. ABDUCTED BY NORTH KOREA?

Mr. Charles Robert Jenkins, a former US Army soldier during the Korean War, spent 40 years of his adult life in North Korea. When he and his wife, Mrs. Hitomi Soga, finally left North Korea for Japan in 2005, he gave important testimony in May of that same year. He said that for 7 years, from 1980-1989, he had a Thai woman neighbor named "Anorche" living very close by. Mr. Jenkins also had photographs of her and knew personal details which he only could have learned from Anocha herself.

When Anocha's family first saw this report on Thai television, they contacted the broadcasting station who put them in touch with the Thai government. The government confirmed the birth registration and citizenship of Anocha Panjoy, native of Chiang Mai province, at the end of October 2005.

"I was bound in Macau and brought to the North with the ship." Anocha told Mr. Jenkins in North Korea that she was kidnapped and bound on the coast of

Macau, put on a ship, and taken to North Korea. She also said she saw two other Asian women on the ship.

After going to Japan, Mr. Jenkins wrote "*Kokuhaku*" or "*To Tell the Truth*," a best-selling book in which he describes his nearly 40 years in North Korea. In the book there is detailed information regarding his acquaintance with Anocha Panjoy.

3. MS. ANOCHA : WHERE IS SHE NOW?

The last sighting of Anocha was in 1989 when Mr. Jenkins and Mrs. Soga met her in North Korea. According to Mr. Jenkins' testimony, she was moved by the North Korean authorities to marry a German businessman who was living in North Korea.

Mr. Jenkins has also said that the North Korean authorities promised Anocha to him as a wife, should he choose to stay in North Korea (rather than leaving for Japan). This was in 2003, which gives some indication that Ms. Anocha was alive and well somewhere in North Korea, at least until that time, if not still so at present.

4. WHY DOES NORTH KOREA ABDUCT FOREIGNERS?

Kim Jong Il directly orders abductions: According to the testimony of former North Korean spies who have since defected, North Korea has been abducting foreigners since the 60's. According to defectors' testimonies, the North Korean government is abducting foreigners to :

1. muzzle witnesses to illegal or espionage activities by North Korean agents
2. make the abductee a teacher for North Korean spy training
3. counterfeit foreign passport(s)

4. steal the abductee's identity for use by a North Korean spy
5. use people who have knowledge or skills in specific technologies for North Korea
6. provide consorts for foreigners residing in North Korea for various reasons

5. HOW MANY ABDUCTED FOREIGNERS ARE THERE?

Hundreds of people have been abducted from at least 12 countries. In 2002, Kim Jong Il admitted to the abduction of 13 Japanese citizens to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro. This was the first official admission of abductions and kidnappings by the North Korean government.

However, there have been far more than the 13 recognized abductions of foreign citizens by the North Korean government. The South Korean government officially recognizes the abduction of ^ people by North Korea. 83,459

In addition, according to a 2006 study conducted by an NGO in Japan (NARKN or *Sukun-kai*), it is believed that the abduction of foreigners includes hundreds of citizens from 12 countries.

Abductions by North Korea have touched countries across the globe:

1. South Korea	82,959 513	During Korean War South Korean government figure, after Korean War
2. Japan	17 100+	Japanese government count Japanese NGO estimate
3. Thailand	1	
4. Romania	1	
5. China (Macau)	2	
6. Lebanon	4	
7. Malaysia	4?	