For further information in English about the abduction issue please refer to the following website:

http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html

Efforts to retrieve the abductees is associated with the colour blue. It represents the Sea of Japan which separates the abductees’ homeland of Japan and North Korea. It also represents the colour of the sky, which is the only endless link between the abductees and their families.

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

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### The Abduction Issue

During the 1970s and 1980s, a considerable number of Japanese citizens disappeared under unnatural circumstances, many of which are suspected to be incidents of abductions by North Korea. To date, the Japanese government has identified seventeen Japanese citizens as victims of abduction by North Korea. There are also other cases which cannot be ruled out as cases of abduction by North Korea.

In September 2002, North Korea acknowledged for the first time that it had abducted Japanese citizens, five of whom returned to Japan in October of that year. North Korea, however, has yet to provide a convincing account of the whereabouts of the remaining abductees whose safety remain unknown. To this day, the remaining victims are waiting to be rescued, as they continue to be deprived of all freedom and held captive by North Korea for almost thirty years.

The abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea is an unforgivable criminal act. We must secure the safety of all of the remaining abductees in North Korea and retrieve them expeditiously.

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### Major recent developments between Japan and North Korea

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2002 September</td>
<td>Prime Minister Koizumi’s first visit to North Korea</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Five abductees return to Japan</td>
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<td>2004 May</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>2006 February</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Launch of ballistic missiles by North Korea</td>
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<Overview>

At the First Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting in September 2002, North Korea informed Japan that only five abductees were surviving, eight had passed away, and there was no record of entry into North Korea for two. Following this summit, the five surviving abductees returned to Japan in October of that year.

In May 2004, the family members of the five surviving abductees also returned to Japan as a result of the Second Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting.

Despite such developments, North Korea has not been sincere with Japan. When the Government of Japan conducted a DNA analysis on the "remains" that North Korea presented to Japan as that of Ms. Megumi Yokota in November 2004, the tests revealed DNA of different individuals. Furthermore, North Korea has not provided sufficient information and evidence for the other abductees.

Thus, in February 2006, Japan strongly reiterated its demands for North Korea to return the abductees immediately, extradite the perpetrators, and conduct a fresh investigation to reveal the truth.

With regard to the missile launches by North Korea in July 2006 and their claim to have conducted a nuclear test in October of the same year, Japan responded by deciding on a number of measures against North Korea, mindful of the fact that North Korea had continued to fail to demonstrate any sincerity in its handling of the abduction issue.
Seventeen abductees identified by the Government of Japan

Thus far, the Japanese government has identified seventeen Japanese citizens in twelve cases of abduction by North Korea. (Note: The numbers and names of places in parentheses correspond to the age of the abductees at the time of their abductions and the location of their abduction. Numbers in the red circles correspond to the locations of the abductions on page 2.)

1. Yutaka Kume (52, Ishikawa Prefecture)
   Abducted on September 19, 1977
   -Safety unconfirmed
   (North Korea denies all knowledge of Mr. Kume ever having entered the country)

2. Kyoko Matsumoto (29, Tottori Prefecture)
   Abducted on October 21, 1977
   -Safety unconfirmed
   (North Korea denies all knowledge of Ms. Matsumoto ever having entered the country)

3. Megumi Yokota (13, Niigata Prefecture)
   Abducted on November 15, 1977
   -Safety unconfirmed
   (North Korea claims that Ms. Yokota committed suicide.)
   *Ms. Yokota has a daughter (Kim Hye Gyeong) in North Korea.

4. Minoru Tanaka (28, Hyogo Prefecture)
   Abducted around June 1978
   -Safety unconfirmed
   (North Korea denies all knowledge of Mr. Tanaka ever having entered the country)

5. Yasushi Chimura (23, Fukuoka Prefecture)
   Returned to Japan

6. Fukie Chimura (nee Hamamoto) (23, Fukuoka Prefecture)
   Abducted on July 7, 1978
   -Returned to Japan in October 2002
   -Safety unconfirmed
   (North Korea claims that Mr. Chimura died of hepatitis cirrhosis.)

7. Kaoru Hasuike (20, Niigata Prefecture)
   Returned to Japan

8. Yuiko Hasuike (nee Okudo) (22, Niigata Prefecture)
   Abducted on July 11, 1978
   -Returned to Japan in October 2002

9. Hitomi Soga (19, Niigata Prefecture)
   Returned to Japan

10. Toru Ishioka (22, Europe)
    Abducted around May 1980
    -Safety unconfirmed
    (North Korea claims that Mr. Ishioka died in a gas poisoning accident and that Mr. Matsuki died in a traffic accident.)

11. Tadaaki Hara (43, Miyazaki Prefecture)
    Abducted in mid-June 1980
    -Safety unconfirmed
    (North Korea claims that Mr. Hara died of hepatic cirrhosis.)

12. Keiko Arimoto (29, Europe)
    Abducted around July 1983
    -Safety unconfirmed
    (North Korea claims that Ms. Arimoto died in a gas poisoning accident.)
Efforts to Resolve the Abduction Issue

Policies and Efforts of the Government of Japan

In September 2006, the Government of Japan set up the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue. The Headquarters is headed by the Prime Minister as chief with the Chief Cabinet Secretary and Minister of State for the Abduction Issue as deputy chief and all other Cabinet ministers serving as members. The Headquarters was established to comprehensively promote measures on the abduction issue.

The abduction issue is a grave matter concerning the national sovereignty of Japan as well as the lives and security of the Japanese people. Thus, the policy of the Government of Japan is that there can be no normalization of diplomatic ties with North Korea unless the abduction issue is resolved, and that the Japanese government will continue to strongly demand North Korea to secure the safety of the abductees and return them immediately.

Growing International Concern

The abductions by North Korea are a human rights issue for the entire international community. Citizens from South Korea, Thailand, Romania, and Lebanon, among others, may also have been abducted by North Korea. The United Nations has adopted a resolution expressing its grave concern over the abductions by North Korea in terms of human rights abuses.

The government of Japan is calling for support to resolve this issue, which has resulted in growing understanding and support within the international community. The adoption of communiqués and resolutions referring to the abduction issue at summit meetings and other international conferences are token to such growing support and concern.

Cultural Figures Make an International Appeal

Two American filmmakers have produced a documentary about the abduction of Megumi Yokota, titled Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story. The film is being shown in theaters in Japan and around the world, which has touched the hearts of many people.

Mr. Noel Paul Stookey, one of the members of the well-known American folk group Peter, Paul and Mary, has also been moved by the story of Megumi, and has written a piece dedicated to the abductees called "Song for Megumi."

Investigations and Inquiries by the Government of Japan

The Government of Japan is making its utmost effort to promptly retrieve all of the abductees in North Korea. In addition to the seventeen abductees identified by the Government of Japan, there are other cases in which the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out. The Government of Japan is thus working vigorously to collect information within Japan and from abroad, as well as conducting investigations and inquiries to uncover the truth.

Through such investigations and inquiries, the Government of Japan has identified eight people responsible for the abductions so far and has placed them on the international wanted list.