



North Korea Human
Rights Network

3-8-20 Katase, Fujisawa,
Kanagawa, 251-0032 Japan

The submission of
North Korea Human Rights Network
(NKHRN)

for the 3rd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

4 October 2018

North Korea Human Rights Network (NKHRN)
3-8-20 Katase, Fujisawa, Kanagawa, 251-0032 Japan
E-mail Address: tomoyuki.kawazoe@gmail.com
Website: <http://nkhnet.livedoor.blog>

North Korea Human Rights Network (NKHRN) was established in September 2015. Members consists of activists of human rights, an attorney at law, specialists on the DPRK and a journalist. The activities of NKHRN include publishing, advocacy, lobbying, press releases on various human rights issues on the DPRK in order to raise awareness of various human rights issues among the general public and politicians in Japan and other countries.

1. Abductions of non-DPRK citizens by the DPRK government

The government of Japan (GOJ) officially recognize 17 Japanese citizens as the victim of the abduction by the DPRK authorities. Among those 17, five returned to Japan in 2002. The DPRK insists that the remaining abductee has already died. However, the DPRK's claim lacks basis. It is impossible to dismiss the possibility that the DPRK authorities abducted more than 17 Japanese citizens even if the GOJ has not recognized the abduction yet.

According to the report of the Commission of Inquiry on the DPRK published in February 2014, the number of the abductees is probably at least around 100. While the GOJ and the DPRK have reached an agreement in 2015 that the DPRK would invest all the abduction issues. However, there has been no answer from the DPRK yet. In addition, the DPRK is still refusing an inspection by the Human Rights Council as well as any other international human rights organization.

Therefore, we request that there should be a recommendation that the DPRK should investigate the abduction issues and provide the concrete result of the investigation to the GOJ. We also urge the DPRK to accept the investigation by the Human Rights Council and any human rights organization.

2. Japanese spouses of Korean residents in Japan

Between 1959 and 1984, a proselytizing campaign was carried out by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, or *Chongryon*, a pro-DPRK organization. The Japanese Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross helped with arrangements. About 93,000 people migrated from Japan to the DPRK. They were mostly Korean residents in Japan. However, there were some Japanese nationals who were spouses of the Korean residents in Japan.

Once in the DPRK, many immigrants tried to warn relatives not to join them: Letters home were heavily censored, but some wrote

messages on the back of stamps or used prearranged codes such as writing in ink if the letter was telling the truth, in pencil if it was a lie.

The migrants were not allowed to move freely within the DPRK. Whereabouts of a large majority of the migrants are yet to be known to this day.

In light of the circumstances, we urge the DPRK to allow all the surviving Japanese spouses migrated to the DPRK to return to Japan, to report whereabouts of such Japanese spouses as well as to hold events whereby such spouses can meet their relatives remaining in Japan.