

**To: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Written Information Submitted for the Summary of the Human Rights Situation in Japan to be Prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Title: Discrimination Against Zainichi Koreans (Korean Residents in Japan)**

**Prepared and submitted by: The Committee on the Protection of Human Rights,  
Central Head Office of Mindan (Korean Residents  
Union in Japan)**

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**Introduction to Mindan (Korean Residents Union in Japan)**

Mindan was founded in October 1946 as an autonomous organization for Korean residents in Japan who were coercively or semi-coercively brought to Japan due to the Japanese colonial rule of Korea and the wartime policies of the Japanese government, and were unable to return to Korea after WWII. During the period of colonial rule, persons from the Korean Peninsula were given Japanese citizenship and were forcibly assimilated into Japan and forced to cooperate with Japan's war efforts. After Japan was defeated, Japanese citizenship was revoked from persons originating from the Korean peninsula, and these persons were subsequently treated as foreign nationals. Japanese government also justified discrimination based on nationality in a wide range of areas including social insurance, education, and political rights.

Mindan is a community of Korean residents in Japan that has acted as both a regional residents' organization to confront administrative and social discrimination against Korean residents in Japan, while also protecting their rights and interests, and acting as a mobilizing point for a social movement aimed at eradicating all kinds of discrimination. Mindan is an ethnic organization currently representing approximately 330,000 Korean residents, totaling 80,000 households, with 48 regional offices and 274 branches throughout Japan.

As of June 2016, there are approximately 500,000 Korean residents in Japan. Approximately 350,000 of them are individuals who had been forced to live in Japan in the first half of the twentieth century when Korea was a Japanese colony, and their descendants. Majority of Korean residents have lived in Japan for three to four generations. Because Japanese Nationality Act is based on strict blood lineage, Korean residents in Japan remain foreign nationals, though they have lived in Japan for multiple generations. As described in this report, Koreans in Japan are still subjected to a range of discrimination and disadvantage for reason of their nationality.

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