

Terrorism by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

I. Suspected Cases of Abduction of Japanese Nationals by North Korea

1. Introduction

Regarding the issue of abduction of Japanese nationals, Chairman Kim Jong-Il of the National Defense Commission of North Korea acknowledged several of the abduction cases at the Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting held in September 2002 that the incidents were the work of "some agents in the special services who got carried away by heroic illusions," and offered an apology. Five abductees who North Korea informed were still alive were returned to Japan the following October. then, family members of these abductees were returned to Japan in May and July 2004.

2. Purpose of the abductions

The purpose of the abductions of Japanese nationals by North Korea is not exactly clear. Nevertheless, judging from the various information available, it may be inferred that the main purpose of the abduction of Japanese nationals was to train North Korean agents on how to pretend to be Japanese to enable North Korean agents to impersonate them. Chairman Kim Jong-Il explained at the Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting that the purpose of the abduction of Japanese nationals was, "For one, so that agents in the special services could learn Japanese; and two, so that they could use another person's identity in order to enter South Korea."



Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting (September 2002, Pyongyang) (Photo: Kyodo Press)

Furthermore, the ex-wife of the "Yodo-go" hijacker has testified that she was instructed to capture Japanese nationals by Takamaro Tamiya, who had been instructed by then President of North Korea Kim Il-Sung, "To promote revolution and create a party in Japan that will play a commanding role. To create such a party, Japanese nationals who will serve as the party's backbone must be discovered, captured, and educated." This indicates that as a background to the abduction of Japanese nationals, there was an objective to round up human resources for the purpose of carrying out a Japanese revolution based on the dictums (instructions) of then President Kim Il-Sung.

3. Outline of Suspected Abduction Cases by North Korea (11 Cases, 16 Abductees)

Regarding the suspected abduction cases of Japanese nationals by North Korea, the whereabouts of the victims were unknown, there were no witnesses to the abductions, and almost no remaining evidence. Under such circumstances, the police have been doing their utmost to further advance investigation efforts.

Specifically, the police have been making earnest efforts to collect and compile related information and evidence by questioning the relevant parties, searching for evidence by such means as inquiries in the vicinity, exchanging information with the relevant domestic and overseas agencies, and similar measures. As a result of such steady, long-term efforts, in April 2005 the police concluded that the case concerning Minoru Tanaka, who disappeared in Kobe-city, was another suspected abduction case. Presently, there are a total of 11 suspected cases of abduction involving 16 abductees.

The outline of each case is as follows.

Outline of "Suspected Abduction Cases of Japanese Nationals by North Korea"

Date and location of abduction	Case name	Case summary
September 1977, Fugeshi County, Ishikawa Prefecture	Ushitsu case	A North Korean resident was engaged by a North Korean Agent to gather data concerning US forces stationed in Japan and to spy on the Republic of Korea (South Korea). He was also ordered to "take an unmarried Japanese male between the age of 45 and 50 to North Korea." The North Korean took a Japanese man residing in Tokyo who had been an acquaintance for sometime to a beach where the man was handed over to other North Korean agents who had arrived on a spy boat. (An arrest warrant was issued for the main perpetrator, Kim Se-Ho, and he has also been placed on an international wanted list.)
November 1977, Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture	Suspected Abduction Case of a Young Girl	Megumi Yokota, who was 13 years old at the time, disappeared while she was on her way home after extracurricular activities at her junior high school. She disappeared shortly after parting from a friend a few hundred meters away from the beach.
Around June 1978, Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture	Suspected Abduction Case of an Ex-diner Employee	A North Korean resident and owner of a restaurant in Kobe received orders from North Korea, after which he convinced Minoru Tanaka, an employee at the restaurant, to leave Japan. Tanaka was taken abroad and later sent to North Korea.
Around June 1987, location unknown	Lee Un-Hae Suspected Abduction Case	A case came to light after Kim Hyon-Hui, convicted of bombing a Korean Air Lines airliner in November 1987, claimed that she "learned how to act like a Japanese person in North Korea from a Japanese woman called Lee Un-Hae who had been abducted from Japan sometime between 1978 and 1979," further adding, "Lee Un-Hae had said that she was forced to come to North Korea on a boat from Japan."
July 1978, Obama City, Fukui Prefecture	Suspected Abduction Case of a Japanese Couple (Fukui) (Note 1)	Yasushi Chimura and Fukie Hamamoto left home by car saying that they were going on a date and never returned. Their car was found near an observation deck close to the beach with the ignition key on.
July 1978, Kashiwazaki City, Niigata Prefecture	Suspected Abduction Case of a Japanese Couple (Niigata) (Note 2)	Kaoru Hasuike borrowed a bicycle from his family and left home saying, "I'm going out for a little while, I'll be back soon," but never returned. On the same day, Yukiko Okudo told a colleague that she had a date after work, but she disappeared after leaving her place of work. Hasuike's bicycle was found in front of a library located a few hundred meters from the beach.
August 1978, Hioki County, Kagoshima Prefecture	Suspected Abduction Case of a Japanese Couple (Kagoshima)	Shuichi Ichikawa left home saying he was going to the beach to see the sunset with Rumiko Masumoto and never returned. His car was found near the seaside campground, with the doors locked. Masumoto also left home saying she was going to the beach with Ichikawa to see the sunset and never returned.
August 1978, Sado County, Niigata Prefecture	Suspected Abduction Case of a Mother and her Daughter (Note 3)	In the town of Mano, Niigata Prefecture, Miyoshi Soga and her daughter Hitomi left their home saying they were going shopping and never returned.
Around May 1980, Europe	Suspected Abduction Case of Japanese Men in Europe	Toru Ishioka and Kaoru Matsuki disappeared while living in Europe. Later, Ishioka's family received a letter from him that had been postmarked in Poland and dated August 1988. It said that Matsuki, Keiko Arimoto, and he were all residing in North Korea.
June 1980, Miyazaki City, Miyazaki Prefecture	"Shin Gwang-Su" Case	This case was revealed by the South Korean authorities in June 1985. North Korean agent Shin Gwang-Su and others took Tadaaki Hara, who lived in Osaka Prefecture, to Aoshima Beach of Miyazaki Prefecture, where he was abducted and taken to North Korea by a spy boat. (An arrest warrant was issued for Shin Gwang-Su, and he has been placed on an international wanted list.)
Around July 1983, Europe	Suspected Abduction Case of a Japanese Woman in Europe	Around October 1983, Keiko Arimoto, who was studying in the United Kingdom, went missing after sending a letter to her family from Copenhagen, Denmark. Later, Toru Ishioka, who also went missing in Europe, said in a letter to his family postmarked August 1988 in Poland that he and two other Japanese, including Arimoto, were staying in North Korea. (An arrest warrant was issued for "Yodo-go" hijacker group member, Kimihiro Uomoto, and he has been placed on an international wanted list.)

Note 1-3: Of those abducted in these cases, Yasushi Chimura, Fukie Hamamoto (current surname: Chimura), Kaoru Hasuike, Yukiko Okudo (current surname: Hasuike), and Hitomi Soga returned to Japan in October 2002 for the first time in 24 years.

4. Status of Investigation on the Suspected Abduction Cases

For the North Korean agent Shin Gwang-Su, who executed the abduction of Tadaaki Hara; Kimihiro Uomoto, the "Yodo-go" hijacker who abducted Keiko Arimoto; and the North Korean agent Kim Se-Ho who was the principle perpetrator in the Ushitsu case, the police obtained arrest warrants and placed them on an international wanted list. Japan is also demanding an extradition of these offenders from North Korea through the MOFA.

Besides the 11 cases involving the 16 abductees, there are other cases in which the possibility that abductions were carried out by North Korea cannot be ruled out and, therefore, the police are continuing with the necessary investigations and inquiries.

At the third round of the Japan-North Korea Working-level Consultations held in November 2004, NPA staff joined the delegation from the government of Japan. Regarding the "remains" that allegedly belonged to Megumi Yokota which were presented by the North Korean side to the Japanese delegation at the Consultations, DNA analysis experts carefully selected 10 bone fragments from which DNA could possibly be detected. These were then handed over by police authorities to research organizations of the highest national standard (Teikyo University and the National Research Institute of Police Science) for DNA analysis. The results showed that of the five bone fragments handed over to Teikyo University, four were detected to have the same DNA, while one had DNA from another person. However, neither set of DNA matched that of Megumi Yokota.

In addition, regarding the "remains" that were claimed to possibly be those of Kaoru Matsuki, the North Korean side handed them over to Japan, explaining that they were stored in the same place as the remains presented to the Japanese government delegations during their last visit to North Korea in September 2002. As such, it was suspected from the beginning that these "remains" were unlikely to be those of Matsuki. Nevertheless, a portion of the "remains" were selected and analyzed as a precautionary measure. The results from Teikyo University, which the police authorities commissioned to do the analysis, found that the DNA detected in the "remains" was different from that of Matsuki.

The police had already concluded in 1988 that six cases involving nine Japanese nationals who went missing were suspected abduction cases by North Korea. The police had also been explaining in the Diet that a case of one missing person in February 1988, five cases of eight missing persons in March 1988, and six cases of nine persons in April 1988 are cases suspected abduction cases carried out by North Korea, indicating that North Korea is suspected of engaging in acts that infringe on the sovereignty of Japan.

Later, the police concluded and announced that the number of suspected abduction cases amounted to seven cases involving ten persons in May 1997, and eight cases involving eleven persons in March 2002. At the Japan-North Korea Summit Meeting held in September 2002, Chairman Kim Jong-Il acknowledged the abduction of the Japanese nationals, and the North Korean side provided information on the fate of the abductees.



The site of an abduction (Fukui Prefecture)

Taking such circumstances into consideration, the police concluded in October 2002 that the number of abduction cases amounted to ten and involved a total of fifteen persons.

Moreover, because there were other cases in which the possibility of abduction could not be ruled out, the police earnestly continued necessary investigations and inquiries. As a result, in April 2005, the case of Minoru Tanaka was newly concluded to be a suspected abduction case. Regarding this case, on the background of the change in various situations surrounding the recent investigations, a renewed investigation was conducted, under which

new concrete evidence was obtained from multiple witnesses.

The police will continue to rally their collective strength in order to advance their investigations toward uncovering the whole truth behind the cases.

Case name	"Shin Gwang-Su" Case	Suspected Abduction Case of a Japanese Woman in Europe	Ushitsu Case
	Shin Gwang-Su	Kimihiro Uomoto	Kim Se-Ho
Suspect			

List of suspects on the international wanted list (related to suspected cases of the abduction of Japanese nationals)

II. North Korea's Espionage Operations in Japan

1. Outline of North Korea's Espionage Operations in Japan

Geographically, Japan is located in close proximity to the Korean Peninsula, with over 600,000 South and North Koreans living in Japan due to the historical background between these countries. For these reasons, North Korea sees Japan as a critical site for spy activities and has thus far engaged in various espionage operations in Japan.

Regarding the activities of North Korea's spy boats in particular, judging from the appearance of the boats discovered in the "Mihama Incident" of 1991 and the "Espionage Boat Incident in the Sea Southwest of Kyushu" of 2001, as well as from the numerous items of evidence found inside the boats, they were identified as North Korean spy boats. It is suspected that a significant number of North Korean spy boats besides these two have been entering the territorial waters of Japan.

Also, comprehensively judging from past cases of arrests and other information, the North Korean spy boats appear to be operating with the objective of having the agents infiltrate and leave Japan in order to abduct Japanese nationals.

As tensions in the Korean Peninsula grow, it is fully expected that North Korean spy boats will continue to conduct illegal activities within Japanese territorial waters in the future.

2. Major Past Incidents and Cases Related to North Korea's Espionage Boats

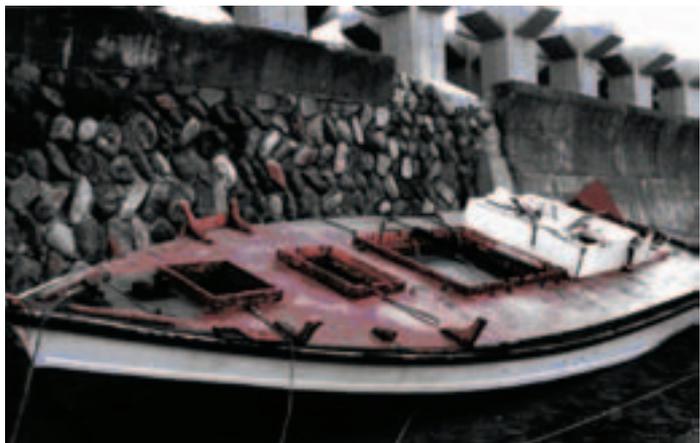
A. Mihama Incident

In October 1990, a small boat with no registration or name had drifted to the Matsubara Beach of Mihama-cho, Mikata County, Fukui Prefecture.

Judging from the shape, equipment, random numbers table, cipher chart, and other articles left on the scene it was determined to be the small, auxiliary boat of a North Korean espionage boat used to allow spies to enter and leave Japan.

It was concluded that this incident was an organized and planned case of making illegal entry and exit from Japan by multiple North Korean agents. It made clear the fact that North Korea was still sending agents in through such unofficial and illegal methods.

Additionally, objects that appear to be underwater scooters were found in relation to this incident. An item that is extremely similar to this was also found in March 2001 near the mouth of the Kurobe River of Kurobe City, Toyama Prefecture. It is likely that North Korean agents entered Japan using these objects.



North Korean spy boats that drifted to the Matsubara Beach of Mihama Town, Fukui Prefecture



Discovered objects that appear to be underwater scooters

B. Incident of Suspicious Boats off the Coast of Noto Peninsula

Two suspicious boats were discovered in Japanese territorial waters off the coast of the Noto Peninsula in March 1999. The Japan Coast Guard and Maritime Self Defense Force, which received orders to patrol the sea, ordered the ships to stop and sent out warning shots. However, the two suspicious boats ignored these warnings and escaped at high speed.

These boats were cleverly disguised as Japanese fishing boats by using names of Japanese fishing boats that have already been erased from the fishing boat register, or names of Japanese fishing boats that were sailing in other territories at the time. After their escape it is assumed that the ships went to a harbor in the northern part of North Korea. Following comprehensive analysis of the situation, the boats were concluded to have been North Korean spy boats.

This case of suspicious boats made a strong impression on Japan by visibly highlighting the threat that North Korea's espionage boat operations pose.

C. Espionage Boat Incident in the Sea Southwest of Kyushu

In December 2001, a suspicious boat was spotted in the southwest coast of Kyushu. A Japan Coast Guard patrol boat pursued the vessel, ordering it to stop and sending out warning shots. However, the suspicious boat continued to flee and attacked the patrol boat with automatic machine guns and what appeared to be a rocket launcher.

In response, the patrol boat opened fire in self-defense, and then the espionage boat sank.

This boat was salvaged in September 2002. From the boat, tools used by North Korean agents to enter and escape from Japan, as well as a number of weapons with high killing power and destructive capabilities were found.

The Japan Coast Guard identified the vessel as a North Korean espionage boat, and sent the ten crewmembers to the public prosecutors office on allegations of attempted murder and other counts in March 2003.

This incident made clear the fact that the spy boats of North Korea are becoming more heavily armed, and that we are in a situation in which the activities of spy boats in the waters surrounding Japan could pose an enormous threat to the safety of Japan.



Espionage Boat Incident in the Sea Southwest of Kyushu (Image provided by the Japan Coast Guard)



Weapon found during the Espionage Boat Incident in the Sea Southwest of Kyushu (Image provided by the Japan Coast Guard)

III. Major Terrorist Activities by North Korea

Since the Korean War, North Korea has been militarily standing face to face with South Korea across the North-South demilitarized zone. As part of its terrorist activities against South Korea, North Korean agents have engaged in terrorist acts in various parts of the world. Based on such circumstances, in 1988 the US State Department designated North Korea as "a state sponsor of terrorism," along with Cuba, Iran, Libya, Sudan, and Syria.

1. Attempted Attack on the South Korean Presidential Palace (Chong Wa Dae)

In January 1968, 31 armed North Korean guerillas entered the South disguised as South Korean soldiers with plans to assassinate President Pak Chong-hui of South Korea and other top officials. They engaged in a gunfight with South Korean authorities in the streets near the Presidential Palace (Chong Wa Dae), causing many South Korean casualties. Most of the armed guerillas were shot to death by the South Korean authorities, and only one was arrested.

2. Rangoon, Burma Incident

In October 1983, three North Korean armed guerillas entered Burma (present day Myanmar) with plans to assassinate President Chun Doo-Hwan of South Korea and others who were paying a state visit to Burma at the time. They set off a bomb at Aung San's mausoleum, one of the planned visiting spots, killing 21 South Korean officials, including the Foreign Minister, and wounding over 40 people.

3. Korean Airlines Bombing Incident

In November 1987, North Korean agents Kim Sun-Gil and Kim Hyon-Hui, who were in possession of false passports under Japanese names, set a time bomb on board Korean Airlines Flight 858 flying from Baghdad via Bangkok and Abu Dhabi, en route to Seoul. The bomb was detonated on the way from Abu Dhabi to Bangkok, south of Burma, above the Andamanne Sea, killing all 115 passengers and crew members. From Kim Hyon-Hui's confession and other sources it was revealed that the agents had belonged to the Overseas Intelligence Division of the KWP, and had received orders in North Korea to "bomb the Korean Airline aircraft to obstruct the Seoul Olympics (September 1988)."

4. Recent Developments

Since the Korean Airlines Bombing Incident there have not been any terrorist acts which indicate the involvement of North Korea. However, there has been an incident in which a North Korean submarine was stranded in an area in the northeast of South Korea in September 1996, and armed agents who were in it infiltrated South Korean territory. (Of these agents, some were found dead in a nearby mountain, and others were shot to death by the South Korean army.) In another incident in June 1998, nine dead bodies and automatic rifles were discovered in a submarine that drifted into South Korean territory.



Submarine infiltration incident
(June 1998, South Korea)
(Photo: Kyodo Press)



Kim Hyon-Hui's false passport
(Photo: Jiji Press)

IV. Recently Cleared Spy Cases Involving North Korea

In Japan, approximately 50 spy cases related to North Korea have been cleared since World War II. Overviews of some of the recently cleared cases are as follows.

1. Case in Hyakunin-cho, Shinjuku (Cleared in 2000)

This is a spy case in which a North Korean resident in Japan and a Japanese national who were recruited as agents carried out acquisition and financial operations against South Koreans in Japan and other places after being trained as spies in North Korea.

"A," a former activist in the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, was employed as a North Korean agent around 1979 and engaged in espionage activities against people related to South Korean military, government, and financial circles, as well as South Korean residents in Japan. Over a period of five years that started around 1997, "A" single-handedly planned and partially carried out financial operations for collecting large amounts of funds for espionage. Under the guise of performing religious activities, he also carried out operations aimed at promptly sending prisoners back to North Korea that had been detained for long periods of time in South Korea.

Japanese national "B" received instructions from North Korea and planned and partially carried out activities such as operations for disseminating publications of the underground party organization in South Korea. Furthermore, "B" approached people related to mass media and prominent figures in various circles and engaged in information gathering activities in Japan. "B" visited South Korea under the guise of performing religious activities, and carried out operations aimed at promptly sending prisoners that had been detained for long periods of time in South Korea back to North Korea.

The Metropolitan Police Department on November 21, 2000 arrested "A" for fraud and "B" for a fraudulent entry in an electromagnetic original notary deed and other offences.

2. Case in Higashi-Nakano (Cleared in 2003)

This is a spy case in which "C," a former leading member of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, carried out various operations against South Korea after being trained as a spy in North Korea.

Around 1985 "C" started receiving direct instructions from the United Front Division (UFD) of the KWP, and around the year 1990 began full-fledged spy activities. In 1993, "C" came to lead other activists as the person responsible for the operation base in Japan.

Japan as a base, "C" carried out various information gathering activities and other operations against South Korea based on instructions from the KWP. These include so-called spy activities against South Korea such as the establishment of a spy network in South



Tight security as the Mangyongbong-92 makes port (Photo: Kyodo Press)

Korea and operations involving the mass media and the military.

"C" received instructions from the KWP through the captain of Mangyongbong-92 that had landed at port in Japan. There were also cases in which "C" received direct instructions on the Mangyongbong-92 when leading members of the KWP visited Japan on the vessel.

On February 28, 2003 the police arrested "C" for a fraudulent entry in an original notary deed and for using the deed, as well as for violating the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, hereinafter referred to as the "Immigration Control Act."

3. Case in Fusekotobuki-cho (Cleared in 2004)

This is a spy case in which "D," a South Korean resident in Japan, was employed as a North Korean agent and carried out various operations against South Korea and Japan.

"D" joined the KWP in 1967. In 1970, "D" received full-fledged education as a spy over a period of three days at a North Korean embassy in a third country before beginning activities as a North Korean agent. In 1973, "D" conducted infiltration and escapes between Japan and North Korea by using spy boats and succeeded in contacting senior officials in North Korea.

"D" received operation instructions through such means as transmissions of espionage instructions from North Korea and contact with North Korean vessels that had made port in Japan. "D" engaged in activities such as the subsumption and ideological education of South Korean residents in Japan, lobbying senior Korean politicians and bureaucrats, and Diet and Diet member operations through the bureaus of local assemblies in Japan. Furthermore, in order to carry out activities in a third country, "D" illegally obtained a Japanese passport under the name of a Japanese acquaintance using his family register. A North Korean passport and a South Korean passport under "D"'s name were also found at "D"'s house.

On October 12, 2004 the Osaka Prefectural Police arrested "D" for violating the Immigration Control Act as well as the Alien Registration Law.



Three types of passports possessed by "D" (Photo: Kyodo Press)



Newspapers reporting on espionage activities carried out through the Mangyongbong-92 (January 29, 2003) (Photo: Asahi Shimbun, Tokyo Shimbun, Yomiuri Shimbun)