

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

CCPR 131st Session (March 1, 2021 – March 26, 2021)

Report for the Preparation of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting on
the 3rd Periodic Report of
the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

in Relation to the Article 12 of ICCPR

January 3, 2021

Association for Japanese Women's Rights (AJWR)



**Questions on the Human Rights Violations
in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**

The DPRK is the country that commits the most serious human rights violations in the world. The primary reason why the DPRK should be blamed as such a country is the issue on the abductions of Japanese citizens by the DPRK government. The secondary reason is the issue on the repatriation of the North Koreans, including their wives having Japanese nationalities.

The following contents are the statements directly interviewed with one of the defectors from the DPRK who is now staying in Japan. Although the origin of the information cannot be disclosed, the contents are credible enough to be treated as the true facts.

a. The Issue on the Abductions of Japanese Citizens by the DPRK

The authorities of the DPRK officially recognized in 2002 that 17 Japanese citizens had been abducted by the DPRK. All alive abductees should immediately be returned to Japan.

The abductees from Japan are not allowed to behave freely at all and strictly isolated from the outside world. The abductees are prohibited from contacting anyone, but they can only get in touch with someone to accomplish the ordered duties including the espionage education.

If the DPRK authorities improve the Japanese abductees' human rights situations and allow them to return to Japan, Japan will be prepared for aiding the DPRK by providing the financial and technical support. However, the DPRK should recognize seriously that any support from Japan will be provided only under the condition of conducting returning all surviving abductees to Japan in advance.

b. The Issue on the Repatriation of the North Koreans, Including Their Wives Having Japanese Nationalities

The DPRK authorities should accept the keen desire of the Japanese nationals, including the Japanese wives of the Koreans, and immediately allow them to return to Japan.

In response to the call for repatriation to the DPRK declared by the DPRK authorities, 6,800 Japanese nationals including 1,800 Japanese wives of the Koreans returned to the DPRK from 1959 through 1986. Although the DPRK authorities had promised the Japanese nationals to visit and return to Japan in three years, the promise has not yet been kept.

The reason why the North Koreans in Japan, and their wives and other Japanese nationals accepted the call for repatriation to the DPRK was that they had been deceived by the DPRK authorities and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan. If they had been told the truth, none of them would accept the call for repatriation.

The returnees from Japan were regarded as the spies and severely discriminated in the DPRK. Among them, the wives of Japanese nationals were suffered from the severest discriminations.

Although approximately 40 wives of Japanese nationals visited Japan three times, the events were completely contrived by the DPRK authorities and nothing more than performances for their propaganda.

Even now, the surviving wives of Japanese nationals are grieving that they never want to die in the DPRK and desperately hope to return to their homelands in Japan to mourn their parents' tombs

before their own deaths. However, most of them have already died.

c. Questions to the DPRK

We severely request the faithful response by the DPRK authorities to the human rights violations against the abductees and the wives of Japanese nationals and the humanitarian issues mentioned above.



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