



JAPAN

NGO Report

to the Committee on Civil and Political Rights

in advance of the review of

the seventh periodic report of JAPAN (CCPR/C/JPN/7)

Japanese Women for Justice and Peace (JWJP)

----- Contact -----

Japanese Women for Justice and Peace
President YAMAMOTO Yumiko (Ms.)
4F-B Shinko Bldg., 3-13-4 Ginza, Chuo-ku,
Tokyo 104-0061

JAPAN

TEL & FAX: +81 5031530391

Email: JapanNetwork1@gmail.com

URL: <http://nadesiko-action.org>

Contents

Preface

Reports on the Specific Articles of ICCPR and Requests to the Japanese Government

1. Abductions of Japanese Citizens by DPRK [Article 12]
2. Protection of Human Rights in Neighboring Regions [Article 16 and 27]
 - 2-1. Issue of Human Rights of Uygur, Tibet, and Mongolia
 - 2-2. Issue of Political Freedom in Hong Kong
3. COVID-19 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games [Article 2]
4. The Freedom of Press and the Right to Know [Article 19]
5. Comfort Women Issue [Article 8]
 - 5-1. Explanation of Kono Statement in 1993 and the result of examination in 2014
 - 5-2. Re-submission of counterargument against Coomaraswamy Report in 1996 and demand of re-investigation
6. Wartime laborers from the Korean Peninsula [Article 8]
7. Issue of History School Textbooks [Article 18 and 19]
 - 7-1. Abolishment of “Neighboring Country Clause” applied to history textbook issued in 1982
 - 7-2. Transparency of screening system and establishing regulations on criteria for selection of examiner on schoolbooks
8. Ainu New Law Issue [Article 27]

Preface

Japanese Women for Justice and Peace (JWJP) is a non-governmental organization of Japanese women in Japan and overseas. Our goal is to achieve the women's rights and to protect our children's rights.

Our recent concern is Japanese government has been taking pro-People's Republic of China (China) and pro-Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) measures as well as anti-Japan measures.

Anti-Japan here is defined as any activity to violate human rights of Japanese citizens as a means of discounting Japan on the base of propaganda or allegations which have not been examined based on the historical facts.

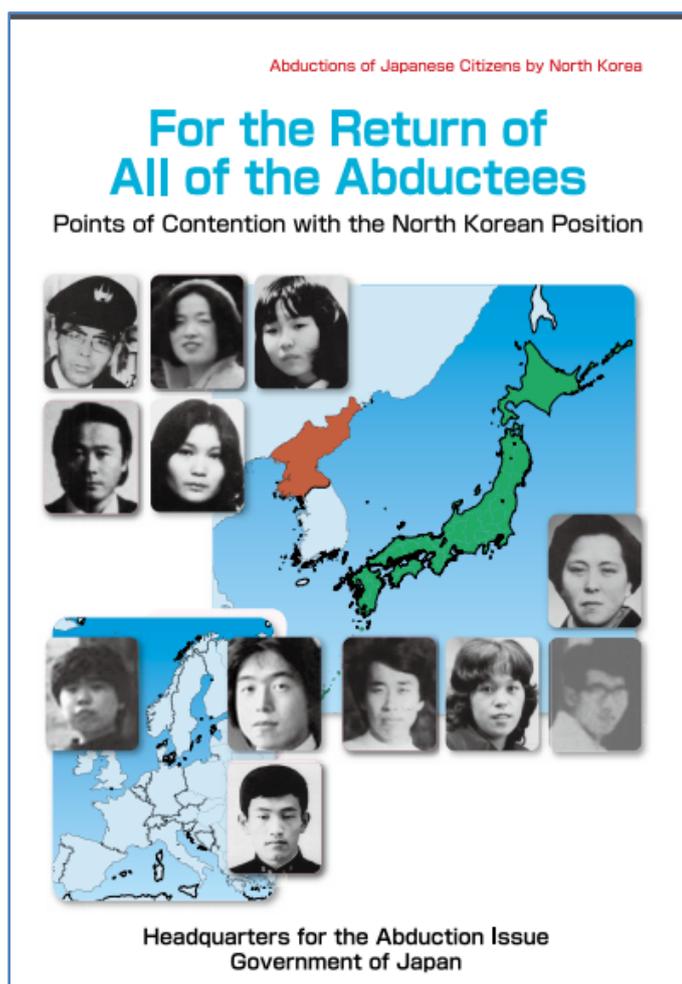
We understand the UN has adopted dozens of resolutions against human rights violation in DPRK, and many NGOs have announced statements concerning human rights situation in China. We believe adopting pro-China and pro-DPRK policy is equivalent to admitting their human rights violations.

In this report, we choose several issues relating to the specific articles of ICCPR and request the Japanese government to repeal or modify these measures and achieve the goal of ICCPR.

Reports on the Specific Articles of ICCPR and Requests to the Japanese Government

1. Abductions of Japanese Citizens by DPRK [Article 12]

Abductions of Japanese Citizens by DPRK¹ is the case of “Enforced Disappearance” and one of the worst crimes against humanity committed by a state. Japanese government should rescue by whatever means all Japanese victims. At present, 17 people are officially recognized as abductees by the Japanese government.² But in fact, far more people are abducted.



According to the research by the private citizens' group, the Investigation Commission on Missing Japanese Probably Related to North Korea³, the number of "missing Japanese probably related to North Korea" is approximately 470.⁴ Furthermore, according to the Japanese National Police Agency, the number of missing Japanese possibly abducted by North Korea is 875.⁵

The world admires Japan as one of the most peaceful and safe country. However, this admiration derives from superficial observation. It is not long time ago that Japan allowed invasion of sovereignty and abduction of Japanese innocent people. And this may happen still now at present time.

¹ <http://www.rachi.go.jp/en/index.html>

² https://www.rachi.go.jp/jp/shisei/keihatsu/mondaiten_en.pdf

³ <https://www.chosa-kai.jp/>

⁴ <https://www.chosa-kai.jp/archives/2164>

⁵ <https://www.npa.go.jp/bureau/security/abduct/list.html>

Poster « Rescue All! Photo list of missing Japanese probably related to North Korea »
 the Investigation Commission on Missing Japanese Probably Related to North Korea

調査会認定北朝鮮拉致疑惑特定失踪者 全員救出せよ!

北朝鮮による日本人拉致被害者
 特定失踪者問題調査会
 調査会認定北朝鮮拉致疑惑特定失踪者
 「もう一人、戻って来てください」

この特.調査会リストには
 約200人の非公開調査が、
 また警察庁には約80名
 の拉致疑いが存在する

情報をお寄せ下さい

- 上の写真の方々に関する情報をお持ちの方
- それ以外の不審な失踪をした方についての情報をお持ちの方
- 拉致されそうになった経験のある方
- 日本海側、太平洋側を問わず海岸や海上で不審な人物、船を
 目撃した方
- その他、陸地域もふくめ北朝鮮に関係すると思われる情報をお持ちの方をお寄せ下さい

特定失踪者問題調査会
 〒112-0004 東京都文京区湯島2-3-6
 第6階 電話 03-56841301 号
 TEL.03(5684)5058 FAX.03(5684)5059
<http://www.chosa-ka.jp>
comjansite2003@chosa-ka.jp

カンパ募集中!
 本調査会に加入し北朝鮮拉致被害者救済のため、皆様からの支援、心を通わせたいです。
 ○郵便振替 00160-9-583587 特定失踪者問題調査会
 ○銀行振込 みずほ銀行新田橋支店 普通 2520933
 特定失踪者問題調査会
 口座番号: 00160-9-583587

とどけ、海を越えて! 北朝鮮向けラジオ放送 しおかぜ
 1日2時間半、毎日放送中!
 北朝鮮への情報提供
 ・パル・ウェブプロジェクト
 ・FAX送信作戦
 ・FM放送・衛星放送
 The Radio Group

日本全国スマホで聴ける拉致問題
 「なつこ・ゆみほのおしごとかなさや誰かやる!」
 緊急! 特定失踪者問題調査会からの呼びかけです

To make matters worse Japan cannot seem to be able to rescue them. How can Japan be a safe country, allowing abduction by foreign country and not being able to let the criminal country release the victims? For decades, the victims' families have been waiting for their loved ones to come back home.

If it were a crime inside Japan, it would be Japanese police that rescue them.

Outside Japan, it is Japanese military that rescue abducted victims detained in foreign country.

However, the Japanese Constitution does not have a clear provision about military even for defense but rather seems to ban to hold it. That is, there is no power in Japan to rescue Japanese innocent citizens detained in foreign countries. Japan is a country which has actually no means at final stage in order to protect lives and properties of its nation under the present Constitution, which contradictory has provisions to protect lives and properties of its nation as a right to live.

To rescue Japanese victims abducted by DPRK and to establish consistency of the provisions of the Constitution, the Japanese Constitution should be amended as soon as possible.

2. Protection of Human Rights in Neighboring Regions [Article 16 and 27]

Japanese government is requested to advocate on a worldwide scale protection of human rights and political freedom.

2-1. Issue of Human Rights of Uygur, Tibet, and Mongolia

The world is deeply concerned about Chinese communist governmental oppression on people of Uygur⁶, Tibet⁷, and Mongolia⁸ so much as to be compared with ethnic cleansing of The Holocaust of the Nazis.

The United States established “Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act⁹” in June 2020. The act enables the US government to ban Chinese communist governmental members, who are responsible to violation of human rights of people of Uygur, to go abroad and to use their asset held in the United States. The similar movement is arising in Belgium, England and so.

Japanese government should establish a similar law enabling to impose sanctions

⁶ https://uyghur-j.org/japan/2014/12/2014_human_rights_day_uyghur_english/

⁷ <https://www.freetibet.org/>

⁸ <http://southmongolia.org/en/>

⁹ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3744>

on Japanese companies involved directly or indirectly in violation of human rights of people of Uyghur, Tibet, and Mongolia. The government should also establish a law to ban Chinese companies or foreign companies involved in violation of human rights of people in the regions to make transactions with Japanese companies.

Strongly protesting to the CCP's colonial policy on Southern Mongolia

© 2019-04-25 SMC NEWS, PHOTO 0



Panchen Rinpoche Birthday DAY
April 25th, 2019

Protesting in front of the United Nations in New York. Strongly protesting to the CCP's colonial policy on Southern Mongolia.

10

In addition, Japanese government should not invite the Chinese President as a state guest so long as the violation above-mentioned continues. If the Japanese Government invites Chinese President as a state guest and, while in Japan, the Chinese President has an audience with the Emperor, the international community will say that Japan approves of China's utter disregard of human rights. Such a situation is not at all desired by the Japanese people.

¹⁰ <http://southmongolia.org/en/308/>

2-2. Issue of Political Freedom in Hong Kong

The Chinese communist government has broken unilaterally the agreement with U.K. giving Hong Kong political freedom one hundred years at least.

The United States established “Hong Kong Autonomy Act¹¹” in July 2020 and it has already imposed economic and financial sanctions to eleven governmental people of Hong Kong.

Japanese government should protest more strongly to Chinese communist government about the violation of political freedom in Hong Kong. At the same time Japanese government should warn Japanese private companies to pay more attention about possibility to be imposed sanctions by U.S. if they are involved in violation of political freedom in Hong Kong.

3. COVID-19 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games [Article 2]

Japanese government should demand the Chinese communist government to pay additional cost for postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympic¹² or to compensate for loss in case of cancellation incurred by COVID-19 pandemic

The incurred cost of Tokyo 2020 Olympic due to the postponement will be estimated at several billion dollars except for accepted additional expense of IOC. Furthermore, in case of cancellation the loss will be several times of the above-mentioned amount.



Who bears the cost? Does the IOC totally bear? Does Japanese nation bear? Who is responsible for the loss? Is Japanese nation responsible?

The world claims the responsibility of this pandemic should be taken by the Chinese communist government. The government caused virus spread, denying and

¹¹ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3798>

¹² <https://tokyo2020.org/en/>

concealing infection among human beings.

So many people have died, and tremendous economic losses have been suffered in many countries. This can be nothing but violation of human rights. The world demands Chinese communist government to pay for the losses.

According to the media Swiss Banks have at least 3,000 accounts of Chinese communist party executives. The total deposit of only the top 100 executives amounts to about one trillion US dollars.¹³ There are serious ideas that this deposit should be used to pay for losses incurred by COVID-19 pandemic.

4. The Freedom of Press and the Right to Know [Article 19]

Japanese government should advocate “the right to know”, one of human rights, for Japanese nation.

Recently a diverse range of information, including political, economic, and social issues related to national or international affairs, is provided through the internet by various senders. On the contrary news provided by so-called big old media are not so different among themselves. The contents are similar most of the times. Furthermore, the gap of contents between old medias and internet is widening especially about news related to China.

One main reason why the gap occurs is because the freedom of the press of old media is restrained by agreement with Chinese communist government. If Japanese media reports about any issue inconvenient to Chinese communist government, they will be out of press conference room at risk of being deprived of news gathering activities¹⁴. Therefore, there are cases that news is not reliable and do not cover the reality of problem.

For example, the number of infectors of COVID-19 in China officially released by Chinese government which old media communicate has been too small to be

¹³ <https://hk.appledaily.com/opinion/20200807/XTUO2FZXN4RVTC6TESSDVIWGM/>

¹⁴

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/business/media/china-expels-american-journalists.htm>

1

accountable. After all this infringes on Japanese people's right to know.

Japanese government should demand Chinese government to give freedom of press and freedom of news gathering activities for all Japanese media companies¹⁵.

5. Comfort Women Issue [Article 8]

5-1. Explanation of Kono Statement in 1993 and the result of examination in 2014

The Kono Statement¹⁶ in 1993 has been misunderstood on a worldwide scale. As a result, the honor of Japanese nation is violated.

The Japanese government should explain to the UN and to the world especially the concrete meaning of "involvement of the military" expressed in the Statement and should also explain the result of examination of the Kono Statement¹⁷ taken in 2014, which has revealed the Statement was not entirely factual but rather political compromise.

5-2 Re-submission of counterargument against the Coomaraswamy Report in 1996 and demand of re-investigation

Ms. Coomaraswamy selected only allegations of so-called victims in her special rapporteur report " Report on the mission to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and Japan on the issue of military sexual slavery in wartime ¹⁸." She excluded almost all assertions or documentations submitted by researchers who doubted the allegations. The Report adopts many baseless assertions of DPRK which accuse Japanese of atrocity. This can be said the Report is anti-Japan and pro-DPRK.

Japanese government made a very logical and complete counterargument against

¹⁵

<https://japan-forward.com/sankei-shimbun-reporter-denied-entry-to-press-conference-with-chinese-premier-li-keqiang/>

¹⁶ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/women/fund/state9308.html>

¹⁷ <http://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000042171.pdf>

¹⁸ E/CN.4/1996/53/Add.1

the Report but somehow decided not to submit it to the UN. This means the Japanese government also took anti-Japan and pro-DPRK policy.

Japanese government should clearly explain the reason of failure of submission and should submit the counterargument this time. And at the same time the government should demand investigation by newly assigned UN rapporteurs on the comfort women issue.

6. Wartime laborers from the Korean Peninsula [Article 8]

Wartime laborers from the Korean Peninsula during WW2 were payed fairly based on contract and treated favorably. There was no discrimination at all in terms of wages¹⁹. They were not “forced laborers.”

Instead of the word “forced labor”, Japanese representatives carefully used the word “forced to work” for designating wartime laborers in Gunkanjima (Battleship Island) at the deliberation of “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution²⁰” registration on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The reason why the representatives avoided “forced labor” is because the word means slave labor, yet the word “forced to work” includes requisition or conscription at the wartime in a wide meaning.

However, the world media reported about the registration of Gunkanjima mentioning that the Japanese government admitted slave laborers from the Korean peninsula. For example, BBC global news HARD Talk ²¹ navigator used “forced labor” at the interview to ROK's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha.

Japanese government should assert that Korean laborers in Gunkanjima were not forced labor, but wartime laborers paid fairly and explain the truth of Gunkanjima²² with the historical evidence.

¹⁹ Korean Coal and Metal Mineworkers Mobilized in Wartime Japan: The Question of Wages and Ethnicity Based Disparities <https://bit.ly/3m9fCkb>

²⁰ <http://www.japansmeijiindustrialrevolution.com/en/>

²¹ BBC global news HARD Talk Aug 21. 2019 <https://youtu.be/0fbcBpp1sn8>

²² <https://www.gunkanjima-truth.com/l/en-US/>

7. Issue of History School Textbooks [Article 18 and 19]

7-1. Abolishment of “Neighboring Country Clause” applied to history textbook issued in 1982

In 1982 Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture adopted an authorization criterion, the so-called “Neighboring Country Clause” : Textbooks ought to show understanding and seek international harmony in their treatment of modern and contemporary historical events involving neighboring Asian countries.

Neighboring countries are three countries, China, ROK and DPRK. “To show understanding and seek international harmony” means history textbook must avoid words or clauses inducing protests or objections of these three countries. Namely “The Clause” bans historical view of its own as Japanese nation. This is equivalent to violation of sovereignty and of human rights of Japanese nation.

Therefore, Japanese government should recognize the government itself took anti-Japan and pro-China and pro-DPRK measures on the textbook for nearly forty years and should abolish the Clause.

7-2. Transparency of schoolbook screening system and establishing regulations on criteria for selection of examiner on schoolbooks

In December 2019 when screening examination on schoolbooks every four years was implemented, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) notified one history textbook did not pass the screening examination.

The textbook publisher was incredibly surprised by this notification²³. Because failing examination had been exceedingly rare generally and this textbook passed last time four years ago. There were abnormally too many modification advices this

23

<https://japan-forward.com/speaking-out-japans-education-ministry-should-be-more-transparent-in-screening-textbooks/>

time. Furthermore, modification advice was not given to the similar descriptions in other publishers' books.

Therefore, the failed publisher has made protest to MEXT requesting fairness and impartiality of screening system. Seven months later, in July 2020, one weekly gazette scooped an astonishing piece of news related to the issue on the above-mentioned history textbook. According the news, one of the examiners involved in history textbook may probably be a spy for DPRK and it was this examiner who cut the above-mentioned textbook. MEXT investigated internally and denied the content of the scoop. However, the investigation of MEXT is not persuading.

For a long time, it has been pointed out that the screening system and the selection of examiners are not transparent. There are not a few examiners who are not experts on history but engaged in social issues.

The Japanese government should exclude intervention of foreign countries such as DPRK and establish clear regulation on selection of school textbook examiners.

7. Ainu New Law Issue [Article 27]

Recognizing that Ainu new law, “the Act on Promotion of Measures for Realization of a Society in which the Pride of the Ainu People is Respected²⁴” enacted in April 2019, was advocated by activists or researchers deeply involved in Chuchoe-Sasang, or Juche (主体思想), of DPRK regime's official ideology²⁵, Japanese government must put the Law in effect very carefully and should not divide the Japanese society.

Recognizing that some recent genetic discoveries²⁶ have shown that Ainu people are not indigenous people but in fact descendants of the Jomon Japanese who have inhabited Hokkaido from the Jomon period ²⁷, Japanese government should

²⁴ https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/ainusuishin/index_e.html

²⁵ http://juche.v.wol.ne.jp/l_english/news/20190713/article1.html

²⁶ Anthropological Science, 2019, Volume 127, Issue 2, titled ‘Late Jomon male and female genome sequences from the Funadomari site in Hokkaido, Japan.’

²⁷ The Jōmon period (縄文時代, Jōmon jidai) is the time in Japanese prehistory, traditionally

deliberate once again on Ainu people and set up a new council of Ainu policy whose members include researchers and experts against the Law.

End

dated between c. 14,000-300 BCE, recently refined to about 1000 BCE.