

Korean War Abductees' Family Union

6-25
전쟁
납북인사
가족
협의회

“North Korea abducted approximately 100,000 South Korean civilians during the Korean War.”

**TRUTH-SEEKING
CONFIRMATION OF WHEREABOUTS
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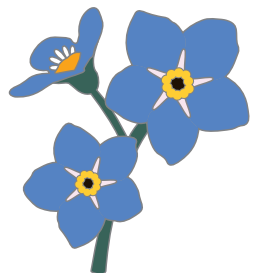
"If we want to solve the immediate problem of intelligentsia shortage ... We need to bring intellectuals from South Korea." Source: On Bringing Intellectuals from South Korea, July 31, 1946 「Kim Il-sung's Complete Works 4」

"At least 20,000 political prisoners, more than 10,000 who were imprisoned, detained, or surveilled, disappeared from Seoul between September 17 and 28. ... In the case of Seodaemun and Mapo prisons, most prisoners had their hands tied and a few others had their hands tied together. ... The fate of most of these people is uncertain, but it is believed that they were forced to walk north." Source: U.S. Department of State Document 1950. 10. 13 NARA

North Korea's abduction of South Korean civilians during the Korean War was a war crime, systematically organized by the regime to target needed personnel.

This fact has been proven by the documents from North Korea and the U.S., testimonies of survivors who escaped from abduction, witness statements from the families of the disappeared, and statistics regarding the abductees of South Korea.

Nevertheless, North Korea has yet to acknowledge its crime of abduction and provide any information about the abductees. It is a crime against humanity.



Abductees' Family Union: History and Activities



March 11, 1954, rescue event for North Korean abductees near Deoksugung Palace

The Korean War Abductees' Family Union (Family Union), inherited the spirit of the 6·25 Incident Abductees' Family Council, which was founded in 1951, and was reorganized in November 2000 by the remaining families of those abducted by North Korea.

• Appeal in Relation to the Government's Neglect on Duty to Protect its Citizens (A call for resolution of the issue of abductees from the Korean War, organized by the Family Union)

- Signature campaign calling for confirmation of the abductees' whereabouts
- 'Walking through the abduction road'
- 'Calling out the names of the abductees'
- Discovery and collection of the list of abductees and related materials
- Recording of the testimonies from the families of abductees and publication of the collected testimonies (5 volumes in total)
- Production of the testimony video uploaded to YouTube. English, Japanese, Chinese subtitles included
- 『Korean War Abduction Case History Collection』 Volumes 1 and 2 published
- Collection of genetic information of abductees' families
- Held the rally to urge the National Assembly's 'resolution for the North Korea's civilian abduction crime during the Korean War' (June 24, 2019)
- Opened online memorial www.돌아오지못한사람들.kr (2021)
- Held the seminar on 'Wartime North Korean Abduction Victims' Families, Discussion for Effective Compensation and Support' (November 10, 2023)

and many others

• **Government Activities to Urge Resolution of the Korean War Abduction**

- Enactment of the 'Act on Finding the Truth of the Damage from North Korea's Abduction During the Korean War and Restoring Honor of the Victims' (March 2010)
- Launched the 'Committee to uncover the truth about the abduction damages of the Korean War and restore the honor of abduction victims' (December 2010). Chairman Prime Minister
- Re-reported and filed cases of abduction victims, and issued the decision notice for abductees
- Published 「Korean War Abduction Victims Report」 (2017) two volumes in total
- Launched the 'Abductees Task Force' (November 2012): A pan-ministerial consultative body to discuss solutions to the problem of abductees
- Establishment and opening of the «National Memorial for Abductees during the Korean War» (November 29, 2017)
- Address of President Yoon Seok-yeol's regarding the abduction issues during the Korea-US-Japan Phnom Penh Declaration (November 13, 2022)
- Establishment of the Abductees Response Team directly under the Minister of Unification (September 8, 2023)

• **Activities to resolve the Korean War abduction issue through international community cooperation (International activities: International community cooperation to resolve the issue of abduction of South Korean civilians by North Korea)**

- Held an international conference on the issue of civilian abductions (U.S. House of Representatives, March 2010)
- Presented "The prerequisite for the Korean Peninsula issue is to restore the human rights of those abducted by North Korea during the war" (U.S. National Press Club, July 26, 2007)
- The U.S. Congress adopted a resolution to resolve the issue of war abductees (H.RES 376) proposed by Representative Charles Rangel in December 2011, and passed unanimously
- Held the seminar, 'The abduction issue of South Korean civilians as a war crime: Who is responsible?' as a parallel event to the UN Human Rights Council (Geneva, March 2013)
- Held a seminar on resolving the issue of civilian abduction through international cooperation (Seoul, October 2013), along with experts from Japan and Poland
- Reported North Korea's abduction of South Korean civilians during the war (The Hague, International Criminal Court (ICC), November 2013)
- Submitted a list of 150 cases of abductees from North Korea four times to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) since 2012. Expressions of North Korea's position on 118 cases were received by email in 2014 and delivered to the Family Union.
- Sent petition to President Donald Trump, regarding the declaration of the end of the war on the Korean Peninsula (April 26, 2018)
- Held a press conference, announcing the position of the Family Association regarding the U.S. Congress resolution calling for an end to the war (July 16, 2019)
- Hosted 'International Resolution Conference for Legal Response to Victims of Kidnapping and Detention in North Korea' (November 22, 2019) and invited Otto Warmbier's parents
- Published the report, 「Unhealing Wounds: Enforced Disappearances and Abductions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea」, by the UN Human Rights Office in Seoul (March 2023) and many others

North Korea abducted over 100,000 South Korean civilians during the Korean War

Who committed the abduction to North Korea?

The North Korean regime, under the direction of Kim Il-sung

Why did they abduct them?

To resolve the issue of intelligentsia shortage by abducting South Korean intellectuals for nationbuilding and disguising the abductees as voluntary entrants to serve their propaganda purposes.

When and where were they abducted?

88.2% of the abductions occurred between July and September, immediately following the outbreak of the war; 80.3% were at or near their homes, concentrated in Seoul and Gyeonggi areas (42.3%) in South Korea.

How were they abducted?

With the cooperation of local leftists, mostly by North Korean armed soldiers, members of the State Security Department (보위부원), or members of the Department of the Interior (내무서원), South Korean civilians were taken to North Korea by walking forcibly at night, with their hands tied.

Repatriation

Despite all the apparent and objective evidence of abduction, North Korea has yet to acknowledge it; No single abductee has been repatriated or given information about life or death.



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