

North Korea abducted  
over 80,000  
South Korean civilians  
during the Korean War

*Freedom – an immortal phoenix  
Leaving our homeland behind  
An iron-curtained inferno*

*We are dragged towards  
hellish death*

*Oh my country,  
oh United Nations*

*That you will deliver us from  
this hell, this death*

*We have faith.*

*\* words found on a wall inside Pyeongyang Prison,  
where Korean War abductees had been held.  
October 1950*

**WHO did it?**  
North Korean regime under Kim Il-sung's order.

**WHO were the abductees?**  
Persons loyal to Republic of Korea including leaders in all fields of society, civil servants, intellectuals, businessmen, clergymen, and anti-communist youth corps activists, as well as young men capable of bearing arms

**WHY were they abducted?**  
To resolve the shortage of intellectuals in North Korea for its national building, to remove pro-democracy South Koreans from the society, so that communists can incite South Korea to conflict and split easily, and to disguise the abduction of South Korean politicians as voluntary defection to North Korea and use it as propaganda in support of the North Korean regime.

**WHEN and WHERE were they abducted?**  
During the Korean War, mostly during the three months, July-September 1950, at or near their homes (80.3%) in most South Korean regions, including and heavily concentrating on the Seoul area

**HOW were they abducted?**  
Armed North Korean soldiers and internal policemen, with the help of local commies in most cases, forcibly took them to police stations, prisons and other detention facilities prior to further move to locations in North Korea, mostly during the nights on foot, with their hands tied.

**REPATRIATION**  
Not a single South Korean civilian has been repatriated nor NK has ever admitted abduction itself, despite presence of solid and objective evidences.

**Your Contribution for**  
**Volunteer service with** Administrative work  
**Internship on** Translation, Research  
**Donation** Account No. 131-22-01052-4 (Korea Exchange Bank, Beneficiary KWAUFU)

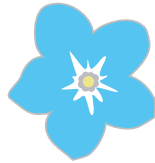


**KWAFU**  
KWAFU activities include  
Fact-Finding, Restoration of Honor, Return of Remains

Korean War  
**Abductees'**  
Family Union

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During the Korean War, North Korea abducted over 80,000 South Korean civilians. These abductions were both premeditated and systematic, and the fact that they specifically targeted civilians in such a way clearly constitutes a war crime.

North Korea's abduction plot has been identified in the official documents of North Korea and the US, and further supported from the testimonies, as well as statistics regarding the South Korean civilian abductees.

Despite an overwhelming amount of evidence, North Korea has never admitted responsibility, nor have they provided any information regarding either the fate or the whereabouts of the abductees.

*“.....We have to bring South Korean intellectuals in order to solve the shortage of intellectuals in North Korea.”*

*Source: North Korea's document titled 'Bring South Korean intellectuals' dated 31 July 1946 'Kimm Il-sung's Collected Works, Volume 4'*

*“.....More than 10,000 and probably 20,000 political prisoners held in jail, detention, or observation, disappeared from Seoul between September 17 and 28.*

*.....In both West Gate and Mapo prison cases prisoners hands tied, and several then tied together. ....but it believed most were forced march up road to north, although evidence indicates those physically unable proceed were shot in batched. ....”*

*(Source: US State Department document dated 13 October 1950, NARA)*

## KWAFU's History and Activities



Inaugural meeting of KWAFU, Aug. 1951, Saedul Orphanage

KWAFU was organized in November 2000 to continue in the spirit of its predecessor organization KWAFU. (Korean War Abductees' Family Association: KWAFU was formed in 1950 mostly by the mothers and wives of the abductees, and operated until 1960) KWAFU members are made up of surviving family members of the abductees and those who share the spirit by supporting KWAFU activities.

KWAFU works to obtain information on the fate and the whereabouts of the abductees. It speaks out for the protection of their basic human rights in North Korea and above all calls for their safe return to their families in South Korea. KWAFU is also dedicated to educating the present and future generations to remember and appreciate the abductees' sacrifice in the early stage of the nation-building of our country.

To achieve these goals, KWAFU remains involved in several activities. These include campaigns to demand information on the abductees, promoting legislation, walkathons along the abduction path, and recording video testimony by witnesses who observed their family members' abductions.

Thanks to the KWAFU family members' ardent support and hard work, on March 2010, the Congress of South Korea passed a special law on investigating abduction by North Korea during the Korean War and restoring honor of the victims. A National Committee was established by the law. It consists of the Prime Minister as the Chairman and 14 committee members including three KWAFU representatives. The construction of memorial museum for the abductees is also underway.

In 2005, KWAFU established KWARI (Korean War Abduction Research Institute) as a separate organization to conduct research. So far, it has published several research papers and testimonial books on the abductions during the Korean War and hosts forums and seminars.

Currently, KWAFU strives to develop cooperation with international organizations and NGOs, hoping that the support and collective efforts from the international community will strengthen its ability to resolve the abductees issue.

In March, 2013, KWARI hosted a seminar under the title of "Civilian Abductions during the Korean War as War Crimes; Who Can be Held Responsible?" at the United Nations at Geneva. KWARI submitted four petitions of the Korean War abductees to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the UN Human Rights Council in October 2012.

Moreover, in April 2006, the President of KWAFU, Mi-Il Lee appeared before the US Congress House Committee on International Relations, to give testimony about her father who was one of the abductees during the Korean War. In 2007, she also spoke at the National Press Club regarding the Recovery of human rights for Korean War abductees.

KWAFU representatives visited the U.S. as well to meet with the members of the House of Representatives in May 2011. Afterwards, Mr. Charles Rangle proposed a resolution (H.RES 376) on the Korean War civilian abduction by North Korea on July 27, 2011 and it was finally adopted on December 13, 2011.

KWAFU continues its efforts to seek a concerted international action to maintain pressure on North Korea until it finally admits and apologizes for the abductions and returns the abductees to their family members.

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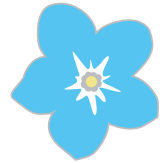
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# KWAFU



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## Korean War **Abductees'** Family Union

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