

North Korea Freedom Week 2009

Visiting Defector and VIP Delegation List

1. Leadership of North Korean Defector Based Groups
2. Special Witnesses
3. Key Staff for North Korean Defector Delegation
4. Musical Performers: Pyongyang Musical Mission Troupe
5. Special VIP Guests Visiting from South Korea for NKFw 2009
6. Special VIP Guests Visiting from Japan for NKFw 2009

1. Leadership of North Korean Defector Groups

KIM Seong Min - Founder and Director of Free North Korea Free Radio, the defector's broadcasting program providing news and information to North Korea, South Korea and China. Kim attended both elementary and high school in Pyongyang before serving in the North Korean Army. He escaped from North Korea to China in 1996 but was arrested and repatriated. While traveling from Onseong to Pyongyang to face execution for leaving the country without government permission, he jumped from a moving train to escape again to China. He worked as a laborer at a coal factory in Yenji, China, until his South Korean uncle helped him to escape to South Korea. He attended Yonsei University and Graduate School at Joong Ang University where he received a Master of Arts. After serving in leadership roles in the North Korean defector groups, he founded "Free North Korea Radio" which was available on the Internet beginning April 2004, and began broadcasting on shortwave in December 2005 with regular daily broadcasting beginning in April 2006. FNKR currently broadcasts 5 hours daily into North Korea, and was the recipient of the 2008 Reporters Without Borders Media Award for their courage and continuous efforts to deliver the truth of the outside world to North Korea. (Born 5/6/62 in Jangang Do, North Korea)

CHOI Zoo Hwal – Mr. Choi is a former elite who served as a Colonel in the North Korean army. He studied Russian at the Pyongyang Foreign Language College from 1975 to 1978, and was posted as a military attaché of the North Korean Embassy in the former Czechoslovakia, and for 11 years served as a senior officer of the Department for External Affairs of the Defense Ministry of North Korea. Mr. Choi escaped to South Korea in 1995. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Security & Strategy of Korea. Areas of expertise about DPRK: Central Committee of National Defense of North Korea-structure and role; most important key people in military leadership group; recent response of Kim Jong-il's top military HQ; current military development of NK Army including recent missile launch and nuclear matters; Kim Jong-il's luxurious and extravagant life and NK human rights issue. (Born 1/19/49 in North Hamkyong Province, North Korea)

Choi will be accompanied by two high ranking North Korean defectors with expertise in the following topics: Mr. A is a Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Security & Strategy of Korea. Areas of expertise: DPRK Central Committee of the Worker's Party (organizational structure and role); Kim Jong-il and Succession Issue; North Korea's foreign policy (US and other super powers); and North Korea Military Policy, including the structure of the Central Committee of National Defense of North Korea.

Mr. B is a Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Security & Strategy of Korea. His areas of expertise include the foreign policy structure and system of decision making; reality of the DPRK Foreign Ministry-structure and reporting system to Kim Jong-il, task force teams including nuclear and human rights, etc.; and the food and agricultural situation of the DPRK and international humanitarian assistance.

KIM Tae Jin [*Special Witness – Survivor of Yodok Political Prison Camp*] – Mr. Kim is the President of the Democracy Network against North Korean Gulag and the founding member of the Coalition for the Promotion of Democracy in North Korea. He escaped North Korea in 1985 and was arrested in China and subsequently repatriated back to North Korea, and imprisoned at the 15th Political Prisoners' Concentration Camp (Yodok Prison Concentration Camp) for 4 years. During his incarceration at Yodok prison he suffered severe and intense beatings, hard labor, and cruel and inhumane treatment; however, even in that dark place he found God and became a believer. After attempting another escape, he was able to enter South Korea in 2001. He gave his testimony in hearings in the U.S. Congress and in the Human Rights Committee of U.N. on North Korean Gulags and Religious Persecution.

PARK Sang Hak – Mr. Park, a long-time activist among the North Korean defectors in South Korea, currently serves as President of the Fighters for Free North Korea, which is organizing regular balloon launches into North Korea of pamphlets which describe true history about the Korean War and the true situation about human rights conditions. The launches have also include US \$1 bills which can feed a family of 4 in North Korea for a week. His most recent launch into North Korea has included North Korean currency. He has previously served as the Representative of the Democracy Network Against the North Korean Gulag and a Vice Chairman of the Exile Committee for North Korean Democracy. A member of the elites from Pyongyang, Park is a graduate of Kim Cheak Industrial University and worked at a Propaganda Unit in Pyongyang until 1999. His father was a North Korean spy in charge of collecting information about South Korea. While on a spy mission in Japan, Park's father sent a message to his family to defect when he realized the true conditions in South Korea. The family escaped to South Korea in March 2000. (Born 2/18/68 in North Korea)

KANG Su-Jin – Ms. Kang is the Founder and Representative of the Coalition for North Korean Women's Rights, the only organization focused specifically on increasing awareness of the horrors facing North Korean women in China, the role of women in democratizing North Korea, empowering and encouraging North Korean women who have resettled in South Korea, and building cooperation with other organizations. Ms. Kang was a member of the elites from Pyongyang and was the Manager of Supply from 1991-1998 of the Bonghwasan Hotel in Pyongyang, the biggest hotel in Pyongyang which catered to high ranking party and army officials and was used for special events. When food distribution stopped in Pyongyang in 1996, the regime announced that all hotels had to operate on their own and conditions became very difficult for the workers. Kang visited China and saw how much better off the people were and decided to defect to South Korea. (Born 10/23/66 in Pyongyang, North Korea)

Pastor KANG Chul Ho – Pastor Kang is the first North Korean defector to be ordained in the Korean Methodist denomination. He is Senior Pastor of Saetuh Church in Seoul Korea, which is affiliated with the Methodist Church, and their congregation is 100% North Korean defectors and has a range of ages that attend their service. Pastor Kang supports himself by working in a

noodle factory. His church has made it their mission to tear down the huge statue of Kim Il-Sung and plant their church at that site when North Korea is free. Kang was a member of the elite class and his grandfather was an educator. His grandfather believed that they were teaching wrong history in the North Korean schools, and so he criticized Kim Il Sung. As a result, the family was ostracized and cut off from their status as elites; Kang's father was very upset at how unfair this was and approached the National Security Bureau to petition them not to change their status. The NSB refused his request, so Kang's father threatened to burn down the NSB building. So, the NSB arrested and forced Kang and his mother to watch his father be publicly executed. His brother fortunately escaped seeing this. His mother committed suicide shortly after this and Kang fled to China. A Chinese missionary sheltered and took care of him and told him since God had saved him for a reason, he should serve God. When he made it to South Korea, he never forgot what she had said, so he decided to become a pastor.

KIM Young-II – Mr. Kim is the President and Founder of People for Successful Korean Reunification (P-SCORE), an organization founded in the fall of 2006, specifically to ensure the successful reunification of the Koreas would not adversely affect the South Korean economy. To that end, PSCORE, chiefly composed of young people, studies other reunification models, informs about the human rights conditions in North Korea, and prepares and educates young North Koreans to be ready to help lead a reunified Korea. Because Kim was not born into an elite family in North Korea, he was not allowed to attend university and was destined to become a coal miner after serving his mandatory military service. While in the military he witnessed many people, including soldiers, dying of starvation. His own uncle died of starvation and his cousins were left to wander the streets. His family made the decision to defect to China in August of 1996 instead of starving to death in North Korea. They survived there for five years bribing the police not to turn them in until they safely defected to South Korea in January 2001. Kim received a BA in Chinese from Hankook University of Foreign Studies in August 2006. (Born 4/10/78 in Hamheung, North Korea)

Pastor EOM Myong-Heui – Pastor Eom is the Assistant Pastor of the New Pyongyang Full Gospel Church a church for North Korean Defectors associated with Yoido Full Gospel Church (Seoul). Eom was a math and biology teacher in Moosan, North Korea, until she married and became a full-time housewife. She was known as a loyal party member and received a medal of honor in 1996 for her loyalty to the regime. During the famine she started a business selling specialty foods to support her family and worked with a Korean Chinese partner who was a businessman/Christian missionary associated with Yoido Church. She became a very successful businesswoman traveling around the country freely to buy and sell specialty foods. Discussing religion with her Christian business partner led her to become a Christian. When her partner was arrested and severely tortured he revealed to the DPRK authorities that Eom was a Christian, and she was soon arrested. She was tortured in a detention center in her hometown of Moosan and denied her faith. She could not understand why the authorities were so concerned about whether she was a Christian or not instead of her business activities. Because of her past loyalty to the regime, the authorities eventually released her. She decided to escape to China where she was arrested twice and told “if we arrest you again, we will kill you.” She eventually made it to South Korea after incredible trials and hardships traveling on her own through Burma and Thailand. She was held in a detention center in Thailand for 6 months where she started a Bible Study. She finally made it to South Korea in 2002. After two months in Hanawon, she went to Yoido Church and citing her conversion to Christianity by a Yoido

missionary, she presented herself there stating: “I am a member of your church.” Pastor Eom is currently studying English in northern Virginia, while helping with advocacy for North Korean human rights.

2. Special Witness List:

JUNG Gwangil [*Special Witness – Survivor of Yodok Political Prison Camp*] –

Mr. Jung is the Executive Director of the Democracy Network against North Korean Gulag. Because his grandfather was a Korean diaspora in Japan (North Koreans who went to Japan), he was imprisoned in Yodok Prison Camp on false charges of espionage from 2000 to 2003. He escaped North Korea and entered South Korea in 2004.

KIM Young Soon [*Special Witness – Survivor of Yodok Political Prison Camp*] –

Mrs. Kim is the Counsel for the Committee for the Democratization of North Korea and a Director of the Democracy Network against North Korean Gulag. She was arrested on trumped up charges of divulging a secret about Kim Jong-il’s marriage (having known about his wife, Sung Hae Rim), and was incarcerated at Yodok Prison Camp from 1970 to 1979 with her parents and four children. In the Yodok prison camp, her parents died of malnutrition, and eldest son was drowned. Her husband was shot to death in 1970 while attempting to cross the border to escape from North Korea. Mrs. Kim’s youngest son was arrested in 1988 while attempting to cross the border and was then put in prison for four years, and executed in 1993 by a firing squad because he tried escaping from North Korea again. Mrs. Kim escaped from North Korea in 2003 and resettled in South Korea. She has made it her life mission to expose the cruelty and truth about the prison camps in North Korea.

JUNG Eun Hye – [*Special Witness - Underground Church in North Korea*] -

Ms. Jung’s grandfather was arrested while attending a secret Christian worship service; Ms. Jung’s father and aunt were jailed in a North Korean gulag because they were Christians. Her grandmother was a pillar of faith who handed down her faith to her family. Because of the persecution her family faced as Christians, they were banished to an isolated mountain area and this turned out to be a blessing in disguise because after Kim Il Sung died and many North Koreans died from starvation, her family was able to avoid hunger as they were able to farm and raise some livestock. Ms. Jung credits this as God’s special deliverance for her family. She had kept her faith a secret and escaped North Korea in 2004 with the rest of her family with the help of a missionary, and entered South Korea that same year. She is currently a university student and now freely worships God in South Korea. The whereabouts of her father and aunt are currently unknown.

BANG Mi Sun – [*Special Witness - Human Trafficking of North Korean Refugees in China*] -

Mrs. Bang was an actress in the Musan Mining Propaganda Troupe. Her husband, who was a miner, starved to death during North Korea’s ‘Arduous Journey’ period of famine and in the summer of 2002 escaped North Korea with her son and daughter. In China Mrs. Bang was sold into sexual trafficking for 4,000 yuan (approximately \$585) to an older handicapped Chinese man. She was sold three times; the last husband she was forced to marry was 14 years younger than she was, and demanded that she bear him a child. When told that she had a contraceptive device implanted in her womb, the husband’s relatives forcibly removed the contraceptive without any anesthetics. After this she was arrested by the Chinese authorities and sent back to

North Korea, where she was sent to a labor camp and as a result of severe beatings endured there, she now walks with a permanent limp and is officially classified by the South Korean government as handicapped. Mrs. Bang was able to escape to South Korea in 2004, and is now determined to help the North Korean women refugees who are being exploited and sexually trafficked in China.

KIM Young Ae - *[Special Witness - Human Trafficking of North Korea Refugees in China]*
Mrs. Kim was a member of a family working for a military factory in Chagangdo Province in North Korea. Her husband died in an accident. Her family had been close to starvation even before the death of her husband, and decided to escape to China to make enough money to feed her son. The guide that led her into China was actually a human trafficker, and sold Mrs. Kim to a mentally unstable Chinese man for \$730. She bore him a daughter but lived under intense abuse, and when she lost her daughter to a drowning accident due to her husband's mother's neglect, she decided to run away. She was caught again by a human-trafficking ring and sold for \$1200; this second marriage was beset by more hardships and sickness, and she was sold for the third time to a handicapped Chinese man whose elderly parents were also handicapped. She was finally able to enter South Korea in Christmas Eve of 2007.

KO Meung Seob – *[Special Witness – Survivor of North Korean Abduction]*
Mr. Ko is a Representative of the Association of Returned Abductees. He was a former abductee, who had been detained in North Korea for 30 years. He was born in Kang-Reung, Kang-Won Province in South Korea. He served in the Republic of Korea military in Vietnam from 1965-1968. After the war and in South Korea, Mr. Ko worked as a casual laborer from 1969-1972. He was abducted by a North Korean patrol boat while engaging in coastal fishing in 1975. He escaped from North Korea and resettled in South Korea in 2005.

Steve Kim, *[Special Witness – American jailed in China for rescuing refugees]* A New York businessman, was arrested in China in 2003 for helping North Korea refugees fleeing persecution and starvation in North Korea. He was sentenced to five years in prison under Article 318. Before he was arrested he had rescued 100 refugees through a program he started in 2001 called Schindler's Mission. He was released one year early due to receiving sentence reduction points for doing forced labor in prison. He now leads 318 Partners Mission to continue his work and is the subject of both an upcoming book and documentary being produced by Hot Genre, Inc. about his experiences, the plight of the North Korean people and the refugees in China.

3. Key Staff for North Korean Defector Delegation:

HAN Young Jin – Mr. Han is the Executive Director of People for Successful Korean Reunification (P-SCORE). Mr. Han was a North Korean soldier and entered South Korea in 2003 and graduated from Yonsei University. After graduation, he worked for Daily NK and Free North Korea Radio.

BAK Chun Hwa – Ms. Baek is on the Staff for Free North Korea Radio. She worked for a local province propaganda team for the North Korea government. She escaped North Korea in 2006 and entered South Korea the same year. (Born 3/30/67 in Hamkyungbuk Do in North Korea)

LEE Sam – Mrs. Lee is the Director of Voice of Free Radio, which is affiliated with Free North Korea Radio. She fled North Korea in 1997, stayed in China for nearly 10 years, and made it to South Korea in 2006. She attended the Methodists' Theological University in South Korea. (Born 3/15/73 in Hamkyungbuk Do, North Korea)

JOO Sung-il – Mr. Joo is on the staff of Free North Korea Radio. He served in the North Korean military in charge of the Propaganda Broadcasting Forces near the DMZ. Because of his knowledge of the DMZ area, he was able to escape across the DMZ to South Korea. He wrote the book *Spring at DMZ*, documenting his life and the corruption in the DPRK military. In South Korea, he attended and graduated from Yonsei University in South Korea. (Born 1/5/81 in Pyongyang, North Korea)

OH Min Jae – Mr. Oh, a South Korean, is a staff of FNK Network. He was born in Seoul and graduated from Korea University. He majored in Biochemistry (B.A, M.A) and Economics (PhD). He finished his military service as a tactical operation officer in South Korea Air-Force and worked for Korea Science and Engineering Foundation for the South Korea government. Now he is working for FNK Network. (Born 2/21/67 in Seoul, Korea)

4. PYONGYANG MUSICAL MISSIONS TROUPE:

Mah, Young Ae (Leader, Musician) After North Korean authorities discovered her involvement with the underground Chinese church, Ma and her son, Hyo Sung, were arrested and interrogated by North Korea police in 1998. She decided that she could no longer live in Pyongyang and in February of 1999, she defected to China. She lived in hiding until December 6, 1999 until her status was revealed by another North Korean refugee. She was then arrested and interrogated by the Shin Hwa Ga Police. The interrogation was so severe that her collar bone was broken, her skull cracked and her neck was so severely misaligned, she is still undergoing treatment. She was rescued 30 minutes before being repatriated back to North Korea. Currently, she is a representative for North Korean refugees in the US and the leader of the Pyongyang Musical Group.

Byun, Sang Ho (Singer, Sound Choreographer, and Director) In 1999, Byun was captured by North Korean authorities and severely interrogated. He was able to escape his interrogators and defect to China. After living in hiding for some time, he crossed over three countries (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand) and endured unbearable hardship for almost four months. Finally in August 2000, he was accepted as a refugee in South Korea. His father is a Korean War POW and is still alive and suffering in a North Korean prison. Currently, he is living in the US and is the executive director of the North Korean Refugee Mission Church.

Lee, Young Hee (Dancer) Lee defected in 1999 from North Hamkyung Province and lived as a refugee in China. She was arrested twice and because of this, endured extreme hardship. In December 1999, she escaped her captors and on May 19, 2002, she made it to South Korea. She is currently actively involved with the Pyongyang Musical Group.

Kim, Chul (Singer) defected to China in July of 2001 and was arrested twice during his time in China. He also broke a section of his vertebrae and ankle while trying to escape. He was accepted in South Korea in July of 2004. He is currently actively involved with the Pyongyang Musical Group and also works as a missionary.

Kim, Tae Rim (Choreographer, Dancer) Kim is the daughter of a South Korean abductee (her father was a South Korean fisherman who was kidnapped while fishing in the Yellow Sea in 1968). She fled to China in 1998 and was accepted by South Korea in October of 2000. She is currently the dance choreographer for the Pyongyang Musical Group.

Shim, Mi Sook (Singer) After defecting in 1999, Shim lived in hiding until July 2000, when she was accepted to South Korea. However in 2003, when she went to visit a relative in China, she was arrested and interrogated. She was not released until a \$30,000 bail was posted. She is currently actively involved with the Pyongyang Musical Group.

Kim, Yeon Hwa (Dancer) Ms. Kim escaped to China from North Korea with her mother and lived in hiding before entering South Korea at the age of 15. After attending middle school, high school, and the Seoul Institute of the Arts, she became a full time member of the Pyongyang Musical Troupe.

Kim, Eun Ju (Dancer) Ms. Kim escaped to China from Kilju, North Hamkyong Province, North Korea, at an early age, and entered South Korea in 2004; she currently resides in Los Angeles.

Kim, Myong Hee (Dancer) After escaping North Korea, Ms. Kim was sexually trafficked in China, bore a child, and was able to escape to South Korea in 2004. She is currently a full time member of the Pyongyang Musical Troupe. Her 6-year old child is still in China.

Choi, Hyo Sung (Production Team) Hyo Sung is the son of Mah Young Ae; his father was executed in 2004, and in the course of escaping from North Korea and hiding out in China, was caught and sold for \$7,500. Eventually Hyo Sung was able to enter South Korea and be reunited with his mother in 2003. He is a student and currently resides in Los Angeles.

5. Special VIP Guests Visiting from South Korea for NKFW 2009

Ambassador Jhe Seong Ho: Ambassador Jhe was appointed as the Ambassador at Large for Human Rights for the Republic of Korea on August 1, 2008, after many years of work promoting North Korean human rights issues. He has written extensively and spoken at many conferences about the human rights conditions in North Korea including the situation facing defectors, the Korean POWs, and the Abductees. From 1991-2000 he worked for the Korea Institute of National Unification and from 2000 until the present was a professor at the Chung-Ang University School of Law.

Dr. Hyun Uk Kim, PhD is a former Assemblyman of the Korean National Assembly. With a doctorate from the University of Vienna in Austria, Dr. Kim has taught at Dankuk University in Seoul Korea and at Southern Oregon State College in Oregon. He has served as Chairman on various National Assembly committees including the Unification and Foreign Affairs Committee, and Dr. Kim most recently chaired the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security for the Presidential Transition Committee. He is now an Advisor to the Grand National Party and the President of the International Forum for Foreign Policy and National Security.

Keung Shik Park is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, a position he has held since 1999, and was also the Treasurer of AASA (Association of Academies of Science in Asia) from 2000 to 2005. He served as the Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) from 1987 to 1988.

Hyon Ung Shin served in the Minister of Culture and Tourism from 1998 to 1999, and was also the Executive Chairman of the Presidential Committee for New Millennium from 1999 to 2001. Currently, he has been a Visiting Professor at Yonsei University since 2003.

Dr. Yoo Hyuk Kim holds a doctorate degree in Urban Planning from Waseda University, and has received Honorary PhDs in Philosophy and Economics from The Chinese Academy of Science and National University of Commerce in Mongolia, respectively. Dr. Kim was also the President of the International Toegyehak Society, Korea Chontae Buddhists' Association, and the Korea National New Town Movement Federation. He is currently an Honorary Professor at Dankuk University in Seoul, South Korea.

Dr. Taewoo Kim, received his PhD in Political Science from the State University of New York, and worked as a Policy Research Fellow in the National Assembly of Korea, and also as a Senior Research Fellow at the Sejong Institute. Dr. Kim is the author of over 800 articles on nuclear and security issues and has appeared as a TV commentator and newspaper columnist covering those issues. Dr. Kim is currently a member of the Presidential Advisory on Professors for Diplomacy Security, Vice President and Policy Advisor of the Korea Veterans' Association, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analysis.

6. Special VIP Guests Visiting from Japan for NKFV 2009

Hon. Takeo Hiranuma, Member of the House of Representatives (Independent), was born in Tokyo in 1939. Mr. Hiranuma has run undefeated since 1980 under the platform of: Respect humanity and create a harmonized society; Defend liberty and establish a peaceful and prosperous society; and, Work as a politician with a true vision. Mr. Hiranuma has held various positions and titles during his longtime distinguished career. From 2000 to 2003, he served as the Minister of International Trade and Industry.

Hon. Keiji Furuya, Member of the House of Representatives (LDP), was elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1990. Mr. Furuya has a background in Economics, and worked in the insurance field before going into politics in 1984, when he was appointed Secretary for the Minister of Home Affairs during Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's second administration. In 2005 he was elected for the sixth time, and currently serves as Chairman of the Public Relations Headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Hon. Ichiro Tsukada, Member of the House of Councillors (LDP) since August of 2007, represents the constituency of Niigata Prefecture. He served as a Branch Manager of the LDP in Niigata from 2002 to June of 2007. His background is in banking, having worked for Sakura Banking Corp. (now Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.) for 10 years before getting involved with politics in 2000 as a secretary to the current Prime Minister of Japan, Taro Aso.

Hon. Masahisa Sato, Member of the House of Councillors (LDP), has been a Member of the House of Councillors since 2007 after a distinguished career in the Japan Self Defense Forces. He currently serves on four different committee assignments. Mr. Sato graduated from the National Defense Academy of Japan with a degree in Applied Physics, and served in the Golan Heights and Iraq in support of SDF operations for the U.N.

Hon. Jin Matsubara, Member of the House of Representatives (Democratic Party of Japan), represents the constituency of Tokyo and was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2000. He is the Secretary-Vice General of the Abduction Issue Strategy Headquarters for the Democratic Party of Japan, the Director of Special Committee on Disasters of the Japanese Parliament, and a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Hon. Shinkun Haku, Member of the House of Councillors (DPJ), was elected for the first time in 2004 to the House of Councillors. Born to a Korean father and a Japanese mother, Mr. Haku is the Secretary of the Headquarters for the North Korean Abduction Issue of his party, and is also the Director of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense, as well as a Member of the Special Committee on North Korean Abduction Issue and Related Matters.

Teruaki Masumoto is the Secretary General of the Association of the Families of Victims Kidnapped by North Korea (AFVKN). His own sister, Rumiko, was one of the citizens Kim Jong-il's regime admitted kidnapping. Masumoto has worked with the Japanese Rescue Movement to continue to raise awareness of the abduction issue and has been able to prove the international scope of the issue: collecting evidence and interviewing family members of other abductees to find that in addition to hundreds of Japanese citizens being abducted under Kim Jong-il's order, there are at least 12 countries whose citizens were abducted.

Professor Yoichi Shimada is a Professor of International Politics at Fukui Prefectural University and Vice Chairman of the National Association for the Rescue of Japanese Kidnapped by North Korea (NARKN). A graduate of Kyoto University, he testified before the House International Relations Committee on the abduction issue in April 2006. He was raised in Osaka Prefecture, Japan.