The Online Symposium in the UN on the Abductions Issue

The abductions issue is a serious concern for the international community. The governments of Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the US and the EU will co-host an online symposium on the issue, as a side event of the UN, with participation of the members of the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York.

At this online symposium, we will have an opportunity to directly listen to the voices of families of the victims from Japan and another country. We have also invited Former-President of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the UN, Former- Ambassador for North Korean Human Rights, the Government of the Republic of Korea and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom to the Republic of Korea to discuss the current situation in North Korea and the ways to resolve the abductions issue.

International cooperation to resolve the abductions issue as a global issue

June 29, 2023 8:00am-9:45am EST (21:00-22:45 JST)

(1) Opening Remarks
ISHIKANE Kimihiro
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN

(2) Keynote Remarks
MATSUNO Hirokazu
Chief Cabinet Secretary and Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue of Japan

(3) Remarks by the Representatives of co-hosts
Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN
Mitsuji Fufioka
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN
Joongkook Hwang
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN
Olof Skaug
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the UN

(4) Remarks by a member of the House of Representatives of Japan
FURUYA Keiji
Chairman of the Committee of Congressional Members to Act for the Early Rescue of Japanese Victims Abducted by North Korea

(5) Appeal by the Families of Victims
YOKOTA Takuya
Representative of the Association of Families of Japanese Kidnapped by North Korea
IZUKA Katsuhiko
Secretary-General of the Association of Families of Japanese Kidnapped North Korea
KITAKOSHI Yuko
Member of the Family Association of the Missing Persons Probably Related to the DPRK
Banjong Panchoi
Nephew of Ms. Anach Panchoi

(6) Panel Discussion
Moderator NISHINO Junya
Professor, Keio University
Panelists
Michael Kirby AC CMG
Former-President of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK, the UN
Jung Hoon Lee
Former-Ambassador for North Korean Human Rights, the Government of the Republic of Korea
Colin James Crooks LVO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom to the Republic of Korea

(7) Closing Remarks
ISHIKANE Kimihiro
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN

Please watch the live broadcast of the symposium on UN Web TV (in English) and the official YouTube Channel of the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, the Government of Japan (in Japanese and Thai)