

KOREAN MEDIA REPORTS ON OUR FIGHT AGAINST DEPROGRAMMING IN JAPAN

Japanese members in Korea who have experienced kidnapping and forced confinement (deprogramming) are mobilizing to apply pressure on the Japanese government. The *Countermeasures Committee for Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members* was created and organized demonstrations in front of the Japanese embassy in Korea. This drew the attention of a large number of media outlets, represented by their logos below. Beneath the logos are some of the Korean reports translated into English.



1. Yonhap News Report

Japanese Government Urged to Set Up Measures to Counter Abduction and Confinement of Unification Church Members

Editor Yeon Jeong Kim [yjkim84@yna.co.kr]

March 23, 2010

"日정부, 통일교인 납치·감금 대책 세워라"

연말뉴스 기사입력 2010-03-23 15:24

(서울=연합뉴스) 김연정 기자 = '일본 통일교인 납치 감금으로 인한 한국 인권피해자 대책위원회'는 23일 오후 서울 종로구 주한 일본대사관 앞에서 기자회견을 열어 "일본 정부는 종교적 차별이나 편견에 근거한 통일교인 납치 감금이 일어나지 않도록 대책을 마련하라"고 촉구했다.

대책위는 "헌법에 종교적 자유가 보장된 일본에서 신앙이 다르다는 이유로 통일교 신자를 납치, 감금하는 사태가 발생하고 있다"며 "1966년에 첫 납치사건이 발생한 이후 4천300여명이 피해를 본 것으로 집계됐다"고 주장했다.

이어 "한국인 남편과 결혼한 일본인 여성들이 납치, 감금 공포로 일본에 가지 못하고 있다"며 "납치 사건 발생시 경찰이 단순히 가족간, 종교간 문제로 여겨 그냥 지나칠 것이 아니라 즉시 개입해 신변을 보호해야 한다"고 말했다.

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The Countermeasures Committee for Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members held a press conference in front of the Japanese Embassy, located in Chong-ro Borough, Seoul, on the afternoon on March 23. They urged the Japanese government to "set up countermeasures to prevent abduction and confinement happening to Unification Church members as a result of religious discrimination or prejudice."

The committee claimed, "In Japan, where religious freedom is protected by the Constitution, incidents of Unification Church members being abducted and confined are happening, only because

we have a different faith.” They added, “Since 1966, when the first abduction occurred, more than 4,300 Unification Church members in Japan have been victims of kidnapping and confinement.”

They also explained, “Japanese women who are married to Korean men feel unable to visit Japan out of fear of being abducted and confined,” and concluded, “When abduction and confinement occurs, the police must not ignore this as a simple issue between family members or religions, but immediately intervene and secure the person’s safety.”

2. Newsis Report (with Associated Press photos)

Organization of Japanese Women Followers of the Unification Church Discloses Abduction and Confinement of Church Members

Online news team [news@newsis.com]

March 19, 2010 . .



There was a stir caused by a claim that Japanese women believers cannot visit their homeland of Japan out of fear that they may be abducted or confined.

According to the claims made by Japanese women followers of the Unification Church residing in Korea, “The kidnapping and confinement of Unificationists and spouses alike has been led by certain Japanese Christian ministers, business-oriented lawyers and left-wing ‘deprogrammers,’ who are using force due to their having different beliefs. This is happening in Japan, a nation that is a major economic power and where religious freedom is protected by the constitution.”

More than 4,300 Japanese Unification Church followers have been abducted and confined since 1966, according to their survey.



One example is Toru Goto. He is 182cm tall, but during his abduction and detention of 12 years and 5 months, his weight declined to 39kg—the weight of an elementary school student—at the time he regained his freedom in 2008.

“My experience of incarceration, during which I was physically beaten up, cursed on a daily basis and unable to do anything, was truly a living hell,” says Goto. With Goto’s incident as a trigger, the Unification Church has begun to make claims on human rights issues related to the kidnapping and imprisonment of its believers.

There are so many victims of the abductions. Examples include the following:

- A 27-year-old Japanese woman married to a Korean was kidnapped and confined while on a visit to her home in Japan—eventually the circumstances led her to take her own life;
- A pregnant woman still in fear and feeling the aftereffects 10 years since being threatened with the words: “We will help you have an abortion if you give up your faith in the Unification Church;”
- A believer who lost her memory after jumping from a 6-storey apartment building to escape from captivity;
- A parent who eventually committed suicide after finding out that his daughter had been raped by a “deprogrammer” he hired to persuade her to give up her faith.



The majority of the abduction victims suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder (a state of mental confusion occurring after an experience of great fear).

There are estimated to be more than 7,000 Japanese women members of the Unification Church who are living in Korea with Korean husbands. Among them, 300 have the experience of escaping from being kidnapped and confined. Some 200 among them are still unable to visit their parents' homes in Japan for fear they will be abducted and incarcerated again.

According to the information gathered by the Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion of Japanese Unification Church Members¹, the reason these people cannot visit their homes in Japan is that “the police had no interest in listening to them when they reported to the Japanese police about their abduction and even when these women notified the police after their escape, still the police did not respond, claiming that it was a family matter.”

More than fifty women representatives of the Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion of Japanese Unification Church Members—the group of Japanese women believers in the Unification Church who cannot visit Japan for fear of abduction—will be handing a petition to the Japanese embassy in Japanese traditional national costume, at 2 pm on March 23, asking for their desperate situation to be resolved.

¹ Note: This is likely a different translation of *Countermeasures Committee for Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members*, and thus likely denotes the same organization.

3. Kyeong Hyang Newspaper Report

Urging the Japanese Government To Set Countermeasures For Abductions of Unification Church Members

Kyeong Hyang.com Editor Bong Seok Sohn [paulsohn@khan.co.kr]

“日정부, 통일교 교인 납치에 대책을 세워달라”
경향닷컴 손봉석 기자 paulsohn@khan.co.kr

“일본에서 통일교 신도를 납치해 강제로 개종하는 일이 40년 이상 발생하고 있습니다.”
“저희가 일본에서 신앙 때문에 당하는 박해 실정을 아시고 인권을 보호해 주십시오.”

일본인 통일교 신도들이 일본 내 기성교단에서 신도를 납치하고 강제로 개종을 시도하고 있다고 주장했다.

통일교 신도들은 23일 오후 서울 중학동 일본대사관 앞에서 ‘일본통일교인 납치감금 인권 피해자 대책 단원서 제출 및 기자회견’을 통해 피해 사례를 밝히고 일본 정부에 대책을 호소했다.



“There are incidents of Unification Church members being kidnapped and forcefully converted in Japan, which has been ongoing for more than 40 years.”

“Please be aware of the reality of the persecution we have been receiving in Japan because of our faith, and please protect our human rights.”

통일교 측은 “종교적 자유가 헌법에 보장된 일본에서 통일교인 납치감금 사건이 자행되고 있다”며 “일본 정부는 종교적 차별이나 편견에 근거한 통일교인 납치 감금이 일어나지 않도록 대책을 마련하라”고 촉구했다.

이들은 또 “신앙이 다르다는 이유로 일본의 일부 개신교 목사와 상업적 성향의 변호사, 좌익 성향인사들이 강제로 개종작업을 벌이고 있다”며 납치감금 문제 해결을 요청하는 탄원서를 일본대사관에 제출했다.



④ 인터넷에서 내 주민번호가 도용 당해?

이들은 “1966년에 첫 납치사건이 발생한 이후 4300여명이 피해를 본 것으로 집계됐다”고 주장한 후 “한국인 남편과 결혼한 일본인 여성들이 납치, 감금 공포로 일본에 가지 못하고 있다”고 호소했다.

이들 신도들은 “납치 사건 발생시 경찰이 단순히 가족간, 종교간 문제로 여기는 경향이 있다”며 “공권력이 즉시 개입해 신변을 보호해야 한다”고 말했다.

이들은 기자회견을 마친 후 일본대사관에 1만여명의 서명이 담긴 탄원서를 제출했다.

Japanese Unification Church members claim that Christian churches in Japan have been kidnapping their followers and have forcefully been converting them.

The followers of the Unification Church appealed for countermeasures, revealing cases of damages suffered in a press conference and submission of a letter of petition by the Countermeasures Committee for Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and

Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members, which was held in front of the Japanese Embassy in Chong-ro Borough, Seoul, on the afternoon of March 23.

The Unification Church stressed, “abduction and confinement has been occurring in Japan where religious freedom has been protected by the constitution,” and added “the Japanese government must apply countermeasures to prevent abduction and confinement happening to Unification Church members as a result of religious discrimination or prejudice.”

They stated, “because our faith is different, some Christian ministers, business-oriented lawyers and left-wing ‘deprogrammers’ are committing acts of conversion by force.” They presented the letter of petition asking [the Japanese government] to resolve the issue of abduction and confinement.

They claimed, “Since the first outbreak of abductions, more than 4,300 members have become victims of kidnapping” and added, “Japanese women married to Korean husbands are unable to visit Japan out of fear of being kidnapped and detained.”

These Unification Church followers revealed, “When abduction occurs, the police tend to treat the matter as a simple problem between family members or religions,” and told us, “Public authorities must immediately intervene when incidents happen and secure the persons’ safety.”

These representatives presented a letter of petition with signatures of more than 10,000 people to the Japanese Embassy after the press conference.

4. Segye Ilbo Report

“Unable to even visit one’s home country out of fear of abduction and confinement...”

Editor Jae Won Lee, Editor Tae Young Lee [wooahan@segye.com]

March 23, 2010

Ms. Sayuri Hara (Age 43,) has been unable to visit her home country even once since she came to Korea in August 1993. Since joining the Unification Church in 1989 while she was at university, family and friends have continuously opposed her joining the church; moreover she was kidnapped and locked up twice by them for the purpose of converting her forcefully. She was cut off from the outside world for more than 7 months, suffering harassment and battery. She eventually submitted a ‘letter of withdrawal’ to the church and was released from confinement. After two month, she came to Korea. Sixteen years have passed since then. She told us, “Christian ministers and my parents, who oppose the church, confined me for 242 days and forcefully tried to convert me,” and added, “If I ever go back to Japan, I am afraid I will be kidnapped and imprisoned, which is why I’m unable to visit.”



◇23일 오후 서울 종로구 일본대사관 앞에서 일본 통일교인 납치·감금으로 인한 한국 인권피해자 대책위원회 회원들이 일본 정부의 대책 마련을 촉구하는 기자회견을 가진 뒤 대사관에 널 탄원서를 보이고 있다. 이태영 기자

“납치·감금 공포로 조국에도 못가...”

日통일교 피해 대책위, 日정부에 대책 호소

4300여명 고통... “종교떠나 인권탄압 문제”

하라 사유리(43·여)씨는 1993년 8월 한국에 들어온 이후 단 한번도 고국에 돌아가지 못했다. 대학 시절이던 1989년 통일교에 입교한 뒤 가족과 주변 사람들의 반대가 끊이지 않다가 급기야는 개종을 강요하기 위해 그녀를 두 차례나 납치·감금했기 때문이다. 7개월이 넘는 기간 동안 외부와 차단된 채 회유와 구타 등에 시달리던 그녀는 결국 ‘탈회서’를 제출한 뒤 감금에서 벗어났고 그로부터 두 달 만에 한국에 온 뒤 어느덧 16년이 흘렀다. 사유리씨는 “통일교에 반대하는 기독교 목사와 부모가 242일 동안 가뉘놓고 개종을 강요했다”며 “일본에 돌아가면 또다시 납치·감금이 일어날까 두려워 고국에 갈 수가 없다”고 말했다.

‘일본 통일교인 납치·감금으로 인한 한국 인권피해자 대책위원회’는 23일 ‘납치·감금에 대한 두려움으로 인해 일본에 가지 못하는 것은 비단 사유리씨뿐만이 아니다’며 일본 내에서 벌어지는 통일교도들에 대한 납치·감금 문제의 해결을 촉구하고 나섰다.

대책위 소속 일본인 여성 50여명은 이날 오후 서울 종로구 일본대사관 앞에서 기자회견을 열고 “한국에 살고 있는 일본인 부인 중 300명가량이 실제로 납치·감금됐다 풀려난 여성들”이라며 “조국이 그리워도 두려움 때문에 갈 수 없는 이들을 위해 일본이 국가적 차원에서 적극적으로 대응해달라”고 요구했다.

일본에서 통일교도에 대한 납치·감금

피해는 1966년 첫번째 피해자가 발생한 이래 지금까지 4300여명에 달하며 납치·감금에서 풀려난 사람들은 대부분 의상후 스트레스 장애(PTSD)에 시달린다고 대책위는 설명했다. 대책위는 특히 12년 5개월 동안 납치·감금된 고도 도우루씨의 사례를 소개하면서 182cm의 장신인 그가 2008년 탈출 당시 체중이 초등학교 수준인 39kg으로 줄어들 만큼 감금 피해자들이 겪는 고통이 심각하다고 전했다.

에리카와 야스에 위원장은 “납치·감금 문제가 발생해도 일본 경찰은 ‘가족 간의 문제’라며 사건으로 취급해주지 않는다”며 “이는 단순히 가족 간의 문제도, 종교 간의 문제도 아닌 헌법에 보장된 개인의 인권을 탄압하는 문제”라고 지적했다. 이들은 이날 납치·감금 실태 조사와 피해자 보호 등 국가적 대응을 촉구하는 탄원서와 국내에서 받은 1만1857명의 지지 서명을 일본대사관에 제출했다.

이태영 기자 woohan@segye.com

On the afternoon of the 23rd, members of the Countermeasures Committee Victims Human Rights According to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members’ held a press conference in front of the Japanese embassy located in Chong ro, Seoul, asking for the Japanese government to tackle the problem, and showing the petition to be handed to the embassy afterward.

The ‘Committee of Countermeasures on Korean Human Rights Victims According to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members’ stated on the 23rd, “there are

people other than Ms. Sayuri who are unable to visit Japan in fear of being kidnapped and detained” and urged for the issue of the Unification Church members’ abduction and confinement to be solved.

Over 50 women belonging to the Countermeasure Committee held a press conference in the afternoon in front of the Japanese Embassy in Chong-ro Borough, Seoul. A representative stated, “About 300 Japanese women who are living in Korea have actually been kidnapped, imprisoned and have escaped,” and demanded, “For these women who cannot go back to Japan even though they miss their country, Japan should take steps to rectify this on the national level.”

Unification Church members who have been victims of abduction and confinement total over 4,300 since the first incident in 1966, and those who have been released after their kidnapping and detention suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), explained the committee. They also added that as seen in the case of Mr. Toru Goto—a 182 cm-tall man who was locked up for 12 years and 5 months and who weighed only 39 kg at the time he regained his freedom in 2008—the torment of victims of confinement is severe.

Chairwoman of the Countermeasure Committee Yasue Erikawa told us, “Even when abduction and confinement occurs, the Japanese police do not treat this as a case to investigate, saying it is a “problem between family members.” She pointed out, “this is neither simply a matter between family members nor one between religions. It is an issue that involves the oppression of human rights, which are protected by the Constitution.” Representatives of the committee handed a petition asking for national-level countermeasures to protect the victims and for investigations into the reality of abduction and confinement; 1,857 supporters in Korea signed this.

5. News Cheonji Report (1)

Unification Church Believers Unable to Visit Their Own Homes for ‘Fear of Being Kidnapped’

Editor Gil Sang Lee [bohwa@newscj.com]

March 17, 2010

Japanese Christian ministers, business-oriented lawyers and leftist “deprogrammers” who force people to recant their faith take the lead in abduction and confinement.

Recently the Unification Church revealed that it would take serious measures in relation to incidents of its followers being kidnapped and confined in Japan.

According to the Unification Church policy of tackling this issue strongly, 50 representative women of the Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion of Japanese Unification Church Members (“human rights committee”)—a group of Japanese women

believers in the Unification Church who cannot visit Japan for fear of being abducted—will be holding a press conference in front of the Japanese embassy at 2 pm on March 23rd in traditional national costume. They will inform the public of the desperate situation of their being unable to visit Japan for fear of being abducted and confined, and will exhibit related photos related to the kidnappings and confinements. They also plan to present a letter of appeal to the Japanese embassy, asking their government to solve the abduction issue. These Japanese women representatives of the human rights committee are followers of the Unification Church with Korean husbands.

‘납치감금 공포’로 집에도 못가는 통일교인

2010년 03월 17일 (수) 10:04:40 미길상 기자 bohwa@newsdj.com

일본의 일부 개신교 목사와 사업적 성향의 변호사, 좌익 강제 개종자들이 납치감금 주도



▲ 납치감금된 통일교신자가 '도와 달라'는 메모를 통해 구조를 요청하고 있다.(사진제공: 통일교)

[뉴스천지=미길상 기자] 최근 통일교는 일본 내에서 벌어지고 있는 통일교인 납치감금 사건에 대해 강력 대처를 하겠다고 밝혔다.

이번 통일교 측의 강력 대응 방침에 따라 '일본 통일교인 납치감금으로 인한 한국 인권피해자 대책위원회(이하 인권대책위)' 대표 50여 명은 오는 23일 오후 2시에 일본대사관 앞에서 일본 전통의상인 '기모노'를 입고 납치감금에 대한 공포로 일본을 가지 못하는 절박한 상황을 알리는 기자회견과 납치감금 관련 사진 등을 전시할 계획이다. 또한 납치감금 문제 해결을 요청하는 탄원서를 일본대사관에 제출할 계획도 세워놓고 있다. 인권대책위 대표들은 일본인 여성들로 한국인과 결혼한 통일교 신자들이다.

▲ An abducted follower of the Unification Church pleads for rescue with a sign that reads “Please help me” (Photograph provided by the Unification Church)

The Unification Church revealed that “Abduction and imprisonment of our believers has been occurring in Japan, a country where religious freedom is guaranteed by the constitution,” and that “These abductions have been conducted by certain Japanese Christian ministers, business oriented lawyers and ‘deprogrammers’ of left wing persuasion.”

The Unification Church says the number of victims of abduction and confinement in Japan has reached 4300 since the problem began in 1966.

He is one of the Japanese victims of kidnapping and confinement. He experienced a living hell in a prison-like room for 12 years and 5 months, during which time he was beaten up and cursed on a daily basis. As a result, Goto, a man of 182 cm, weighed just 39 kg at the time he regained his freedom. The Unification Church claims that it was due to the Goto case that it began to challenge human rights issues in relation to abduction and confinement. The church also revealed that “There are many victims other than Mr. Goto, and the majority of these people suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (a state of mental confusion occurring after an experience of great fear) or other problems such as depression.” They told us: “These immoral, criminal acts have left us with wounds that cannot be cured.”

There are estimated to be more than 7,000 Japanese women members of the Unification Church who are living in Korea with Korean husbands. Among them, 300 have the experience of escaping from having been kidnapped and confined. Some 200 among them are still unable to visit their parents’ homes in Japan for fear they will be abducted and incarcerated again.

According to results confirmed by the human rights committee, the reason these women cannot return to Japan is that the Japanese police showed no interest even when their abduction was reported, and did not respond when they notified the police after their escape, saying that it was a family matter.

The human rights committee will therefore present their petition to the Japanese ambassador, asking for active countermeasures.

According to the Unification Church, they have been bringing up the issue of abduction and confinement in Japan in more than 120 nations all over the world, and in the United States, Pastor Walter Fauntroy (former member of the House of Representatives in Washington) is taking the lead in activities seeking to resolve these human rights issues in Japan.

The Unification Church emphasizes “The abduction and confinement taking place in Japan is not a simple matter between family members, but is the suppression of human rights that are protected by the constitution.”

6. News Cheonji Report (2)

A Petition on the Abduction and Confinement of Unification Church Members is Submitted to the Japanese Embassy

Editor Gil Sang Lee [bohwa@newscj.com]

March 24, 2010 (Wed)

The Unification Church has submitted a petition to the Japanese embassy asking for a swift end to abductions and confinement, and held a press conference to appeal to the public regarding the reality of the problem.

On March 23, fifty representatives of the Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion of Japanese Unification Church Members brought their petition to the Japanese embassy in relation to their desperate situation of being unable to visit their parents' homes in Japan.

Members of this countermeasures committee arrived in front of the Japanese embassy in a chartered bus. Holding pickets and banners, they immediately began petitioning about their painful situation of having been abducted and confined. The representatives acted in a calm and orderly manner from beginning to end, yet their facial expressions did not hide their tragic feelings.

After concluding the press conference, Mrs. Erikawa, who is the chairwoman of the committee, and Mrs. Tanaka who is the representative of the Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion residing in Korea ("assembly of victims") presented the petition to the Japanese embassy.

Shikako Tanaka, representing the assembly of victims and 323 others, stated that, "We have written this petition in order to inform the public of the reality of ongoing harm and persecution we have been experiencing in Japan because of our faith, and to ask for the protection of our human rights." They asked for deep understanding and support.

Mrs. Yasue Erikawa, chairwoman of the countermeasures committee, explained: "Simply put, abduction and confinement is carried out by our opponents—including Christian ministers, lawyers and relatives of our members—in the name of 'child protection' and 'dialogue.' They kidnap our fellow believers by force and hold them hostage until they express their will to leave the Unification Church."

She also claimed that "Among 7,000 Japanese women believers living in Korea and married to Koreans, 300 have had the experience of being kidnapped and confined, and an even greater number of these Japanese women are unable to return to their homeland for fear of being abducted."

According to the facts confirmed by the countermeasures committee, the reason these women cannot visit Japan is because the Japanese police have expressed no concern over their abduction and confinement. Even when they reported to the police regarding the harm done, they were not treated

properly. The countermeasures committee appealed to the Japanese authorities, asking for serious steps to be taken so that these Japanese women could travel safely back to Japan. The contents of the petition are as follows:

- Protection of Unification Church members' human rights in order to prevent abduction based on religious discrimination or prejudice
- Police protection and intervention when abduction and confinement occurs
- Revealing the names of those who have been kidnapped and confined, and, under the authority of the police, publicly protecting their right to choose their own religion
- Confirming the unlawfulness of those who have been conducting the abductions and confinements, questioning whether they are being legally and ethically responsible, and demanding that they compensate their victims.

The kidnapping and imprisonment of Japanese Unification Church members first began in 1966, and there have been more than 4,300 victims, the committee of countermeasures reported.

One victim of abduction and confinement, Mr. Toru Goto, regained his freedom after being held hostage for 12 years and 5 months. Although he is 182 cm tall, he only weighed 39kg at the time he regained his freedom—the weight of a 5th grade elementary school student. Mr. Goto was kidnapped by his relatives and imprisoned in apartments in Nigata and Tokyo. He was subjected to coercion to withdraw from the Unification Church.

Due to the abduction and incarceration, Mr. Goto lost the prime years of his life. He was confined from when he was 31 to when he was 44. Moreover, he was humiliated and abused, and physically beaten up by his own relatives. He was in such inward agony that he wished that he could have died, says the committee.

The Unification Church revealed that it was Mr. Goto's case that triggered the public raising of questions on human rights issues.

Keiko Terashima (not her real name; a 45-year-old woman residing in Seoul), a victim of kidnapping and confinement, is a member of the Unification Church married to a Korean; they have four children. Mrs. Terashima was abducted twice in Japan. "Even though I want to visit my parents' home, I am unable to out of fear of being kidnapped," she says. She continued: "I truly wish the Japanese authorities would tackle the root problem of abduction and confinement." She also told us that she once got as far as the airport in Japan, only to come straight back to Korea, unable to continue on to her home in Japan for fear of being abducted.

Sayuri Hara (a 43-year old woman residing in Daejeon), held hostage for a total of 242 days on two occasions, told us, "Japanese pastors and 'deprogrammers' who oppose the Unification Church are carrying out abductions and confinement systematically, with places of imprisonment set up and

prepared.” She made the appeal that “If Japan is a constitutional state, I hope it will act like one and rigorously punish the perpetrators of this illegal conduct.”

Mrs. Hara revealed that even 17 years after her last abduction, still she is unable to forgive the church pastors and “deprogrammers” who kidnapped her, and left her with so much pain in her heart. She has 3 children with her Korean husband and hopes that one day she will be able to freely visit her parents’ home with her family. Mrs. Hara looks to the Japanese government to solve the issue of abduction and confinement as soon as possible.

Mr. Gi Nam Han, head of the Korea Institute for Religious Freedom, who heard about the abduction and confinement of Unification Church members, said to us, “This is absurd. How such incidents can happen in Japan, a constitutional state, is beyond my understanding.” Mr. Han also emphasized that “Religious freedoms must be protected.”

Unification Church members claim that these incidents of abduction in Japan do not constitute a simple matter between family members or different religions, but are the suppression of human rights guaranteed by law. They explained the purpose of the petition as being to ask for serious steps towards solving the matter of Japanese married women living in Korea (which is now turning into a multi-cultural society) being unable to visit their homeland of Japan for fear of being kidnapped and imprisoned.

7. News Cheonji Report (3)

Unification Church Countermeasures Committee Hands in a Petition to the Japanese Embassy

Editor Gil Sang Lee [\[bohwa@newscj.com\]](mailto:bohwa@newscj.com)

March 23, 2010

The Countermeasures Committee on Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members (“Countermeasures Committee”) held a press conference in front of the Japanese embassy on March 23 on the matter of the ongoing kidnapping and confinement of Japanese Unification Church members in Japan, and demanded legal redress from the Japanese government.

The representatives, dressed in their national costume (kimonos), handed in their petition to the Japanese embassy after reading out its contents along with reports from abduction victims. The press conference proceeded in a calm and orderly manner, but representatives of the Countermeasures

Committee shed tears and expressed their painful feelings, strongly asking the Japanese authorities to take serious steps.

통일교 납치감금 대책위 日 대사관에 탄원서 제출 증거청기

2010년 03월 23일 (화) 17:07:06

이길상 기자 ✉ bohwa@newsdj.com



▲ '대책위' 에리카와 야스에 위원장이 납치감금 피해 사례를 들어가며 일본 당국에 사건 해결을 호소하고 있다. ©천지일보(뉴스천지)

[뉴스천지=이길상 기자] '일본 통일교인 납치감금으로 인한 한국 인권피해자 대책위원회(대책위)'는 23일 일본대사관 앞에서 기자회견을 열고 일본에서 벌어지고 있는 통일교 신도 납치감금 사건에 대해 일본 정부가 법에 따라 해결해 줄 것을 호소했다.

일본 전통의상인 기모노를 입은 대책위 대표들은 피해자 진술서 및 탄원서 등을 낭독한 뒤 일본대사관에 탄원서를 제출했다. 이들은 일본인 여성으로 한국인과 결혼한 통일교 신도들이다.

이날 기자회견은 차분하고 질서있게 진행됐으며 대책위 대표들은 눈물을 흘린 뒤 억울함을 호소했고 일본 당국이 적극적인 대책을 수립해 줄 것을 촉구했다.

한편 통일교 관계자는 세계 120여 개국에서 일본 납치감금 사건에 대해 공식적으로 문제를 제기하고 있다고 밝혔다.

▲ *Chairwoman Yasue Erikawa of the countermeasures committee is asking the Japanese authorities for the curtailment of abduction and confinement, explaining with examples of the harm done to victims.* □ *Cheonji Ilbo (News Cheonji)*

Moreover, Unification Church sources reveal that the church is publicly challenging the abductions and confinement going on in Japan in more than 120 nations worldwide.

8. BreakNews Report (1)

Japanese Women Followers of the Unification Church Unable to Visit Japan for Fear of Abduction

Editor Il Sok Moon [moonilsuk@korea.com]

More than fifty Japanese women, wearing their national costume (kimono) and representing the Countermeasures Committee on Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members (“countermeasures committee”) are planning to submit a petition to the Japanese embassy at 2pm on March 23. They will ask [their government] to solve the desperate situation of women being unable to visit Japan for fear of being kidnapped and imprisoned. Japan is a major economic power and a nation where religious freedom is guaranteed by the constitution, yet abductions and confinements have been occurring due to differences in religion. They have been perpetrated against Unification Church members, with certain Japanese Christian ministers, business oriented lawyers and leftist “deprogrammers” taking the lead. There have been more than 4,300 victims of these abductions since the problem began in 1966.

Following is the summary of a report given by the Countermeasures Committee on Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members.

“Toru Goto, who regained his freedom after being kidnapped and confined, is a man of 182 cm. At the time of regaining his freedom, however, he weighed only 39kg. He had almost died. It is said he was held hostage for 12 years and 5 months. Afterwards, he was hospitalized, his weight having declined to 39kg —the weight of 5th grade elementary school student. His life in a prison-like room, where he was physically beaten and cursed on a daily basis, unable to do anything, was a living hell, he says. Goto’s case triggered questions about human rights in connection to the abductions and confinements.

Examples include the following:

- A 27-year-old Japanese wife happily married to a Korean eventually took her own life due to depression after being kidnapped during a visit to her parents’ home in Japan.
- A pregnant woman still suffers from the after effects of being threatened “We will help you have an abortion if you give up your faith in the Unification Church.”

- A church member lost his memory after jumping from a 6-story apartment building where he was held hostage.
- A father committed suicide after finding out that his daughter had been raped by a “deprogrammer” he hired to persuade her to give up her faith.

'납치공포' 일본못가는 통일교 일본부인들
일본 통일교인 납치감금으로 인한 한국 인권피해자 대책위

문일석 기자 ☞

'일본 통일교인 납치감금으로 인한 한국 인권피해자 대책위원회'의 대표 일본부인 50여명은 3월 23일 오후 2시에 일본대사관 앞에서 일본 **전통의상**인 기모노를 입고 납치감금에 대한 공포로 인해 일본을 가지 못하는 절박한 상황을 해결해 달라는 탄원서를 일본대사관에 제출할 예정이다.

납치감금 사건은 경제대국이며 종교적 자유가 헌법에 보장된 일본에서 신앙이 다르다는 이유로 일본의 일부 **기독교** 목사와 **사업적** 성향의 **변호사**, 좌익 강제 개종업자들이 주도하며 통일교 신자를 대상으로 한 납치감금 사태로, 이로 인한 피해자는 1966년 첫 납치사건이 발생한 이래 4,300여 명에 이르는 것으로 잠정 집계 됐다. 다음은 '일본 통일교인 납치감금으로 인한 한국 인권피해자 대책위원회'가 내놓은 내용을 요약한 것이다.



▲ 감금됐다가 탈출했던 고토 토오루 ©브레이크뉴스

"감금됐다가 탈출했던 고토 토오루씨는 **신장**이 182cm이다. 그는 탈출 당시 39kg이었다. 죽기 직전이었다. 그는 12년 5개월 동안이나 납치감금 되었다고 한다. 그는 2008년 탈출하여 병원에 **입원**했다. 건강하던 체중이 초등학교 5학년 학생 **몸무게**인 39kg밖에 나가지 않았다. 감옥 같은 방안에서 날마다 매를 맞고, 욕을 먹고, 아무것도 할 수 없는 생활은 생지옥이었다고 말했다. 이 사건을 계기로 납치감금으로 인한 인권문제를 본격적으로 제기하게 됐다.

▲ *Mr. Toru Goto regained his freedom after being abducted and confined. © Breaknews*

Many of these people suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (a state of mental confusion occurring after an experience of great fear) or other after effects such as depression. This illegal and immoral conduct has left wounds that cannot be cured.

There are estimated to be more than 7,000 Japanese women members of the Unification Church living in Korea with Korean husbands. Some 100 women among them have been awarded the

“Hyobu Prize” from the local government (an award given to an exemplary married woman living with her in-laws and taking care of them well), and some have drawn media attention due to their participation in various social organizations and voluntary work. Some 300 among them have the experience of escaping from being kidnapped and confined. And 200 are still unable to visit their parents’ homes in Japan for fear they will be abducted and incarcerated again.

According to facts confirmed by the Countermeasures Committee on Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members, the reason these women cannot return to Japan is that their reports to the Japanese police at the time of their abduction were ignored. Even when these women reported to the police after escaping from confinement, the police showed scant response, saying it was an issue among family members.

The countermeasures committee is urging the Japanese ambassador to take strong measures, and presented him with a petition with the following contents:

- Protection of Unification Church members’ human rights in order to prevent abduction based on religious discrimination or prejudice
- Police protection and intervention when abduction and confinement occurs
- Revealing the names of those who have been kidnapped and are being held captive, and—under the authority of the police—publicly protecting their right to choose their own religion
- Confirming the unlawfulness of those who abduct and confine people, questioning whether they are being legally and ethically responsible, and demanding that they compensate their victims.

The abduction and confinement of Unificationists in Japan has raised questions publicly in more than 120 nations of the world, and in the U.S., Rev. Walter Fauntroy (former member of the House of Representatives in Washington, DC) is taking the lead in seeking to resolve these human rights issues in Japan.

Rev. Fauntroy was a personal representative of Martin Luther King Jr., the godfather of the human rights movement of African Americans. In 1971, Rev. Fauntroy founded the Congressional Black Caucus, which grew to become a major political organization in the U.S. He was appointed chairman of the organization in 1981. United States President Barack Obama was also a member.

Rev. Fauntroy also led the National Black Leadership Roundtable, made up of the CEOs of over 200 African American organizations all over the U.S., and as a living witness of the African American human rights movement, he maintains a great interest in human rights issues.

On September 24, 2009, a member of the House of Representatives related to the U. S. human rights committee promised to “raise this issue directly with the Japanese ambassador to the U.S.”

after hearing about the human rights issue pertaining to Toru Goto—who was kept in captivity for 12 years and 5 months—through Rev. Fauntroy.

Common Cause CEO Bob Edgar stated that he would “make corrections in the NCC (National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA) report regarding religious abduction,” and he informed the NCC on the matter of abduction and confinement in Japan.

This was also brought to the attention of the United Nations (UN), through the distribution of materials regarding the infringement of religious freedom and human rights of the Japanese representatives participating in UN Human Rights Commission session at the UN Human Rights Commission Conference in Geneva in March, 2010. Mr. Edgar talked about the seriousness of the abductions and confinement with the representative from Japan to the UN Human Rights commission, and wanted to meet one of the Japanese victims of abduction in person. He stated that he had given reports on the present procedures at the UN Human Rights Commission and on the issue of human rights violations towards the Japanese to the Japanese ministry of Justice.

The incidents of kidnapping and confinement in Japan do not constitute a simple matter between family members; rather, they are the suppression of human rights that are protected by the constitution. Serious steps must be taken so that Japanese women living in Korea—which is quickly turning into a multi-cultural society—no longer have the problem of being unable to visit their homeland of Japan for fear of being abducted.

9. BreakNews Report (2)

“More than 7,000 Japanese woman members of Unification Church living in Korea live in fear of abduction”

Editor Il Suk Moon [moonilsuk@korea.com]

More than 7,000 Japanese women married to Korean men through Unification Church international mass weddings reside in Korea. Frequent instances occur of these women being abducted when they visit their own homes in Japan, and this has become a new social issue in Japan. Fifty representatives of the Countermeasures Committee for Human Rights Victims in Relation to the Abduction and Confinement of Japanese Unification Church Members [hereafter, “Countermeasures Committee”] assembled on March 23rd at 2 PM in front of the Japanese Embassy in traditional clothing, kimonos, and submitted the letter of appeal to the Japanese Embassy asking for a resolution to the desperate situation that results in these women not being able to visit Japan in fear of being abducted and confined.

According to the Countermeasures Committee, because their faith is different more than 4,300 members of the Unification Church have become the victims of abduction and confinement for the purpose of forcing them to convert since the first incident in 1966. The perpetrators are some Japanese Christian ministers, business-oriented lawyers and leftwing “deprogrammers.”

The worst case of such kidnapping and imprisonment revealed by the Countermeasures Committee is that of Toru Goto. A member of the Countermeasures Committee emphasized, “Mr. Toru Goto who was detained for 12 years and 5 months, was a man with of a height of 182 cm, but at the time he regained his freedom he only weighed 39 kg; he narrowly escaped death. As soon as his confinement ended in 2008, he was hospitalized. He used to be healthy, yet his weight declined to 39 kg, an appropriate weight for a 5th grade elementary school student. He was kept in a prison-like room, beaten up and cursed everyday, unable to do anything; his life became nothing less than a living hell. We started raising our voices about the human rights issues pertaining to incidents of abduction and confinement, with Mr. Goto’s case as a trigger.”

According to one member of the countermeasures committee, “One 27-year-old Japanese woman, happily married to a Korean man was kidnapped during a visit to her home in Japan took her own life while being held in captivity. A woman, pregnant at the time of her abduction, still lives in fear ten years after her abductors told her, “You should leave the Unification Church and abort your baby.” Another member has lost his memory through an injury sustained by jumping out of a sixth-floor window at his place of confinement.

Moreover, one father eventually committed suicide after discovering his daughter had been raped by a “deprogrammer,” he had hired to force his daughter to convert from her religion. A majority of the victims of abduction suffers from PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) or an aftermath such as depression. These illegal and immoral acts have left people with incurable wounds.”

The National Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion (hereafter, Association of Victims; representative—Ms. Shikako Tanaka; members—323) appealed in their letter of petition handed to the Japanese Ambassador to Korea, “We are Japanese woman followers of the Unification Church, married to Korean men living in Korea, leading our lives as members of Korean Society. At present more than 7,000 women like us live in Korea.... Among us, more than 100 have received the honorable Good Daughter-in-Law Awards from the local government, which is an award given to exemplary wife and a family member who has been living with and serving their in-laws well. We participate in various social organizations and do volunteer work and have occasionally received attention from the media. We have been making effort to this day in order to make the Korean people see and understand the truth about our homeland, Japan, and to contribute to a friendly relationship between the two countries by devoting ourselves to our new homeland, Korea, and its society.” It concluded, “We want to inform you of unjust persecution we

have been receiving in Japan because of our faith, and the reality of the still ongoing damage, and have written this letter of petition to ask for the protection of our human rights.”

The Countermeasures Committee (Chairwoman— Yasue Erikawa) claimed in their letter of appeal asking for “the termination of forced conversion through abduction and confinement” that “more than 7,000 Japanese woman adherents to the Unification Church faith reside in Korea, where as members of Korean society, they live with their Korean husbands. Recently, we learned that Mr. Toru Goto, who is a member of the Japanese Unification Church was kidnapped for the purpose of making him give up his faith and held captive for 12 years and 5 months. The phrase “abduction and confinement” refers to acts committed by Christian ministers opposed to our church, business oriented apostates and lawyers hired to make our members give up their faith. The members’ parents and siblings kidnap our members by force in the name of “child protection” or “dialogue,” and hold them in captivity for a long time unless they express their willingness to withdraw from our church. The places used for confinement are usually high-rise apartment buildings, where all the exits are locked and going out is prohibited. The period of captivity ranges from weeks or months to years. Such disgusting incidents of abduction and confinement, which would seem unthinkable in a civilized nation, are occurring in Japan. Also quite a few Japanese women followers of our church, married to Korean men and living in Korea, have become the victim of such kidnapping and detainment. Some also fear the possibility of becoming victims and therefore feel unable to visit their homeland.”

The Countermeasures Committee also reported actual cases. The members of the committee revealed in their report, “In July 1997, Takako Fujita, who is married to a Korean man and has been living in Korea, visited Ehime Prefecture in Japan for a Buddhist funeral service, where she was kidnapped, and during her detainment in Kyoto, she had no choice but to take her own life. How deep must be the sorrow of her husband, left in Korea? But the police did not investigate this incident as an abduction and confinement, and those who made her take her own life were neither arrested nor prosecuted.” She added, “In at least three cases we know of, married women living in Korea were abducted and confined when they visited their parents’ homes in Japan. As a result of forced conversion, they had no choice but to divorce their husbands. On one occasion, the woman abducted was already pregnant. In situations like these, one can not imagine visiting Japan to give birth to her child.”

The committee’s report also gives another case, “Emiko Motoki lives in Korea with her Korean husband, Du-shik Kim. On November 12, 2002, the couple visited her homeland. Early on the morning of November 13, the two were attacked by Emiko’s family members. Du Shik Kim was held hostage in the Tsuchizaki Bible Christian Church in Akita Prefecture, where he was threatened by Pastor Hiroshi Matsuyama and told he should leave the Unification Church. Du Shik Kim managed to contact the Korean consulate in Sendai and ask for help. With the cooperation of the

Korean Embassy in Tokyo, the Yamagata police department interceded on November 25 and Emiko Motoki was released. From the viewpoint of the Korean side, this incident, in which a Korean husband was kidnapped, could have torn his family apart. If the Japanese government neglects this problem any longer, this could lead to a serious international issue between the two countries,” they emphasized.

Today, Sayuri Hara stated in her report given to the Japanese Embassy in Korea, “I joined the Unification Church on April 1, 1989, and belonged to the Ota church, where I mainly engaged in activities such as witnessing. I was abducted and confined on two occasions for the total of 242 days, first for a month from June to July, 1992 and the second time from November 25, 1992 for 7 months.” She talks about the first kidnapping and detention as follows:

“In early June 1992, two former members of the Unification Church visited my parents and persuasively spoke to them for many hours saying, “Please cooperate in converting Sayuri.” My mother went to see Pastor Shikae Kurotori and was introduced to Pastor Kyoko Kawasaki of the Tanimura Church, in a Japanese Christian denomination. On June 24, 1992, I visited my home in Yamanashi. After eating out, we were about to go home, and I was seated in a back seat of a vehicle. My father drove the car, my brother sat in the front seat and my mother sat in the back seat, on my right side. My parents said, “We want to talk to you, so let’s go somewhere.” So I said, “We can talk at home,” to which they replied “We cannot talk at home.” I was taken to the Yoshida Business Hotel, to room 307, and held hostage there. When I arrived at the hotel, Mrs. Sumiko and Mr. Hiro Sakara, my father’s second younger sister and her husband, were waiting. My father grabbed my right arm, and Uncle Hiro my left arm and they pulled me into the room. By overhearing my parents’ conversations, I learned that my parents contacted and received directions from Pastor Kyoko Kawasaki on numerous occasions during the day. In the hotel room, Pastor Kyoko Kawasaki pressed me to withdraw from the Unification Church for four days, for over 10 hours a day. The room had a bath and toilet facilities; the room had only one narrow window, so it was impossible to escape through. My parents were always there, and more than 10 people including the two sets of uncles watched over me by turns. At least 5 people were there at a time, with one person watching by the door. I was then moved to another hotel, but on the night of July 23, 1992, I managed to escape from that hotel while my parents were asleep.”

The second occasion of her abduction she recalls is as follows:

“On Nov. 25, 1992, at 6 AM on my way to a prayer meeting, a number of men suddenly appeared and surrounded me, trying to push me into a station wagon. My friend Keiko Asada, who was with me was held by 2 or 3 men who were strangers to me, and she was unable to move. I screamed, “Help me!” and resisted. Several people in a store building opened their windows and looked down. But these strange men responded, “We are sorry; we have found and are taking back our child who ran away from home.” They then took off. My father and older brother were the

people who dragged me into the station wagon. The car window had been rigged to prevent it being opened. My father held my arm, and in the back seat my mother and older brother sat so I wasn't able to do anything. When I arrived at a strange apartment, I resisted saying, "I don't want to get out of this car," but was dragged down from the station wagon. When I got out of this van, I asked the driver and a young woman sitting next to him their names. The driver said his name is "Muramatsu," and the young woman answered that her name was "Nobuko Nakata." This driver, who used the alias "Muramatsu," is Yoshiomi Kuratori, the husband of Pastor Kuratori. I believe he used the false name "Muramatsu" to keep my abduction and confinement under cover. According to what I've heard, Yoshiomi Kuratori is an English teacher in some high school. If this abduction and confinement were done with the cooperation of an educator, such oppression towards one's faith must never be forgiven."

On the other hand, a member of the Countermeasures Committee told us, "We are officially raising questions in over 120 nations regarding the abduction and confinement of Japanese Unification Church members, and in the U.S. which is a nation symbolizing freedom, Pastor Walter Fauntroy (a former member of United States House of Representatives) has taken the lead in activities to solve this human rights issues in Japan."

10. Sunday Seoul Report

Shocking Reality: The Oppression by Christian Organizations in Japan of the Unification Church Crosses the Line

Editor Su Jeong Kim [hohokim@dailysun.co.kr]

March 22, 2010

Oppression toward religion in Japan is becoming serious. Especially, hostility toward the Unification Church is blatant. Since the 1970s, some Christian ministers and some lawyers have been orchestrating the kidnapping and confinement of Unification Church members and demanding, sometimes over a span of years, that they denounce their faith. Abductees experience suffering every day from physical violence and brainwashing techniques from the Christian ministers who try to convert them. Recently Mr. Goto has brought to light the cruelty exhibited toward the Unification Church in Japan. Goto was kidnapped by an anti-Unification Church organization and held captive for 12 years and 5 months, with the demand by them that he give up his faith. While he was a strong, healthy 180-cm-tall man at the time of his abduction, at the time he regained his freedom, he weighed about 40 kg; all that was left of him was skin and bones. His body exhibits wounds from brutal violence. To date, organized Christian have abducted an estimated 4,300 people. These

victims have been suffering the aftereffects of confinement, having been assaulted and pressed to convert. Therefore, this crackdown on the Unification Church in Japan has emerged as a social issue.

On March 23, 2010, a rally demanding a stop be put to this religious oppression occurred in front of the Japanese Embassy. At present, more than 4,300 Japanese Unification Church members have suffered harm from abduction, confinement and assault from factions within extreme rightwing Christian organizations. Even under these circumstances, the Japanese government has consistently been apathetic regarding acts of brutality conducted by these organizations. The rally was held to protest this.

총격세대 일본 기독교단체의 통일교 탄압 도 넘었다

납치후 12년 5개월 감금 “개종 강요 받았다”

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일본 내 종교 탄압이 심각하다. 특히 통일교에 대한 반감은 노골적이다. 70년대부터 일부 기독교 목사와 변호사들이 통일교인들을 납치 및 감금해 수년간 개종을 요구하고 있다. 감금된 교인들은 매일 폭력과 목사들의 개종 교육을 받는 등 고통의 시간을 보낸다. 최근 고토 토우루 씨가 일본 내 통일교 탄압을 폭로했다. 고토 씨는 기독교단체에 의해 납치돼 12년 5개월간 감금 및 개종을 요구 당했다. 납치 당시 견장했던 고토 씨는 현재 180cm 키에 40kg도 안되 뼈만 앙상하다. 몸에는 잔인한 폭행사건을 말해주듯 상처가 남아 있었다. 현재 기독교 단체에 납치된 인원은 4300여 명으로 추정된다. 이들은 감금되어 개종 요구와 함께 폭행 후유증에 시달리고 있다. 이에 따라 현재 일본 내 통일교 탄압은 사회적 문제로 확산되고 있다. 일본 내 종교탄압에 대해 알아본다.

2010년 3월 23일, 일본 대사관 앞에서 종교탄압 종단을 요구하는 집회가 열린다.

현재 일본에 거주하는 통일교인 4300여 명이 일부 극우 기독교 단체에 의해 납치, 감금, 폭행 피해에 시달리고 있다. 이런 상황에서도 일본정부가 이들 기독교 단체의 만행에 대해 무관심으로 일관하고 있는데 대해 항의하는 집회이다.

Toru Goto regains his freedom after being confined for 12 years and 5 months

Fifty Japanese women, many of whom are naturalized Koreans, attended the rally held on this day. These women live in Korea and have Korean husbands. They are unable to visit their parents' homes in Japan for fear of being abducted and confined by members who constitute a faction within the Christian faith. These women submitted a petition asking for the resolution of the issue.

The Unification Church began its first overseas mission work in 1955. At the time, Rev. Sun Myung Moon dispatched a missionary to establish a mission in Japan. In those days, the state of Korean–Japanese diplomatic relations made it impossible for a Korean to obtain a Japanese visa. Bong-chun Choi, the missionary to Japan, had been deported twice for illegal entry, when at the time of his third arrest, he pulled off an impressive escape and settled in Japan. That is how the missionary work dramatically took root in Japan.

By the beginning of the 1970s, a crack down on the Unification Church by extreme-rightwing Japanese Christian organizations began. Although religious freedom was ensured by the constitution, hostility toward foreign religions establishing themselves in Japan has had a large effect, and a faction within Christianity, lashing out at them as cult, has played a key role in starting oppressing the Unification Church.

The suppression of the Unification Church conducted by extreme rightwing Christians has been systematic. They used a method listing all Unification Church members nationwide, meeting their parents and trying to persuade them that their children must be converted.

To persuade parents and other family members, the Christian ministers would say, “The Unification Church teaching is heresy. If your child does not convert to Christianity, she (or he) will decline.” The Christians brainwashed the parents with their continuous efforts at persuading them. Having persuaded the parents, the Christian ministers would kidnap Unification Church members and imprison them in places such as prayer houses. The confined Unificationists would receive indiscriminate battery along with demands to convert. What was worse, rather than being allowed to bathe normally, they were hosed down like animals, which comes as a shock.

In 2008, a man escapes from a prayer house.

He was practically identical to the main character in the movie “Old Boy.” The leading male role in “Old Boy,” that of Dae-Su Oh (played by Min-shik Choi), gets drunk one evening and is kidnapped on his way home by an unknown man. Becoming a prisoner, he survives on only fried dumplings for 15 years. The movie tells the story of him returning to the world after 15 years of imprisonment, and beginning his revenge against the person who kept him prisoner.

As in the movie, Mr. Toru Goto was abducted by an anti-Unification Church organization in 1996. He was held in detention in a privately owned apartment for 12 years and 5 months.

Right after his escape, his body was far more miserable than Min-shik Choi’s in the movie. Originally, a pleasant looking man with a height of 182 cm, his weight loss left him weighing a mere 40 kg. He could not even stand up straight, but rested himself in a wheelchair while in captivity. This shows his dismal life of confinement. He suffered every single day from demands to convert together with assault and battery. Yet he is known to have stood up to the brutal assault and violence, pushed forward by his belief, he did not give up his religion.

As a result, the perpetrators decided they could not convert Toru Goto and released him in 2008. Goto has spoken out about his 12 years and 5 months of confinement. With this incident as a trigger, the oppression of Unification Church members in Japan is becoming known worldwide.

Confinement for 12 years and 5 months; “It was hell”

Oppression toward Unification Church members in Japan has become a social issue.

Like Toru Goto, Ms. Sayuri Hara, who is presently residing in Korea, is known to have been locked up in a privately owned confinement facility because of a Christian organization’s utter oppression, upsetting her life.

Pastor A had persuaded her husband and her parents to detain her in a hotel room. We say “hotel room,” but it had only one window and more a virtual prison. More than ten people, her parents and other family members, acted as guards and demanded she convert.

She succeeded in escaping while her parents were asleep but was then suddenly captured by an unknown person and imprisoned in a privately owned house of confinement.

Sayuri told us, “All of my family is in torment because of me, and added, “My father was forced to quit his job since I became a member of the Unification Church. My mother also pressured me to convert using extreme methods because of her worries about me. What is worse, my family members even battered me.”

Her eardrum was torn due to the violence exhibited by her family members when demanding she convert. Her body was wrecked. Eventually she withdrew from the Unification Church, but when her family members loosened their guard, she came to Korea.

“I cannot forgive those ministers and those members of the Christian factions who tormented me,” she says. “Suppressing and oppressing one’s religious freedom is an anti-human act. The Japanese government must take substantive measures against the Christian faction for its religious oppression and promise to prevent this from happening again.”

The rally will go on if the petition is not accepted.

The Japanese government has been responding tepidly to the religious oppression reported by the Unification Church. It had been pointedly designated a problem between family members and no serious solution has not been prepared.

Hyo-yeol Ahn, head of Unification Church’s International Relations Department tells us, “We are not trying to receive material compensation from Japan,” and added, “Our purpose is to rectify the current reality: it is not a religious issue; the most precious human rights are being ignored. We can no longer stand by and watch the brutal religious oppression happening in Japan.”

The Unification Church revealed at the rally held on the 23rd that if the Japanese government does not accept the petition, they would hold rallies all over the world every week in 120 nations, to protest against Japan’s suppression of human rights and religion.

Regarding this, the tendency of the Japanese government to lock its gates and stand on the sidelines while religious oppression occurs is drawing attention.

11. The Segye Times

Targeting Unification Church Members, Locking Them Up for Months or Years, Forcing Them to 'Convert'

[First article in a series themed: Japan Turns a Blind Eye to Abduction of Religious Persons]

Tokyo Correspondent Dong Jin Kim [bluewins@segye.com]

March 24, 2010

수개월 ~ 수년간 감금해 놓고 '개종' 강요

'종교인 납치' 눈감은 일본 ①

이름	피해내용	요약
고토 도오루(加藤 道郎)	기독교 기독교 목사 등에 의해 납치돼 1년5개월간 감금생활, 2008년 풀려난을 당시 국외의 영향으로 정리.	
노조에 마키노(野淵 牧人)	1992년 기독교에 의해 납치감금, 탈출중 허리를 다쳐 해반신 탈수 신고받았다가 가혹적으로 학박.	
고이데 히로히사(小出 浩史)	연사 출신, 1992년 2년간 납치 감금, 풀려난 후 자신의 경험을 '납치로부터의 탈출'이라는 책으로 펴냄.	
고바야시 쇼이치로(小林 誠一)	1992년 이후 3번이나 납치당함, 감금형소에 경찰 출동했지만 가족은 체포에 그날 철수해 논란.	
대다다 고즈에(太田 幸子)	한국에서 교포생활 중 일본 친위정부를 방문했다가 납치감금, 2개월 후 남만에 의해 구출 성공.	
이마리 가즈에(伊万里 加津恵)	1995년, 97년 두 차례 납치피해, 납치사건에 경중 물리기 위해 부모와 기독교 목사를 고소.	
시오라니 도모코(小倉 知子)	한국에서 결혼해 살다가 1993년 일본 헌정집에서 납치, 총격으로 자살도 심각한 우울증을 앓고 있음.	자료: 일본 납치감금 강제개종 피해자 모임

인권선진국을 자처하는 일본에서 반인륜적인 납치 사건이 횡행하고 있다. 일본 내 일부 과격파 기독교 단체들이 정부 당국의 수수방관 속에 통일교 신자의 가족들을 포섭해 '강제개종 납치감금'을 버젓이 벌이고 있다. 일본에서 자행되는 통일교도에 대한 납치 감금 범죄의 실태와 문제점 및 대책, 한국 내 피해자들의 사연을 4회에 걸쳐 짚어본다.

주로 통일교 신자들 타깃 탈출하려다 중상·자살도

일부 기독교 과격파 단체 부모·친인척들 동원 범행

당경찰 "가족문제" 뒷집만

자녀 2명7일 일본 도쿄에 사는 통일교 신자인 후지모토 나나미(30·가명)는 조카의 생일잔치 때문에 친가가 있는 도지(栃木)현 오히라마치(大野町)에 간다고 외출한 이후 45일째 행방이 묘연하다. 지난 1월15일에는 메이조(名城) 대학의 통일교 서클에 소속된 스즈키 미유키(4학년)도 사가(さが)현의 고향집에 잠시 내려간 뒤 지금까지 연락이 두절됐다.

일본에서 특정 종교의 신도를 노린 납치 범죄가 끊이지 않고 있다. 일본 헌법은 신앙의 자유를 인정하고 있지만 현실에선 자신의 신앙 때문에 언제 납치감금될지 몰라 떨어야 하는 상황이다. 단속에 나서야 할 일본 정부는 북한에 의한 일본인 납치 피해를 국제적 이슈로 만들기 위해 온갖 노력을 다하면서도 정작 국내에서 벌어지는 반인권적 납치 범죄에는 눈을 감고 있다.

24일 세계기독교동일신명협회(통일교회)는 1960년대부터 일본에서 발생하기 시작한 통일교도에 대

한 납치 범죄 피해가 3월 현재까지 4300명에 달한다고 밝혔다.

이들 사례 중에는 최파이프와 전 가수리(前)인 통일교회에 난입해 여성 신자를 납치한 뒤 1년3개월 동안 감금하면서 신앙 포기를 강요한 사건도 있다. 한 청년 신도는 감금 장소인 맨션 6층에서 감시를 피해 탈출하려다가 추락해 중상을 입어 지금도 기억을 되찾지 못하고 있다.

한국인 남성과 결혼해 한국에서 살던 여성 신도(27)가 잠시 친정에 들렀다가 납치돼 절망한 나머지 감금된 댄스의 화장실에서 자살한 비극적 사건도 있었다.

미국에서도 1970~1980년대에 "디프로그래밍"이라는 강제 납치 개종이 성행했지만 지금은 자취를 감췄다. 과격파 기독교 단체가 신종교 신자들을 납치·감금해 신앙을 포기시키는 행위가 신앙의 자유와 신체 자유권을 해친다는 이유로 미국 정부가 강력한 단속을 했기 때문이다.

하지만 일본 정부 당국은 납치 사건을 방관하고 있다. 일부 과격파 기독교 목사들이 통일교 신자의 부모나 친척을 교묘하게 방패막이로 이용하기 때문이다. 납치 피해자들은 대부분 부모 형제의 연락을 받고 친

가나 가족모임에 갔다가 강제 납치되고 있다. 일본 경찰은 피해자들의 납치 피해선고를 받고 현장에 출동하더라도 부모형제가 나서서 "이것은 가족 내부 문제"라고 해명하면 눈앞에 피해자를 두고도 그대로 철수하고 있다.

납치 피해자들은 풀려나더라도 심각한 외상후스트레스장애(PTSD)에 시달리고 있다. 일본의 '임상정신의학' 잡지(2000년 10월호)는 납치 피해를 본 통일교 신자들이 풀려난 뒤에도 "가족이 저지른 일을 앓을 수 없다. 부모의 호적에서 파나오고 싶다"며 부모형제에게 자신을 강간한 범죄자에게 용서 되는 것과 똑같은 증오감을 갖고 있다고 지적했다.

일본의 세계기독교동일신명협회 기모노 마모무(鴨野守) 총보국장은 "신앙의 자유는 가령 부모나 형제라도 일방적으로 짓밟을 수 없다"며 "일본 정부가 북한의 일본인 납치 문제에만 신경을 쏟을 게 아니라 국내에서 벌어지는 또 다른 납치 비극에 대해서도 반치국가에 걸맞게 조치해야 한다"고 강조했다.

도쿄=김동진 특파원

In Japan, which calls itself an advanced nation in regard to human rights, a crime against humanity has gone unchecked. A faction of radical Christian organizations in Japan has been engaging in forced conversion involving the abduction and confinement of members of the Unification Church after warning over their families; the Japanese government authorities have looked the other way.

Here are four in-depth articles on the reality of the crimes, the drawbacks and the countermeasures to abduction and confinement of Unificationists that has been committed in Japan, and also stories of victims living in Korea.

On February 7, Ms. Nanami Fujimoto (Age 30, using an alias), a member of the Unification Church living in Tokyo, has been missing for 45 days since she left for her hometown of Ohirama in Tochigi Prefecture to celebrate her nephew's birthday. Her whereabouts are still unknown. Suzuki

Miyuki, who belongs to a Unification Church society at Meijo University, left for her home in Shiga Prefecture on January 15, and contact with her has been lost ever since.

Crimes of abduction targeting certain religion's followers are rampant in Japan. The Japanese constitution insures freedom of religion, but in reality these people are shivering in fear of being abducted and confined at any time. The Japanese government, which should be arresting them, has been making effort to make the harm caused by abductions of their citizens by the North Koreans an international issue but has been turning a blind eye to violations of human rights occurring on their domestic ground.

On the 24th, the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World of Christianity (Unification Church) revealed that victims of the crime of abduction of the Unification Church members in Japan totals over 4,300 since the 1960s.

Among them, there was a case in which twenty unidentified assailants, armed with iron pipes and stun guns, broke in to the Unification Church of Tottori Prefecture and kidnapped one female follower, keeping her in detention for 1 year and 3 months, while attempting to coerce her into giving up her faith. One youth follower of the church jumped from the 6th floor of an apartment building where he was confined in order to escape, and was severely injured in the fall. He has yet to regain his memory. In one tragic case, a 27-year-old female member of the Unification Church, who was married to a Korean man and living in Korea, was kidnapped during a visit to her home in Japan. Apparently as a result of depression, she committed suicide in the bathroom of the apartment where she was confined.

From 1970's to the 1980's, compulsory conversion called "deprogramming" was prevalent in the U.S., but it has disappeared without a trace. The U.S. government carried out a strong crackdown on radical Christian organizations' abduction and confinement of believers in new religions, because deprogramming was a violation of religious freedom and the detention was unlawful.

However, the Japanese government authorities have been overlooking these incidents of abduction, because the radical Christian ministers have been cunningly using the Unification Church member's parents or relatives as their protectors. Most of the abduction victims have been contacted by their parents and siblings and asked to visit their homes or to attend family gatherings where they have been forcibly kidnapped. Even though the Japanese police were mobilized by reports from abductions victims, they just evaporated from the scene with the victim right in front of them after hearing the victims' parents or siblings claim that it is an internal, family problem.

Victims of abduction suffer from serious Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) even after they have been freed. The Japanese "Clinical Psychiatric Medicine" magazine (October 2000 issue) points out in its report that a Unification Church member who was a victim of abduction compared her resentment toward her parents and siblings to what she might feel toward a criminal who had

raped her, saying, “I can never forget what my family did to me. I want to have my name removed from my family register.”

Mr. Mamoru Kamono, director of public relations for the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification Of World Christianity in Japan, told us, “The freedom of faith cannot be trampled on unilaterally even by parents or siblings.” He emphasized that “the Japanese government must not only pay attention to abductions of the Japanese people by North Koreans but must take steps fit for a nation governed by the rule of law where its domestic abduction tragedies are concerned.”

REPRESENTATIVE CASES OF JAPANESE UNIFICATION CHURCH MEMBERS WHO WERE ABDUCTED WITH THE PURPOSE OF FORCED CONVERSION
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MR. TORU GOTO: kidnapped by his family and by anti-Unification Church figures and was confined for 12 years and 5 months. He was in a severe state of malnutrition at the time of his release in 2008.

MR. MAKITO NOZOE: kidnapped and locked up by his family in 1992. He severely injured his back when escaping and was initially paralyzed from the waist down but recovered miraculously.
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MR. HIROHISA KOIDE: Originally a medical doctor. Was abducted and confined for 2 years beginning in 1992. After being freed, he wrote a book titled <i>An escape from kidnapping</i> telling his personal experience.
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MR. SOICHIRO KOBAYASHI: abducted 3 times since 1992. Once, the police came to the place of confinement but pulled out after hearing it was a family matter and caused a dispute.

MS. KOZUE TERADA: While carried on her married life in Korea, she was kidnapped and confined in Japan when she visited her parents’ home. Her husband rescued her from abduction 2 months later.

MR. KAZUYA IMARI: a victim of abduction on two occasions, once in 1995 and once in 1997. He sued his parents and the Christian ministers who abducted him in order to raise the alarm toward the issue of abduction.

MS. TOMOKO SHIOTANI: While leading her life as a married woman in Korea, she was kidnapped in 1993 during a visit to her parents’ home in Japan. She still suffers from serious depression from the shock of the incident.

Reference: Assembly of Victims of Abduction and Confinement for Forced Conversion in Japan

12. The Segye Times

“Forced Conversion is a Barbaric Crime that Should Receive Heavy Punishment so that There Will be no More Victims”

[Second article in a series themed: Japan Turns a Blind Eye to Abduction of Religious Persons]

Tokyo Correspondent Dong Jin Kim [bluewins@segye.com]

“강제 개종은 야만적 범죄 피해자 없도록 엄벌해야”

‘종교인 납치’ 눈감은 일본 ②
12년5개월간 감금당한 고토씨 증언

“일본이 제대로 된 자유 민주국가라면 저 같은 피해자가 더 이상 나오지 않아야 합니다. 독선과 야만에 시로잡혀 타인의 종교를 인정하지 않고 납치해치러도 강제로 개종시키겠다고 하는 야만적 범죄에는 단호하게 철폐를 대려야 합니다.”

23일 일본의 도쿄 시부야에서 만난 고토 도오루(後藤 徹, 46)는 납치·감금에서 풀려난 지 2년이 넘었지만 아직도 당시의 끔찍한 경험을 잊지 못하고 있다.

고토는 강제개종 납치피해자 중에서도 가장 긴 12년 5개월 간의 통일교 가입탈 가족이 밀실에 가둬 교리반박 반복·신앙포기 강요당해 몇차례 단식투쟁 탈출시도도 허사 고초 겪다 풀려날 땐 영양실조 상태

일 부속이 5~6명 신자를 데리고 나타나 “통일교 신앙을 포기하기 전에는 안 발도 나갈 수 없다”고 협박했다.

고토는 그때마다 “납치·감금은 중대한 인권침해이다. 이곳은 대환나 검증하는 장소가 아니다. 당신들은 모호라는 미명 하에 강제로 신앙을 빼앗으려 하고 있다. 여기는 자유민주주의 사회다”라고 반박했다.

고토의 완강한 거부에 개종 작업은 평행성을 달랐다. 그는 감금 기간에 3차례 단식투쟁을 벌였으며 탈출도 여러 번 시도했지만 번번이 무산됐다. 그가 계속 버티자 하루에 마늘 약간과 스프츠 음료 1ℓ만 주면서 신앙 포기를 종용했다.

극단의 상황에서도 끝내 뜻을 굽히지 않자 가족들은 마침내 2008년 2월10일 납치 당시의 구



<고토 도오루가 강제개종 납치감금에서 풀려난 직후의 모습.>



<고토 도오루가 23일 도쿄 시부야에서 납치 당시의 생생한 상황을 설명하고 있다.>

두를 내주면서 맨션 밖으로 그를 내보냈다. 12년을 남긴 간감에서 풀려난 순간이었다.

납치·감금의 후유증은 상상을 초월했다. 납치될 당시 키 182cm의 건장한 청년이었던 고토는 풀려난 직후 몸무게가 39kg으로 뼈만 남은 영양실조 상태였다. 혼자 걷기도 힘든 상황이었다. 이제는 건강을 회복해 “전국 납치·감금 강제개종 피해자 모임”의 대표를 맡아 일본 전국과 한국, 미국 등을 다니며 강제개종 납치·감금의 근절을 위해 뛰고 있다. 그는 “이런 행태는 특정 종교 간의 갈등 문제이기 전에 기본적인 인권의 문제”라면서 “일본 사회가 제대로 된 인권사회가 되기위해선 반드시 해명하고 넘어가야 할 문제”라고 강조했다. 도쿄 = 김동진 특파원 bluewins@segye.com

“If Japan were a proper democratic state, there wouldn’t be victims like me anymore. The barbaric crime of forced conversion involving abduction, coming from their self-righteousness and obstinacy and intolerance toward the religion of others must be sternly cracked down upon.”

← [top right image] Toru Goto, soon after his release from his abduction and confinement for the purpose of forced conversion.

← [second right image] Toru Goto giving a vivid description of his experience with abduction at the time in Shibuya, Tokyo on the 23rd.

Toru Goto (46) had not yet forgotten his awful experience two years after being freed from his abduction and confinement when we met in Shibuya, Tokyo on the 23rd.

Among the victims of abduction and confinement for the purpose of coercing the victims into religious conversion, Goto has suffered through the longest period of confinement, 12 years and 5 months. He was abducted once in 1987 when he had graduated from university and just started his career. He was kidnapped by his family members who did not welcome him joining the Holy Spirit

Association for the Unification of World Christianity (the Unification Church). But he escaped after a month of confinement and did not suffer terribly.

However, the second kidnapping, which happened on September 11, 1995, causes him to shudder, even just thinking about it, he said.

“I had left home and was independent, but my family invited me to have a meal with them. I had had the experience of being kidnapped before, but it was a long time ago. Because I did not imagine that would happen again, I went back home. While we were having dinner, my father and brother suddenly attacked me; each taking one of my arms, they dragged me outside.”

Goto was then pushed into a vehicle and brought to an apartment in Niigata Prefecture. The place was a solitary cell with windows secured with special padlocks. A man calling himself a specialist in forced conversion visited him every day from the following day and pressured him to give up his faith. His family would visit him once a week or once every two weeks to check on him and then leave.

Two years into his confinement, Goto’s father died of cancer. Goto was dragged home by a few burly men and after seeing his father’s body was immediately taken to another apartment near Ogikubo station. Every day the faith-breaker would appear with 5 or 6 of his followers and threaten him. “You will never to leave this room without giving up your faith in the Unification Church.”

Whenever this happened, Goto would refute this saying, “Abduction and confinement is a serious violation of human rights. This place is not for conversation or verification. You people are forcibly attempting to deprive me of my faith under the guise of protection. This is a democratic society.”

Owing to Goto’s stubborn rejection, the conversion procedure remained unfinished. Goto went on a hunger strike on 3 occasions during his confinement; he also attempted several times to escape, but did not succeed. As he carried on rejecting their conversion, the attempt to persuade him to give up his faith including his being given only a little bit of thin rice gruel and just a liter of a sports drink each day.

When Goto did not give up his determination even in the most extreme situation, therefore on February 10, 2008, his family finally gave him the shoes he wore on the day he was abducted, and kicked him out of the apartment. That was the moment he was released from the long confinement of over 12 years.

The aftermath of his abduction and confinement was beyond imagination. A healthy man with a height of 182 cm at the time of his kidnapping was malnourished to the point that he only weighed 39 kg immediately after his release. Now he has been appointed the representative in Japan of the National Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion, and has been visiting many places in Japan and also Korea and U.S., working for the termination of abduction and confinement for the purpose of forced conversion. He told us, “Such behavior is an issue of basic human rights before being a problem between particular religions.” He emphasized, “In order for the Japanese society to become a society of proper human rights, this issue must be resolved.”

13. The Segye Times

Broken Family Ties Because of Differences in Belief Cause Deep Sorrow

[Third article in a series themed: Japan Turns a Blind Eye to Abduction of Religious Persons]

Appointed editor Sung Wook Jong [jswook@segye.com]

March 26, 2010

특정종교를 믿는다는 이유로 가족관계 끊어 가슴의 恨으로

'종교인 납치' 눈감은 일본 ③
고국에 못 가는 일본인 부인들

"하루라도 빨리 일본 헌정에서 가서 부모 형제 지체들을 영접하고 싶는데... 부모님 생신날만 되면 마음이 너무 아프요."

서울 송파구에 사는 시카카바라 마리코(36·가명)는 시코쿠 에히메현 에히메시 마쓰야마시 가 고향이다. 1955년 '통일교 36만명 국제합동결혼식'을 통해 한국인 남편을 만나 아들 둘을 낳아 단란한 가정생활을 꾸리는 행복할 거장주부다. 하지만 그녀의 가슴 속은 항상 일본과 한국을 비교한 마음이 사무친다. 신앙심으로 재울 수 없는 '가족의 정의' 그녀에선 더욱 절실하다. 26일 인터뷰를 위해 만난 그녀의 목소리는

급세 되돌렸고 눈가에 눈물 이 맺혔다.

"한국에 온 지 15년이 넘었지만 시간이 갈수록 결혼 노모의 얼굴이 내로더 생생하게 떠올라 열릴 수가 없어요."

그녀가 고향에 가지 못하는 이유는 딱 한 가지로 종교교의 편드는 게 그 이유다. 그녀는 정신병 환자로 몰려 두 차례나 납치돼 감금당했다.

일본에서 온 병든 수간호사로 불리는 '카라야마'였던 그녀가 처음 감금된 것은 통일교에 입문한 지 7개월이 지난 1990년 가을이었다. "근부라는 병든 주치의에 위한다는 이름으로 감금되는 병환을 받고 뒤에 서있나 시, 병에 온 건전한 납치 등이 내 어깨를 짊어고 다리고 고쳐 봐야 되었는데."

그녀는 손수건으로 눈을 가려 근제 2시간을 단려 도라한 시를

의 한 편편이 감금됐다. 들며 들며 소리쳐도 누구 하나 관심 두지 않는 일본의 관습이 그렇게 아슬할 수 없었다. "10층 높이의 엘리베이터에 내리지도 못했고 장문은 밖에서 굳게 잠겨진 고독한 공간이었어요. 그렇게 3개월간 보냈어요. 갑자기 어마나기 소개했다는 변호사 들어 찾아와 통일교에서 납치했다는 서약서를 쓰면 내보내 주겠다고 황당하더군요."

그녀는 감금에서 풀려나오자 다는 생각에 거짓 탈영서를 써야 했다. 이 때문에 그녀는 1995년 이후 단 한 번도 일본 땅을 밟지 못했다. "남자랑 가 수면기도 하



26일 서울 통일교 본부에서 '일본 통일교의 납치·감금으로 인한 종교인 납치·제외·체류·환류' 다카 시카카, 최영이 일본인 여성들의 인권 피해 상황을 설명하고 있다. 송승욱 기자

지않으나 통일교에서 나오지 않으면 고향에 갈 수 없으며 앞으로는 만나지 않겠다는 말을 하고 돌아서서

지만 그걸로도 부모님의 싸늘한 표정이 가슴에 꽂아 될 것 같아 반면에 일본 땅을 밟았어요."

또 다른 피해자 벴세기와 요코(41·가명)는 헬리드 여성(자)으로 1992년 3만명 국제합동결혼식에 참여했다. 한국에 시집온 지 16년 만인 2008년 2월 한국인 남편과 세 자녀를 데리고 오카야마(에히메) 고향에 도착했다. "미녀 아내에게 전화를 드려 어머니가 아내와 함께 생활에 도움을 주고 싶다고 연락 왔어요. 후쿠오카 교정집에 가고 싶다고 떠들었으나 그냥 공원에서 만나자고 어머니가 우기겠거든요."

요코는 일본에 한국인 남편과 동행하니 납치될 염려도 없었다고 했다. "오빠와 함께 나온 어머니는 여전히 미소를

지않으나 통일교에서 나오지 않으면 고향에 갈 수 없으며 앞으로는 만나지 않겠다는 말을 하고 돌아서서

"I want to go back to my home and embrace my parents and brothers and sisters soon... Whenever my parents' birthdays come around, my heart aches."

Mariko Sakakibara (age 36, using an alias) residing in Songpa Borough, Seoul, is from Matsuyama City, Ehime Prefecture, Shikoku, Japan. In 1995 she participated in a 360,000-couple International Joint Wedding Ceremony conducted by the Unification Church and met her husband. She is now an ordinary housewife making a happy family with her husband and two sons. However, in her heart there is always a longing to see her family in Japan. An affection toward family member that cannot be filled even with faith is pressing on her. When we met on the 26th for an interview, her voice soon became unclear, and tears formed in her eyes.

← [top right image] On the 26th, at the headquarters of the Unification Church in Seoul, Shikako Tanaka, representing the National Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion explained about the situations of Japanese women whose human rights have been violated.

"Since I came to Korea 15 years have passed, but as time goes by I recall more clearly my

mother's face. She is now 70, and it is very hard for me."

The only one reason she cannot visit her hometown is the fact that she believes in the Unification Church. She has been branded mentally ill and has been abducted and confined twice.

As a woman with a thriving career as a head nurse in a large hospital in Japan, her first confinement occurred in 1990 when she had already been a member of the Unification Church for 7 years. "I had a call from my mother saying she was in the parking lot of the hospital I was working

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at, so I ran outside to see her, and two strongly built men who were with my mother grabbed my shoulder and pushed me into a vehicle.”

She had been blindfolded with a handkerchief and taken to an apartment in a rural area that was about two hours drive away, where she was confined. She felt so bitter about the Japanese attitude of not taking any interest in her crying and shouting. “The apartment was on the 10th floor of the building so I could not jump; the window was locked from the outside and the place was isolated. I spent 3 months there. Occasionally lawyers who were said to have been introduced to my mother came and tried to persuade me that if I wrote a pledge saying I would withdraw from the Unification Church, they would release me.”

She wrote a false pledge thinking she must get out of the confinement. Because of this, she has not been able to visit Japan even once since 1995. “I am afraid that I might be abducted, but also the cold look on my parents’ faces broke my heart, and prevents me from visiting Japan.”

Another victim Hasegawa Yoko (Age 41, using an alias) was an elite woman with a career as a pharmacist, who participated in ‘30,000 couples International Joint Wedding Ceremony’ in 1992. After 16 years of married life in Korea, she arrived at Okayama airport with her three children and her husband. “I called my mother beforehand, and my mother and elder brother greeted me at the airport. I told them I wanted to visit my parents’ home in Fukuoka, but my mother insisted on us meeting at the airport.” Yoko told us she did not have to worry about the abduction because she was with her reliable Korean husband. “My mother who greeted me at the airport with my brother did have a smile on her face, but she left me after saying that if I do not quit the Unification Church I am not allowed to go home. She suggested that we not to see each other from now on and turned around and left.”

Yoko took up courage again and tried to persuade her mother and brother, but they would not budge an inch. Accordingly, their meeting at the airport after 16 years ended in two hours.

Yoko goes off to the airport alone on her parents’ birthdays and thinks about them, only to return. “The lawyers and family made a false appraisal statement saying I am mentally ill, so even if I go back to Japan, I am unable to withdraw money from my bank account; I could hardly lead a normal life.”

So far, it has come to light that Japanese women living in Korea who are similarly unable to go back to Japan number over 4,300.

14. The Segye Times

Making 'Family Matters' into Public Issues and Enthusiastically Looking for Legal Solutions

[Fourth article in a series themed: Japan Turns a Blind Eye to Abduction of Religious Persons]

Tokyo Correspondent Dong Jin Kim [bluewins@segye.com]

March 28, 2010

○일본 강제개종 납치·감금 피해자 모임의 회원들이 지난 1월 24일 도쿄의 오기쿠보(660)역 앞에서 납치 문제의 심각성을 알리고 있다.

‘가족문제’ 떠나 사회공론화 법적인 해결 발벗고 나서

‘종교인 납치’ 눈감은 일본 ④·끝 힘 결집하는 피해자들

일본에서 ‘강제개종 납치·감금 문제’를 해결하기 위한 사회적 움직임이 본격화하고 있다. 그동안 일부 과거 기독교단체에 의한 반인권적인 납치·감금 피해를 당하고도 자신의 친부모와 형제들이 납치체포와 연루돼 할부로 고소·고발을 하지 못하고 참기만 했던 피해자들이 이 문제의 공론화와 법적인 해결에 나선 것이다. 28일 세계기독교 통일선명협회(통일교)에 따르면 그동안 전국에 분포이 흩어져 있던 피해자들이 교단 내 ‘전국 납치·감금 강제개종 피해자 모임’과 시민단체인 ‘납치·감금을 없애는 모임’ 등을 결성해 국회와 검찰, 경찰 등을 상대로 시대 해결을 촉구하기 시작했다.

검찰과 경찰은 그동안 납치·감금 피해자들의 신고를 받고도 ‘가족 내부 문제’라며 번번이 불기소 처분해왔다. 12년5개월간 납치·감금됐다가 풀려난 고도 도우(高藤 斗) 사건에 대해서도 검찰은 지난해 12월 납치 관련자들을 불기소 처분했다.

피해자 모임 관계자는 “검찰의 결정은 일반시민의 건전한 법의식을 무시하는 어찌구나없는 결정”이라며 “고도 사건 등에 대해 ‘엄정심사’에 이의를 제기해 공분화할 계획”이라고 말했다. 일본은 지난해 5월부터 검찰

에의 없이 법에 근거해 임정 대처하겠다”고 답변한 바 있다. 피해자 모임은 청원 등의 수단을 통해 국회가 이번 원칙을 재확인하고 말로만이 아닌 실천에 옮길 수 있도록 압박할 계획이다.

국제사법회의의 연대 움직임도 추진되고 있다. 피해자 모임은 국내외의 정치인과 정부 관계자, 인권단체 등에 피해 사실을 알리고 협력을 요청하고 있다. 특히 미국에서는 지난해부터 일련된 피해자들의 강연회를 통해 여론의 초을 열기 시작했다. 미국우상은 2009년 ‘국제종교자유 연차보고서’를 통해 “12년 이상 본인의 의사에 반해 가족

에게 구속돼 있던 통일교회 신자 2008년 2월 10일에 범법대 통일교회 본부로 돌아왔지만 아무도 기소되지 않고 수사도 되지 않고 있다”고 지적했다.

한국 내 강제개종 납치·감금 피해자들의 협력이 강화되고 있다. 한국인과 국제결혼래 한국에 정착한 일본인 통일교 신자들도 이미 납치·감금 피해를 받았거나 앞으로 볼 가능성이 높은 잠재적 피해자들은 정에서 양국 피해자 모임은 한국 정부가 적극적인 관심을 갖도록 촉구할 계획이다. 도쿄=김동진 특파원 bluewins@segye.com

시민단체 결성 국회의원 등 통해 ‘압박’
인권단체에 피해 사실 알려 협력 요구
‘외상후 장애’ 의료지원 법제화도 추진

The Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion is hitting its stride in Japan. Victims of abduction and confinement, violations of their human rights perpetrated by radical Christian organizations, were unable to recklessly sue or charge them because of their family's involvement with the abductors and have been forced to suppress themselves; they have now risen to publicize and legally settle this matter.

← [top image] Members of the Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion are in front of Ogikubo Station in Tokyo on January 24 informing the public about the seriousness of the issue of abduction.

According to the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (the Unification Church) on the 28th, victims who were scattered across Japan have formed “The Assembly of Victims of Japanese Abduction and Confinement” within the church and a civic group, the Association for the

Termination of Abduction and Confinement, and have begun urging the Japanese Diet, the prosecutors' office and the police to resolve the situation.

Meanwhile the prosecutors' office and the police have been fixing their stance not to institute public action, all the time saying it was an “internal problem among family members,” even though

they were given reports from the victims of abduction and confinement. Even regarding the case of Toru Goto, who was abducted and confined for 12 years and 5 months, the prosecution determined those involved in the kidnapping would not be indicted.

A member of the assembly of victims told us “the decision made by the prosecution is an absurd one, totally ignoring the healthy common sense of ordinary citizens,” and added, “We are going to raise objections at the prosecutorial screening and make this a public issue.”

Since last May, in Japan, even if the prosecution decides not to institute public action, if the prosecutorial screening board, consisting of 11 citizens, reexamines the case and decides at two consecutive screenings to prosecute, the law has been amended to unconditionally bring about compulsory prosecution.

The assembly of victims is doing an investigation at the level of the Japanese Diet regarding damages brought about by abduction and confinement. Coinciding with this, they have made a policy of demanding medical support by legislation for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. At the commission for administrative accountability within the Japanese parliamentary committee when the issue of abduction and confinement were brought up on April 20, 2000, then chief of National Police Setuo Tanaka responded, “Even if the relationship is one of parent to child, or among relatives, they will be dealt with strictly based on the law, without any exception.” The assembly of victims is planning to mobilize all measures such as presenting a petition to make the Japanese Diet reconfirm these principles, and to pressure them to put it in to practice and not only words.

Coordinated actions with the international association are also being pushed forward. The Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion is requesting cooperation and informing domestic and overseas politicians, government officials and human rights organizations about the reality of the damage that has been done. Especially in the U.S., it has started to receive responses from the public through the speeches given by Japanese victims beginning last year.

Cooperation with Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement and Forced Conversion living in Korea is also being reinforced. Japanese Unification Church members married to Koreans in international weddings have also been victims of abduction and confinement, or are prospective victims, and therefore victims both in Japan and Korea are planning to urge the Korean government to show active support.