

Attention:

**Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary
Disappearances (WGEID)**

From:

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

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Address: 10F, Gonghwa Building, 131 Tongil-ro, Seodamun-
gu, Seoul, 03735, Republic of Korea

Re: The 1953 abduction of Mr. Hong-gyun Kim

Submitted: 14 December 2016



FORM TO SUBMIT A COMMUNICATION ON AN ALLEGED ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE

IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY NOTICE

INSTRUCTIONS RELEVANT TO ALL COMMUNICATIONS

- There are **6 required elements, indicated with *** without which the communication cannot be processed.

These are:

- 1) **Identity** of the disappeared person (full name);
- 2) **Date** on which the disappearance occurred (at least month and year);
- 3) **Place** of arrest or abduction, or where the disappeared person was last seen;
- 4) **Forces** (State or State-supported) believed to be responsible for the disappearance;
- 5) **Action taken** by the relatives or others to locate the person. If action was not possible, explain why;
- 6) **Identity of the person or organization submitting the report.**

Please, make sure, before sending the communication form, that all the above mentioned required elements are included. This will allow for a smoother consideration of the case.

- If submitting a handwritten communication, please use capital letters.
- Please provide names in full of institutions (security forces, governmental bodies or others). Please, do not use abbreviated forms.
- Describe facts in a clear and concise fashion, providing as much details as possible.
- Submit one form per disappeared person.
- If you would like particular information to be kept confidential please indicate this.

INSTRUCTIONS RELEVANT TO COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY NGOs

- It is necessary for your organization:
 - a) to have the consent of the family of the disappeared, and;
 - b) to be able to carry out follow-up, by conveying Government information to the family sent from the Working Group, and from the family to the Working Group until the fate or whereabouts of the person are determined.
- Therefore, **please answer to the following mandatory questions:**
 - * Does your organization have direct consent from the family of the disappeared to submit this communication form to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on their behalf? Yes No
 - * Will your organization be able to provide follow up by conveying information between the family and the Working Group: Yes No

ADDRESS TO SUBMIT A COMMUNICATION

E-mail: wgeid@ohchr.org **Fax:** +41 22 917 9006 (please, indicate: "For the attention of: WGEID").

Post: Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

The abduction of Hong-gyun Kim occurred when he was aboard the vessel *Daeseong-ho*, which was abducted near the Daejin Port (the East Sea, off the coast of Sokcho), in the vicinity of the Military Demarcation Line, Republic of Korea.¹

(c) * Date when the person was last seen (at least month and year), if different from date of arrest or abduction (for example: if seen in a prison months after the initial arrest or abduction)

The last time Hong-gyun Kim was seen was on 9 May 2007, when he met his mother and younger brother at the 15th reunion of separated families, held at the Geumgang Mountain Hotel, in the DPRK.²

(d) * Place where the person was last seen (if different from place of arrest or abduction. For example: if seen in a prison months after the initial arrest or abduction. Please, be as precise as possible. Indicate street, city, province or any other relevant information)

The last time Hong-gyun Kim was seen was on 9 May 2007, when he met his mother and younger brother at the 15th reunion of separated families, held at the Geumgang Mountain Hotel, in the DPRK.³

(e) Please, provide a full description of how the disappearance took place (attach one page if necessary. Please note that, although this is not a required element, providing a description as detailed as possible of the circumstances of the disappearance will enhance the possibilities to find the person)

According to an article released on 10 May 2007 by the *Dong-a Ilbo News*, Hong-gyun Kim was on board the vessel *Daeseong-ho* on 23 May 1968, when the *Daeseong-ho* and its crew was abducted after crossing the Military Demarcation Line while sailing in thick fog and inclement weather. In November 1968, five out of the eight sailors on the *Daeseong-ho* were sent back; however, Hong-gyun Kim and the other two remaining sailors were not sent back.*

*Family members of Hong-gyun Kim were unable to recall any further information regarding the details of Hong-gyun Kim's disappearance. However, according to patterns in abductee data, North Korea tends to send back older and weaker abductees and retain younger or more skilled abductees.

(f) * State or State-supported forces believed to be responsible for the disappearance. If the perpetrators are believed to be State agents, please specify and indicate who and why they are believed to be responsible. Be as precise as possible (military, police, persons in uniform or civilian clothes, agents of security services, unit to which they belong, rank and functions, identifications presented, etc.)

According to the testimony of the five sailors aboard the *Daeseong-ho* who were kidnapped and sent back, (Jin-su Lee and 4 others), the country responsible for the abduction of the *Daeseong-ho* is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

¹ Please see Attachment 1: Map

² Please see Attachment 2: Article

(g) If identification as State agents is not possible, please indicate why you believe that Government authorities, or persons linked to them, may be responsible for the incident

(h) If there are witnesses to the incident, please provide their names and relation to the victim. If they wish to remain anonymous, indicate if they are relatives, by-standers, or others. If there is evidence, please specify.

The five sailors of the *Daeseong-ho* who were sent back to the Republic of Korea in November 1968 are the witnesses.

(i) Additional Information on the case. Please indicate any other relevant information that could be useful to find the person

The following information was obtained during an interview with Bok-yeon Kim, Hong-gyun Kim's older sister, who spoke with Hong-gyun Kim's mother and brother after they attended the 15th reunion of separated families.

According to an interview with the relatives of Hong-gyun Kim's mother and brother, On 9 May 2007, it was arranged for Dong-deok Lee (Hong-gyun Kim's mother) and Gang-gyun Kim (Hong-gyun Kim's younger brother) to meet Hong-gyun Kim at the 15th reunion of separated families. According to these relatives, Hong-gyun Kim told his mother at their reunion, "Mother, reunification is going to happen at any moment, so we can meet then. The Supreme Leader said that unification is going to happen very soon." During the meeting Hong-gyun Kim told his family that he was married with two sons (who were 28 years old at the time of the meeting) and was living well; he said his sons had gone into military service and would be discharged in 10 years.

However, DPRK officials were monitoring the meetings of separated families. According to his family, Hong-gyun Kim changed the subject if his mother tried to have conversations with him on topics that were even remotely in-depth in nature. Additionally, during their 2-hour long individual meeting at the Geumgang Mountain Hotel, his mother and brother tried to give Hong-gyun Kim a family picture and letter, but he refused to take them. Hong-gyun Kim's actions indicate that he was conscious of the presence of the DPRK government's monitors.

3. INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE

*** Indicate any action taken (police inquiries, jail, human rights commission, habeas corpus petition etc.) taken by the relatives or others to locate the person. You are required to state the following: *when*, by *whom*, and before *which organ* the actions were taken.**

(a) Complaints (*when*, by *whom*, and before *which organ/s*)

After his disappearance, Hong-gyun Kim's parents reported it to the police. After that, police officers came to search their house and investigate whether the family members had contacts with the DPRK; occasionally the police monitored them at their house.

³ Please see Attachment 2: Article

(b) Other steps taken (when, by whom, and before which organ/s)

In 2007, Gang-gyun Kim (Hong-gyun Kim's brother) applied for the opportunity to participate in a separated family reunion through the Republic of Korea Red Cross. That same year, Gang-gyun Kim and his mother, Dong-deok Lee, were selected to participate in the 15th meeting of separated families and were able to meet Hong-Gyun Kim at the Geumgang Mountain Hotel in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(c) If no action was not taken, please explain why

N/A

4. PERSON OR ORGANIZATION SUBMITTING THE COMMUNICATION

*** Person submitting the communication**

(a) Family name: Yoon

(b) First name: Benjamin

(c) Relationship with the disappeared person: Founder and chairperson of the entrusted organization

(d) Contact details (address, telephone, fax, email) Please see below.

*** Organization submitting the communication (if applicable)**

(e) Contact details (address, telephone, fax, email):

[Organization] Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights

[Address] 10F, Gonghwa Building, 131, Tongil-ro, Seodaemun-gu, 03735, Seoul, Republic of Korea
South Korea (120-012)

[Telephone] +82-2-723-1672

[Fax] +82-2-723-1671

[email] citizens.nkhr@gmail.com, citizens.nkhr7@gmail.com

5. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUEST

Please state whether you would like your identity to be kept confidential

Yes, keep my identity confidential: _____ No request for confidentiality: ___√___

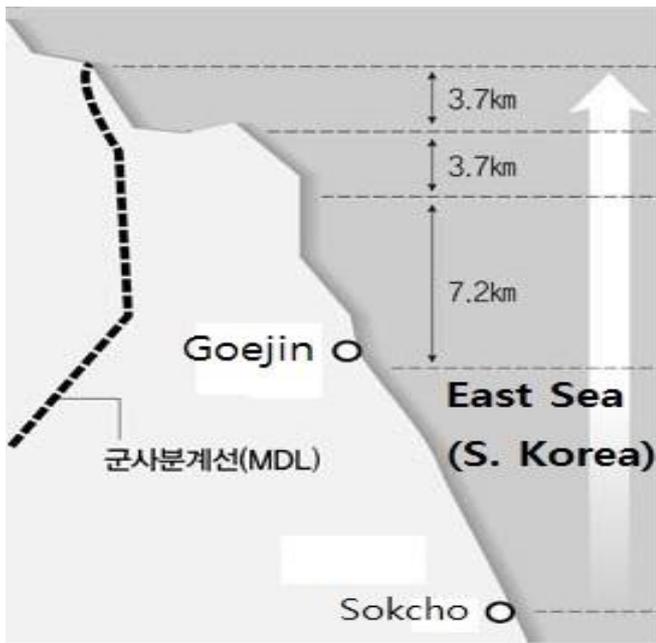
* **Date:** 14 December

Place: Seoul, South Korea

* **Signature of author:**

Minwoo Ryu
Program Officer, International Campaign and Cooperation Team

<Attachment 1: Map>



MDL (Military Demarcation Line)

NLL (Northern Limit Line)

Fishery Boundary Line



<Attachment 2: News article>

Title: Meeting of separated families: Abducted fisherman Hong-gyun Kim meets his mother after 39 years

2007-05-09 *Yonhap News Agency*

“First day of family reunions at Geumgang Mountain, ‘Tearful Meetings’ for 99 families

By reporters Seun-hol Han, Bo-hyun Ham, the South Korean press corps reporting from Geumgang Mountain

At Geumgangsan this afternoon, 9 May 2007, abducted fisherman Hong-gyun Kim (62) met his mother Dong-deok Lee (88, of Incheon) for the first time in 39 years during the 15th meeting of separated families at Geumgangsan Hotel.

Beginning at 3 p.m., Hong-gyun Kim had an emotional meeting with his mother and younger brother, Gang-gyun Kim (52), both of whom reside in the Republic of Korea.

39 years ago, on 23 May 1968, 23 year-old Hong-gyun Kim set out aboard the vessel *Daeseong-ho* to catch fish in the East Sea near Sokcho, Gangwon Province, and was abducted to North Korea, unable to return for 39 years.

Encountering dense fog at the time of the incident, the *Daeseong-ho* had crossed the Military Demarcation Line and was taken to North Korea. In November 1968, five out of eight of the sailors returned; however, Hong-gyun Kim and the two remaining sailors were detained in North Korea.

As soon as she saw her son, Dong-deok Lee absentmindedly stroked his cheek and, touching his hands and body, repeatedly asked “Hong-gyun, is this really Hong-gyun?” Hong-gyun Kim also sobbed saying, “I thought I would never see you again.”

It has been 11 months since the 14th reunion was held from June 19-30 of last year. At this first event of the 15th reunion of separated families, 99 South Korean families including so-called ‘special separated families’ of abductees and prisoners of war, will meet with their North Korean relatives for the first time while participating in a North Korean welcome dinner banquet.

The families will return to South Korea after bonding with their relatives through several reunion events, including individual meetings at the Haegeumgang Hotel on the morning of the 10th, an afternoon sightseeing trip to Samilpo Lake, and a final “Sharing Love” farewell meeting at Onjonggak Rest Stop on the morning of the 11th.



Photo: An image of abducted fisherman Hong-gyun Kim and his mother Dong-deok Lee taken at the 15th reunion of separated families.