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 1978 abduction of Mr. Geon-pyo Hong**

Submitted: 24 November 2015

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 __X__ No____

* Will your organization be able to provide follow up by conveying information between the family and the Working Group: Yes__X__No____

ADDRESS TO SUBMIT A COMMUNICATION

E-mail: wgeid@ohchr.orgFax:+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

WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

COMMUNICATION FORM

1. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARED PERSON

(a) * Family name(s): Hong (홍)

(b) * Given names(s): Geon-pyo (건표)

(c) Pseudonyms or other forms besides given name, by which he or she may be known: N/A

(d) Sex: Male

(e) Occupation/profession: Student at Cheonan Commercial High School

(f) Father's name: Sa-woon Hong(홍사운) Mother's name: Soon-rye Kim(김순례)

(g) Date of birth: 27 October 1960

(h) Place and country of birth: Dorim-ri, Ipjang-myeon, Seobook-gu, Cheoan-si, South Chungcheong Province, Republic of Korea

(i) Was the person below 18 years-old at the moment of the disappearance? Yes (he was 17 years old)

(j) Identity document(passport, national identity card, voter's card or any other relevant national identity card)

Type: N/A **Resident registration number**: N/A

Date of issue: N/A **Place and country of issue**: N/A

(k) Nationality or nationalities: Republic of Korea

(l) Address of usual residence: 169-5 Dorim-ri, Ipjang-myeon, Seobook-gu, Cheoan-si, South Chungcheong Province, Republic of Korea

(m) Any other place of residence at the moment of the disappearance: No

(n) Marital status: Single

(o) Indigenous: No

(p) Pregnant: No

2. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FACTS

(a) *** Date of arrest, abduction or disappearance (at least month and year)**

10 August 1978

(b) *** Place of arrest, abduction or where the disappearance occurred(be as precise as possible. Indicate street, city, province or any other relevant information)**

A beach on Hongdo Island, an island in the Yellow Sea, located 115 km from the Southwestcoast of Mokpo port, South Jeolla Province, South 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)**

Most recently, in 2011, Geon-pyo Hong was verified as having been alive in North Korea in 2005. This verification came in the form of a 2005 Pyongyang Census that the South Korean media outlet Chosun Weekly obtained[2]. The Census listed the names and personal information of over 2 million citizens 17 and older living in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. Within this list, the names of 21 South Koreans who had been abducted were found. One of these 21 abductees was Mr. Hong. It stated his name, birthday, profession, blood type, place of birth, home address, date of marriage, and the name of his spouse.[3]

(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 aforementioned Census shows that, as of at least 2005, Mr. Hong and his wife Ae-kyung Park were living in Palgol 2-dong, Mangyondae district in Pyongyang. Mr. Hong was working as an instructor at Liaison Office 112 of the Korean Workers' Party[4].

(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)**

[1] Please see Attachment 1: Map
[2] *Chosun Weekly* article dated 24 October 2011 (http://weekly.chosun.com/client/news/viw.asp?nNewsNumb=002178100001&ctcd=C01)
[3] Please see Attachment 2: Mr. Lee's personal information as stated in the 2005 Pyongyang Census
[4] Chosun Weekly reported on 24 October 2011 that three South Korean people, Min-gyo Lee, Seung-min Choi and Geun-pyo Hong, who were abducted by North Korea in various times, were working as an instructor at Liaison Office 112 of the North Korean Worker's Party. The article described Liaison Office 112 as an organization that trains North Korean spies about South Korean culture and how to speak with a South Korean accent. Article available at http://weekly.chosun.com/client/news/viw.asp?nNewsNumb=002178100001&ctcd=C01

On or around 10 August 1978, Geon-pyo Hong[5] and his friend Myung-woo Lee left home to go to Hong Do Beach for their summer vacation. They were confirmed to be on board the boat from Mokpo bound for Hong Do Island on or around 10 August 1978 and seen by someone on the beach on that date. However nobody has seen them since that date. Dong-A Ibo, a leading newspaper in South Korea, reported on 20 November 1997 that the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) in South Korea (currently known as the National Intelligence Service) learned during the interrogation of the North Korean husband and wife spies, Jeong-nam Choi and Yeon-jeong Kang, captured in South Korea on 27 October 1997, that Geon-pyo Hong and Myung-woo Lee were abducted from Hong Do Beach on 10 August 1978 by a North Korean spy[6]. Until then Mr. Hong's family did not know that he had been abducted by North Korean agents and lived in North Korea. Mr. Hong's family thought that Mr. Hong might have been trafficked by a fishing boat but was still living in South Korea.

(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.)…**

North Korean state agents are responsible for the disappearances of Geon-pyo Hong.

(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

N/A

(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.

N/A

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

DongA Ilbo reported on 20 November 1997 that the husband and wife spies and Dong-sik Kim, a North Korean spy captured in 1995, said that Geon-pyo Hong and Myung-woo Lee became an instructor teaching North Korean spies about South Korean culture and how to speak with a South Korean accent. According to the Dong A Ilbo, Geon-pyo Hong and Myung-woo Lee were also reportedly trained by Mr. Hong and Mr. Lee.[7]

[5] Please see Attachment 3: a photograph of Geon-pyo Hong at the age of 17 years old
[6] DongA Ilbo article dated on 20 November 1997 (http://news.donga.com/3/all/19971120/7301061/1)
[7] See footnote 5 above

On 27 April 2006, Seung-kyu Kim, the head of South Korea's intelligence agency, the National Intelligence Service, said that the five high school students abducted by North Korea during 1977 and 78, including Geon-pyo Hong, were alive and living in North Korea[8]. However no information on the whereabouts of Geon-pyo Hong was ever directly given to Geon-pyo Hong's family by the South Korean government.

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*)

Until Mr. Hong's family learnt from the newspaper article in 1997 that Mr. Hong was abducted by North Korean agents in 1978, Mr. Hong's family thought that Mr. Hong was missing or became a victim of human trafficking in South Korea. Mr. Hong's family went to the police in Cheoan, South Chungcheong Province, to report Mr. Hong's disappearance and ask for their help looking for him.

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

After realizing that his son was missing in 1978, Geon-pyo Hong's father closed his business and went around Hong Do Island and Daejeon, a main city in South Chungcheong Province, and Gwangju, a main city in South Jeolla Province, in search of his son. He also published missing person advertisements in the Daejeon Ibo and Gwangju Ilbo, the main newspapers in Daejeon and Gwangju, respectively.

Having learnt that his son had been abducted by North Korean agents and lived in North Korea, Mr. Hong's father applied to the South Korean Red Cross several times to participate in an inter-Korea family reunion, a reunion of families in North and South Korea who were inadvertently separated during and after the Korean War. When Mr. Hong's father was told that being actively involved with organizations for abductees' families would increase his chances of being selected for the inter-Korea family reunion, despite having disabled legs, he regularly traveled to Seoul from the South Chungcheong Province to visit the Abductees Family Union, an NGO working for the abductees' families. However, his applications for participation in the family reunion were not successful. Mr. Hong's father passed away in 2001 without seeing Mr. Hong ever again.

In 2006, Mr. Hong's mother participated in DNA testing to determine whether the daughter of Megumi Yokota, a Japanese woman who was abducted by North Korean agents in 1977, was the daughter of Mr. Hong. Megumi Yokota was believed to be in North Korea and married to a South Korean man who was abducted by North Korean agents. But the identity of her husband was not

[8] Kookmin Ilbo news article dated 27 April 2006 (http://news.naver.com/main/read.nhn?mode=LSD&mid=sec&sid1=100&oid=005&aid=0000243324)

known at the time of the DNA testing. The DNA test result revealed that the daughter of Megumi Yokota was not Geon-pyo Hong's daughter.

In 2011, Gwang-pyo Hong, Mr. Hong's younger brother, wrote to Myung-bak Lee, the then president of South Korea, and contacted the National Intelligence Agent requesting them to provide information on the whereabouts of his brother, which his family never directly received from the South Korean government. Both requests were ignored.

(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, Seodamun-gu, Seoul, 03735, Republic of Korea
[Telephone] +82-2-723-1672

[Fax] +82-2-723-1671

[Email] citizens.nkhr@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: ___X____

* **Date**: 24 November 2015 *** Place**: Seoul, South Korea

* **Signature of author**:

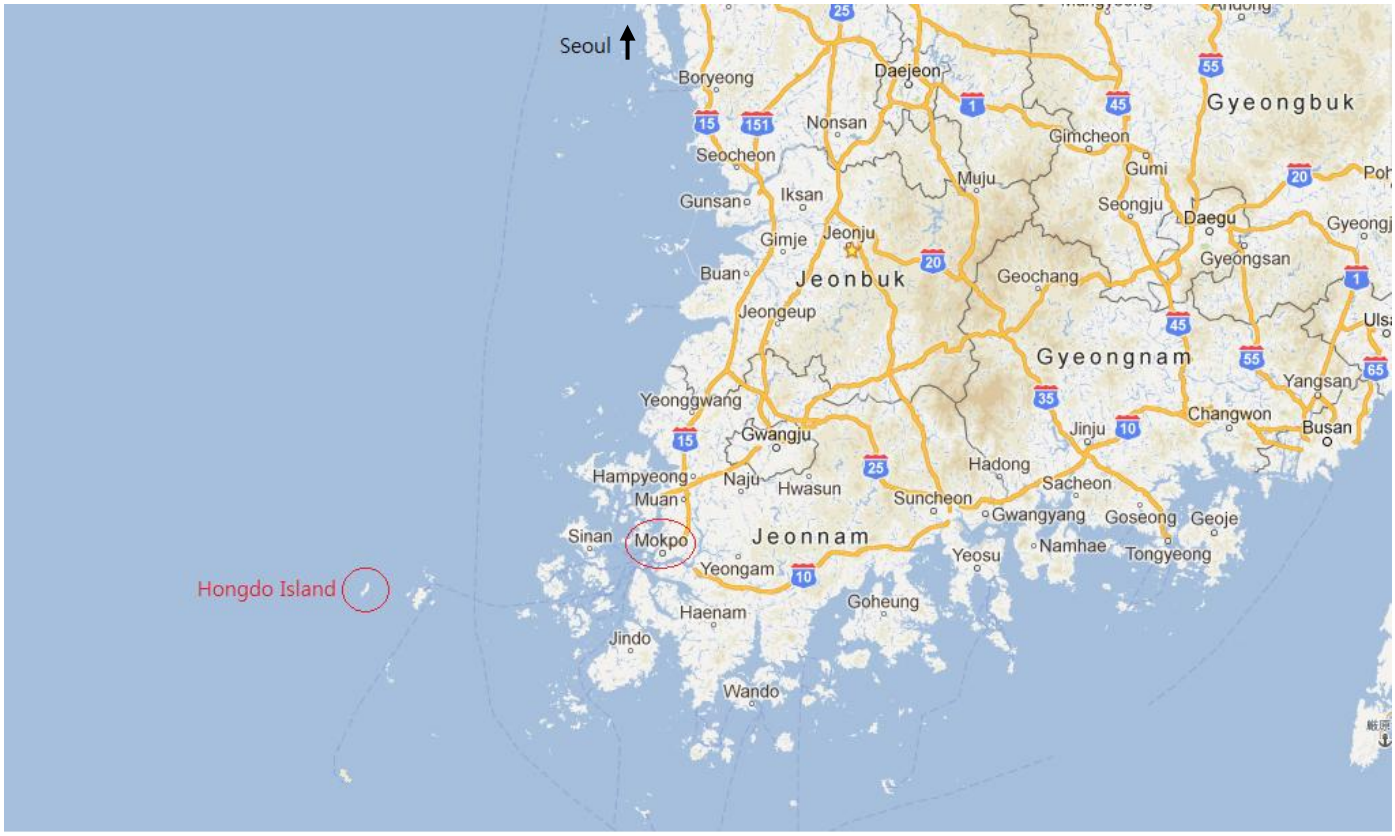
_____

Kyung-sook Shin

Program Officer, International Campaign and Cooperation Team

Attachment 1: Map

A beach on Hongdo Island, an island in the Yellow Sea, located 115 km from the southwest coast of Mokpo port, South Jeolla Province, South Korea where Geon-pyo Hong was abducted by North Korean agents.



Attachment 2: List of 21 abductees and their personal information as stated in the 2005 Pyongyang Census obtained by Weekly Chosun. Mr. Hong's information is highlighted and translated into English below.

평양에 살아있는 납북 피해자 21명 신상자료

이름	성별	생년월일	고향	거주지(동)	직장 배치 시기	직장직위	결혼시기	배우자	결혼여부	혈액형
강병입 (봉산26호 선원, 1970년 납북)	남	1940. 11. 5	충청남도 당진군 고대면 당진포리	보통강구역 서장동 37반	1995. 7. 20	조선로동당 26련락소	1974. 5. 4	박옥희	결혼	O
고성문 (전 수도여고교사, 1979년 납북)	남	1948. 12. 13	서울시 중구 을지로 초동	룡성구역 청계동 4반	1994. 11. 15	농업과학연구원 도서관 사무원	1995. 3. 20	류인수	결혼	A
권용만 (천왕호 선원, 1975년 납북)	남	1935. 5. 30	경상북도 대구시 수성구 범어동	룡성구역 룡추1동 105반	1996. 1. 1	부양	1979. 4. 17	리복성	결혼	A
김영희 (금용호 선원, 1968년 납북)	남	1955. 3. 13	강원도 고성군 현내면 대진리	만경대구역 팔골2동 38반	1989. 3. 21	조선로동당 112련락소 사무원	1984. 6. 12	전명희	결혼	O
로성호 (동진27호 선원, 1987년 납북)	남	1961. 12. 25	충청북도 청주시 북대동	보통강구역 서장동 37반	2005. 4. 21	금성정치대학 학생	1987. 12. 3	윤정화	결혼	A
리광원 (흥덕호 선원, 1969년 납북)	남	1949. 4. 26	전라남도 무안군 흑산면 진리	대동강구역 문수1동 5반	1995. 9. 1	조선로동당 112련락소 지도원	1979. 11. 27	박복순	결혼	O
리영우 (고교생, 1978년 납북)	남	1960. 9. 21	충청남도 천원군 도림리	룡성구역 룡성1동 62반	1993. 4. 21	인민경제대학 학생	1987. 12. 13	김경숙	결혼	O
리민교 (고교생, 1977년 납북)	남	1959. 2. 20	경기도 평택군 서탄면	만경대구역 팔골2동 37반	1989. 6. 17	조선로동당 112련락소 지도원	1984. 6. 23	김진숙	결혼	A
문경식 (룡북호 선원, 1967년 납북)	남	1951. 3. 10	전라북도 군산시 조촌동	만경대구역 팔골2동 37반	1989. 3. 21	조선로동당 112련락소 지도원	1977. 10. 8	김순란	결혼	A
신태용 (안영35호 선원, 1972년 납북)	남	1943. 8. 23	전라남도 보성군 벌교읍 장암리	만경대구역 팔골2동 37반	1980. 9. 1	130련락소 부원	1974. 9. 25	김현숙	결혼	O
유경희 (독일, 1971년 납북)	여	1964. 2. 01	서울시 종로구 명륜동	모란봉구역 개선동 2반		사회과학원세계경제연구소 연구사	1993. 12. 12	김영남	결혼	A
유성근 (독일, 1971년 납북)	남	1933. 4. 02	충청남도 연기군 봉유리	보통강구역 서장동 14반		서문대학교 졸업	2001. 6. 12	김광숙	결혼	A
유진희 (독일, 1971년 납북)	여	1970. 10. 30	평양시 중구역 외성동	대성구역 룡북동 44반	2001. 10. 18	김일성종합대학 박사원생	2000. 12. 12	김유혁	결혼	AB
장진구 (만복호 선원, 1968년 납북)	남	1955. 5. 01	전라북도 김제군 부량면 신명리	모란봉구역 흥부동 5반	1984. 5. 1	조선로동당 26련락소 부원	1984. 10. 14	리경란	결혼	O
조규영 (창영호 선원, 1968년 납북)	남	1955. 5. 07	강원도 명주군 주문진읍	만경대구역 팔골2동 37반	1989. 3. 1	조선로동당 130련락소 지도원	1984. 12. 27	리정화	결혼	A
조석원 (태양호 선원, 1968년 납북)	남	1953. 2. 27	전라북도 김제군 부량면 신명리	모란봉구역 흥부동 5반	1984. 5. 10	조선로동당 26련락소 부원	1981. 7. 20	정북면	결혼	B
최승민	남	1958. 11. 25	경기도 평택군	만경대구역	1989. 3. 1	조선로동당 112련락소 지도원	1984. 1. 22	류혜경	결혼	O
홍건표 (고교생, 1978년 납북)	남	1960. 10. 27	충청남도 천원군 립장면 도림리	만경대구역 팔골2동 38반	1989. 4. 1	조선로동당 112련락소 지도원	1987. 12. 5	박애경	결혼	O
강영숙 (KAL 승무원, 1969년 납북)	여	1949. 9. 17	함경남도 함흥시 사로구역 사로1동	모란봉구역 흥부동 4반	1970. 8. 1	조선로동당 26련락소 부원	1973. 12. 16	림영입	결혼	O
정경숙 (KAL 승무원, 1969년 납북)	여	1946. 9. 5	함경남도 흥원군 학산리	모란봉구역 흥부동 5반	1992. 10. 7	조선로동당 26련락소 부원	1972. 7. 16	오동길	결혼	B
최석만 (KAL 부기장, 1969년 납북)	남	1932. 12. 21	경기도 포항시 량덕동	사동구역 송화1동 12반	1982. 11. 5	697련락소 직원	1979. 2. 19	최윤옥	결혼	O

Name	sex	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Current Address	Date of Job Posting	Profession	Date of Marriage	Spouse	Status	Blood Type
Geon-pyo Hong	M	1960.10.27	Dorim-ri Ipjang-myeon, Cheoan-si, South Chungcheong Province, Republic of Korea	Palgol 2-dong, Mangyongdae district	1989.4.1	Instructor at Liaison Office 112 of the Korean Workers' Party	1987.12.5	Ae-kyung Park	Married	O

Attachment 3: a photograph of Geon-pyo Hong at the age of 17 years old