Attention:
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)

From:
Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)
Telephone: + 82-2-723-1672
Fax: +82-2-723-1671
Email: citizens.nkhr3@gmail.com; nkhr@naver.com
Address: Gyemyeong Bldg 3F, 186 Migeun-dong,
Seodaemun-gu,Seoul 120-020
Republic of Korea

Re:
The 1977 abduction of Mr. Min-kyo Lee

Submitted: 26 November 2012

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) tohavethe 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 formto the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances ontheir 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): Lee (이)

(b) * Given names(s): Min-kyo (민교)

(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 Pyeongtaek Taekwang High School

(f) Father's name: Heon-wu Lee (이헌우) Mother's name: Tae-ok Kim (김태옥)

(g) Date of birth: 20 February 1959

(h) Place and country of birth: Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, Republic of Korea

(i) Was the person below 18 years-old at the moment of the disappearance? No

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

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

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

(k) Nationality or nationalities: Republic of Korea

(l) Address of usual residence: Songtan-dong, Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea

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

(n) Marital status: Not married

(o) Indigenous: No

(p) Pregnant: No

2. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FACTS

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

August 1977 (then 18 years old)

(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 southwest coast 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, Mr. Lee 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. The Census listed the names and personal information of over 2 million citizens 18 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 Min-kyo Lee. It stated his name, birthday, profession, blood type, place of birth, home address, date of marriage, and the name of his spouse.[2] Experts on North Korea verified the 2005 Pyongyang Census as authentic.

(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)**

We know from the aforementioned Census that, as of at least 2005, Mr. Lee and his wife Jin-suk Kim were living in Palgol 2-dong, Mangyondae district in Pyongyang. Mr. Lee was working as an instructor at Liaison Office 112 of the Korean Workers' Party.

(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)**

In 1977, Mr. Min-kyo Lee and his friend Mr. Seung-min Choi were students at Pyeongtaek Taekwang High School and went to Hongdo Beach for a short trip during their summer vacation. They were on the beach when a North Korean espionage agent on his way back to

[1] Please see Attachment 1: Map
[2] Please see Attachment 2: Mr. Lee's personal information as stated in the 2005 Pyongyang Census

North Korea kidnapped Mr. Lee and Mr. Choi. This information was discovered during an interrogation process of North Korean spy agents in 1997.[3]

(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 Korea is responsible for the disappearances of these two high school students, as demonstrated in the responses above and below.

(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

In 1997, South Korea's Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) found out for the first time that Mr. Lee had, in fact, been abducted to North Korea. Previously, Mr. Lee had been believed to have disappeared within South Korea. NSP made this discovery after investigating several North Korean agents who had been caught in South Korea. After seeing photos of Mr. Lee, they confirmed that they had seen him over the years in Pyongyang.

Mr. Lee, presumably because of his youth and South Korean heritage, had been selected to train future North Korean spies. He worked in the suburbs of Pyongyang, where the government had built sets imitating South Korean shops for simulation purposes. Mr. Lee was identified as having been a teacher in a South Korea-style supermarket.

For two decades, the parents of Mr. Min-kyo Lee believed that their son was still in South Korea and traveled across the country looking for him. After NSP's interrogation of several North Korean espionage agents revealed that they had abducted young South Koreans, the agency called to ask the families for photos of their disappeared sons. When the photos were shown to the North Korean agents, more than one agent confirmed that Mr. Lee and Mr. Choi were both living in Pyongyang and had been recruited to teach North Koreans in espionage training.

[3] Korea Institute for National Unification. (2012). *White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2012*. Seoul, Korea: Kim, K., Chon, H., Lee, K., Lim, S., Lee, K., & Hong, W.

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*)

The families of Mr. Lee and Mr. Choi did not know that their sons had been kidnapped to North Korea. Therefore, they made dozens of inquiries to police stations around South Korea for many years, but not in regards to North Korea. In 1997, when it was revealed that her son had been taken to the North, Mr. Lee's mother met with two captured North Korean spies. One agent was the person who had kidnapped her son, though she did not know this at the time of her meeting. The second agent was a North Korean who had received training from her son in Pyongyang.

Mr. Lee's and Mr. Choi's parents were domestically active in searching for their son. Now, only Mr. Lee's mother is alive of the four, and she is 81 years old.

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

N/A

(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] 3F, Gyemyeong Building, 186 Migeun-dong, Seodamun-gu, Seoul, 120-020, Republic of Korea

[Telephone] +82-2-723-1672

[Fax] +82-2-723-1671

[Email] citizens.nkhr3@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____

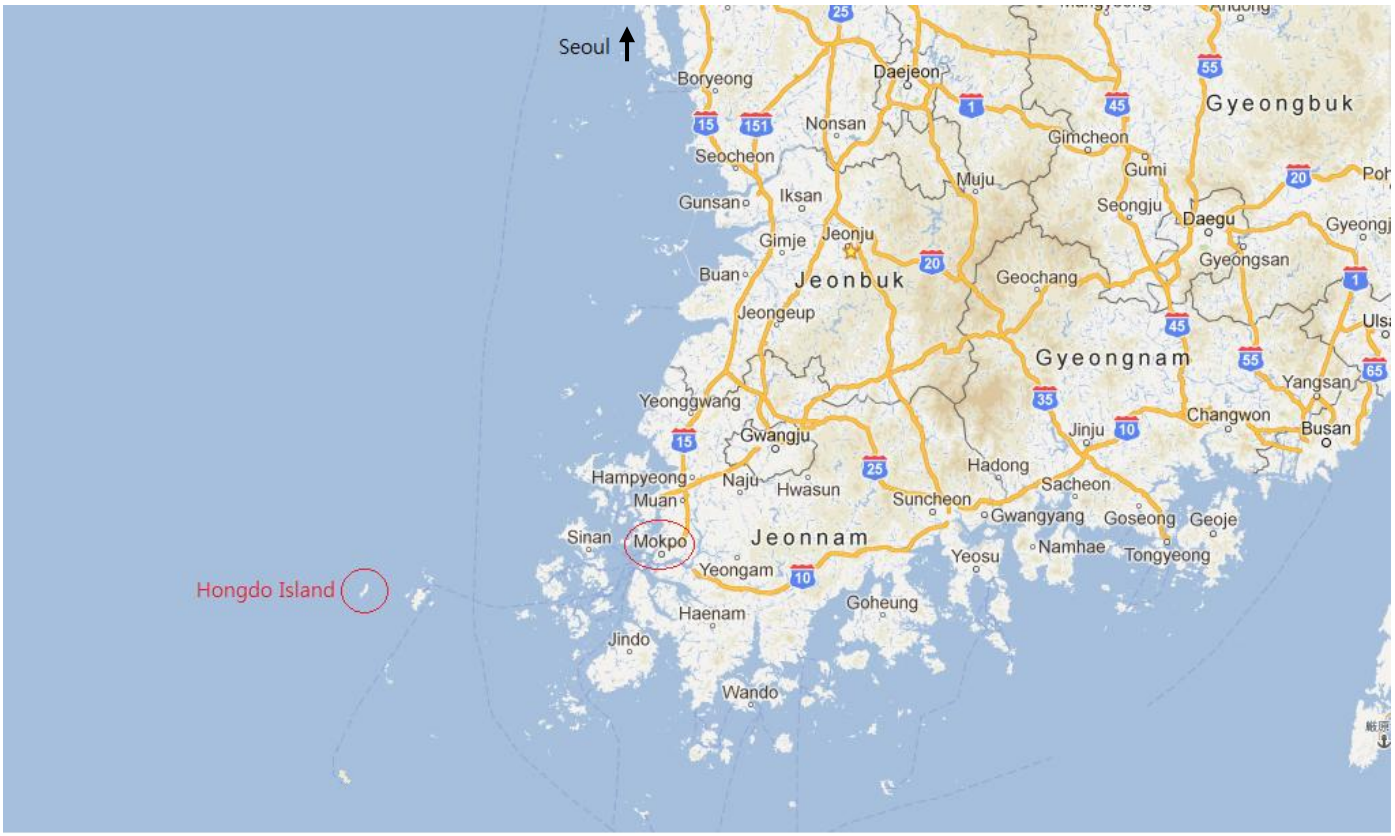
* **Signature of author**: Lilian Lee, Program Officer, International Campaign and Cooperation Team

* **Date**: 9 October 2012

*** Place**: Seoul, South Korea

Attachment 1: Map

Mr. Lee and his friend Mr. Choi took a ferry from Mokpo to Hongdo Island, where they were abducted by a North Korean espionage agent.

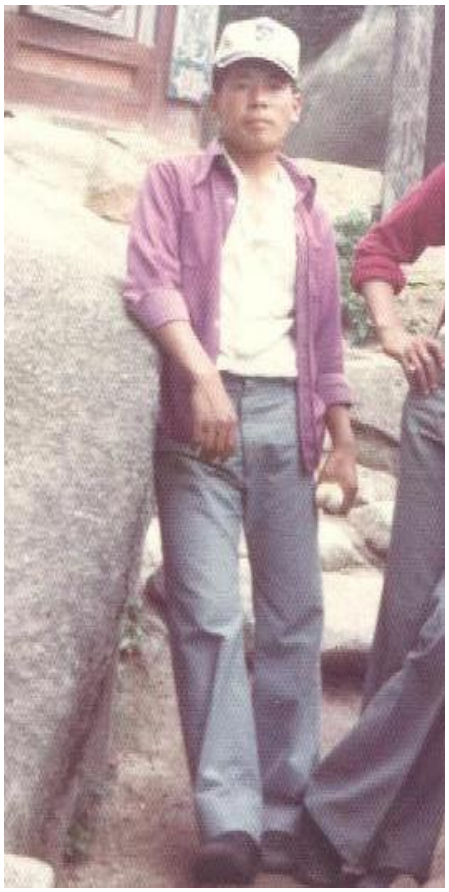


Attachment 2: List of 21 abductees and their personal information as stated in the 2005 Pyongyang Census obtained by *Weekly Chosun*. Mr. Lee's information is highlighted and translated into English below. From *Weekly Chosun*, 24 October 2011.

평양에 살아있는 납북 피해자 21명 신상자료

이름	성별	생년월일	고향	거주지(동)	직장 배치 시기	직장직위	결혼시기	배우자	결혼여부	혈액형
강명일 (봉산2호 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
고상문 (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
김명희 (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	금성청치대학 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	남	1960. 9. 21	충청남도 천원군	룡성구역	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
(풍북호 선원, 1967년 납북)	남	1951. 3. 10	조촌동	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 신평리	모란봉구역 홍부동 5반	1984. 5. 1	조선로동당 26련락소 부원	1984. 10. 14	리경란	결혼	O
조규영 (창영호 선원, 1968년 납북)	남	1955. 5. 07	강원도 영주군 주문진읍	만경대구역 팔골2동 37반	1999. 3. 1	조선로동당 130련락소 지도원	1984. 12. 27	리정화	결혼	A
조석원 (태양호 선원, 1968년 납북)	남	1953. 2. 27	전라북도 김제군 부량면 신평리	모란봉구역 홍부동 5반	1984. 5. 10	조선로동당 26련락소 부원	1981. 7. 20	정북면	결혼	B
최승민 (고교생, 1977년 납북)	남	1958. 11. 25	경기도 평택군 현덕면 도대리	만경대구역 팔골2동 38반	1989. 3. 1	조선로동당 112련락소 지도원	1984. 1. 22	류혜경	결혼	O
홍건표 (고교생, 1978년 납북)	남	1960. 10. 27	충청남도 천원군 입장면 도림리	만경대구역 팔골2동 38반	1989. 4. 1	조선로동당 112련락소 지도원	1987. 12. 5	박애경	결혼	O
성경희 (KAL 승무원, 1969년 납북	여	1949. 9. 17	함경남도 함흥시 사포구역 사포1동	모란봉구역 홍부동 4반	1970. 8. 1	조선로동당 26력란소 부원	1973. 12. 16	림영일	결혼	O
정경숙 (KAL 승무원, 1969년 납북)	여	1946. 9. 5	함경남도 홍원군 학산리	모란봉구역 홍부동 5반	1992. 10. 7	조선로동당 26력란소 부원	1972. 7. 16	오용걸	결혼	B
최석만 (KAL 부기장, 1969년 납북)	남	1932. 12. 21	경기도 포항시 랑덕동	사동구역 송학동 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
Min-kyo Lee	M	1959.2.20	Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province	Palgol 2-dong, Mangyongdae district	1989.6.17	Instructor at Liaison Office 112 of the Korean Workers' Party	1984.6.23	Jin-Suk Kim	Married	A

Attachment 3: Photos

In the first picture, Mr. Lee shortly before his abduction. In the second picture, Mr. Lee (right) with his friend Mr. Choi (left), who was abducted at the same time.