



See www.crnjapan.com/familypages for more information about the children pictured here.

Help Protest Japanese International Abductions

North Korea: Government <u>Sponsored</u> Abduction	VS	Japan: Government <u>Protected</u> Abduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1977 to 1983, 13 abductions have been recognized, and 70-80 are suspected <i>in total</i>. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the United States alone, it is estimated that more than 125 children are abducted to Japan, <i>each year</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite requests, North Korea continues to deny extradition of North Korean abductors to Japan. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan continues to ignore extradition requests and arrest warrants issued for Japanese abductors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2006, the North Korean Government has assisted in the return of <i>five abductees</i> and their families to Japan. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2006, the Japanese Government has assisted in the return of <i>zero abductees</i> to their country of origin.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea has admitted their crimes of abduction. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan does not recognize parental abduction as a crime.

Although we stand in solidarity against North Korea's abhorrent disregard of Human Rights...

We Protest Japan's Hypocrisy!!

Imagine returning home after work and finding your home empty. No you haven't been hit by the latest burglary ring. The most precious part of your life is missing – **YOUR CHILD** – who has been abducted by your Japanese spouse and taken to Japan. You call the police assuming they can help. In this case however there is no one who can help. You have just have lost all legal means of getting your son or daughter returned, and likely of ever seeing them again.

With all of Japan grieving for Megumi Yokota, the 13 year old girl abducted by North Korea in 1977, it might amaze you to find out that Japan is the only G7 nation that refuses to sign the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which requires countries to expeditiously return abducted children. Instead Japan does **NOT** consider it a crime when one of their own citizens abducts a child from a foreign country. Parental kidnapping is not a crime in Japan!

www.crnjapan.com/abduction

So once your American citizen child arrives in Japan, a Japanese court will decide that the post abduction status quo is in the "best interests" of your son or daughter and grant sole custody to the abducting parent. Why sole custody? Because joint custody is illegal in Japan.

www.crnjapan.com/custody

Even if you have custody in the US, it won't help. Japan has never recognized a United States custody order nor returned the child in any of the hundreds of parental abductions by Japanese citizens to Japan. Likewise Japan refuses to extradite citizens wanted on state, federal, Interpol or other warrants for International Child Kidnapping, some of whom are listed here:

www.crnjapan.com/warrants

Write Your Elected Politicians To Demand That Japan Must *

- Sign the "Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction."
- Return abducted children to their country of origin.
- Extradite Japanese citizens currently wanted for arrest under US and other countries' warrants.
- Pass laws making parental kidnapping within, or to, Japan a crime!!
- Proactively facilitate frequent, meaningful and direct contact between foreign family members and their children in Japan.

* See sample letters on the back of this flyer

To learn more, visit www.crnjapan.com/megumiprotest or email megumiprotest@crnjapan.com

THESE AND OTHER LETTERS AVAILABLE ON INTERNET: www.crnjapan.com/megumiprotest

<NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON YOU ARE SENDING THIS TO>

Dear Governor / Senator / Congressman, <PICK ONE AND ERASE THE OTHERS>

The recent heart-rending film "Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story" is about a 13-year-old Japanese girl who was abducted by North Korean spies in 1977. But what the film does not mention is that since then, Japanese citizens have abducted many more children than North Korea ever has, and still holds them in Japan at well known locations. There are many US arrest warrants out for the Japanese citizen abductors, some of them listed on the following web page. Yet Japan refuses to extradite them, claiming that **Japanese parental abduction of an American child is not a crime**. Japanese courts up the Supreme Court of Japan refuse to recognize foreign court orders for custody and return children to their non-Japanese parents.

www.crnjapan.com/warrants

Further, Japan refuses international calls to sign the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*. This widely signed treaty requires a country to return abducted children to their country of habitual residence -- the same thing Japan is asking of North Korea!! Japan is the only member of the G7 that has not signed this treaty. You can get further background information on this topic from the following website.

www.crnjapan.com

In a December 2005 meeting with Maura Harty, the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, Ichiro Komatsu, Director General of the International Legal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asked for help in resolving cases of parental abduction to Japan and in getting Japan to sign the Hague Convention. The State Department reported that, "The Director General gave the expected responses, none of which indicated a willingness to be forward leaning and helpful. He pointed out that the Diet would have to agree to the Convention and that from a sociological and political point of view there is no Japanese constituency for such a move."

Since Japan shows no inclination to improve, I strongly request that you investigate the following options to help ensure that ALL our American children are guaranteed frequent, meaningful and continuing contact with both natural parents, regardless of citizenship, marital status or gender.

- Enact sanctions to compel Japan to sign the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, to return American children kidnapped to Japan, and to extradite parents wanted on arrest warrants by US courts.
- Add information on international parental kidnapping by Japanese and other family law abuses to the "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices" for Japan, which is submitted on a yearly basis to the Congress by the Department of State.
- Implement exit controls at US airports and ports so that court ordered travel restrictions against Japanese parents can be enforced.

We cannot sit idly by while Japan violates American family values, laws and international norms of behavior.

Sincerely,

<Sign Your Name>

<Print Your Name, return address and optionally other contact information>

Japanese Ambassador Ryozo Kato
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20008
Fax: (202) 328-2187

Dear Ambassador Kato,

I am greatly troubled by the fact that Japanese citizens have kidnapped many more foreign children than North Korea ever has, yet Japan will neither return the American children, nor extradite the abducting parents. Your demands for justice from North Korea are hypocritical, given that Japan will not sign the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction nor does Japan even consider international parental kidnapping a crime. All children deserve frequent, meaningful and continuing contact with both natural parents, regardless of citizenship, marital status or gender.

Because of this, I have decided to cancel my plans to travel to Japan as well as to avoid purchasing Japanese made products. I cannot support Japan's gross violations of American laws, American family values and international norms of behavior with my hard earned money. I am also sending the following flyer to my family and friends, asking that they too do not travel to Japan nor purchase your country's products.

<http://www.crnjapan.com/megumifyer.html>

I will reconsider my travel and spending decisions only after Japan does the following:

- Signs the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.
- Passes enforceable laws guaranteeing the return of abducted children to parents with legal US custody orders and in Hague cases.
- Returns American children already abducted by Japanese parents.
- Extradites Japanese citizens listed on <http://www.crnjapan.com/japanesewarrants.html>

Japan is a G8 nation, but your laws make you look third world. It is no wonder Japan is known as a "**Haven for International Child Abduction.**"

Sincerely,

<Sign Your Name>

<Print Your Name, return address and optionally other contact information>