

# The People's Korea

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## DPRK Warns U.S. Against Causing Another Holocaust; Vicious Cycle of Terrorism and Retaliation

The DPRK swiftly responded in a subdued yet firm tone to the October 8 U.S. launching of a military operation against Afghanistan under the Taliban regime, expressing its serious concern about the fact that the "military retaliation," so called by the superpower, may cause a world-wide holocaust surpassing a due combat with terrorism.

The warning came on the following day of the U.S. attack as a statement of a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, which reiterated the country's principled stand on terrorism: "The DPRK's opposition to terrorism is aimed to promote global peace and stability and defend the sovereignty of the country and nation and protect the safety of the people and their property." "The method of combating terrorism," it continued, "should be in full accord with this purpose in any case."

Pointing to the way Washington started attacks on Afghanistan, the spokesman stressed that "the use of armed forces or a war to kill innocent people...contrary to this purpose can not be justified under any circumstances." He continued to say: "We hold that the action of the U.S. should not trigger a vicious cycle of terrorism and retaliation that may plunge the world into the holocaust of war."

In the meantime, Pyongyang showed its vigilance against a U.S. arms buildup in south Korea "under the pretext of filling up a military vacuum on the Korean Pen-

insula caused by the dispatch of the U.S. carrier Kitty Hawk to the Middle East in retaliation against the attacks on the U.S." "This is a dangerous move to drive the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war at any cost and the south Korean military authorities' support for the U.S. in its arms buildup is the act of dampening the Korean nation's ardent desire for reunification and a blatant challenge to its efforts to implement the June 15 joint declaration," the official Korean Central News Agency commented on October 4.

As regards the inter-Korean dialogue, the KCNA on October 2 blamed the U.S. by stating: "If the inter-Korean dialogue that has progressed since it was resumed with so much effort is brought to a stalemate owing to the U.S. intervention and obstruction, its consequences will be more serious than ever before."

The October 9 statement of the Foreign Ministry spokesman also condemned the Bush administration for having pursued hostility toward Pyongyang. "The DPRK has so far done what it is obliged to do to combat terrorism." The U.S., however, is "still keeping it on the list of 'sponsors of terrorism' under an unreasonable pretext," it said.

"Under this situation," the statement said, "the DPRK will closely watch the developments in a full readiness to cope with any possibility."

## Severe Rainstorms Hit Eastern Provinces of DPRK

Heavy rainstorms, strong winds and tidal waves caused severe damage to crops and homes in north Korea's eastern provinces, the DPRK's official Korean Central News Agency reported on Oct. 15.

According to the KCNA, two days of rain and storms, which lasted over 30 hours from the dawn of October 9 to 12:00 on October 10, battered coastal areas in Kangwon and South Hamgyong Provinces. 411 millimeters of rain fell in Wonsan, northeastern port city. Wonsan area was struck by 114 mm of torrential rain between 03:00 and 05:00 on Oct. 10 and by 1.5 meter-high tidal waves between 05:00 and 06:00. Strong winds of 18-20 m/s blew and 3 meter-high sea waves swept over breakwaters, flooding the land. Tens of thousand of homes and vast areas of farmland were inundated in Wonsan, and nearby areas which received 41 centimeters of rainfalls. The tidal wave and torrential rain claimed hundreds of casualties and huge loss of properties in Wonsan alone.

The average rainfall in Kangwon in October is only around 25 millimeters, said a statement of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in

the DPRK.

"There is an awful lot of damage, people were saying that there had not been rain like that in the area for about a century," said Gerald Bourke, a spokesman for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Beijing, who viewed the flooded areas.

The streets of Wonsan had been under almost 1-1.5 meters of water and the streets were covered in 30-50 cm deep mud. The sudden landslide and flood destroyed roads and bridges, totally suspending transportation and cutting off electricity supply and post and telecommunications services. Goods kept in commercial and service sectors were either washed away or made useless. As for the damage to industrial sectors, wharf facilities were destroyed, scores of ships were either sunk or damaged and a lot of cargo was washed away. Landslides and torrential rain pulled down and submerged thousands of houses, causing big loss to family properties. Schools, hospitals, halls and other public buildings were also left inundated. The OCHA reported that around 13,000 hectares of rice paddies were under water following the rain.

## Tokyo Governor's Anti-Koreanism Under Fire



Representatives of the Tokyo Headquarters of Chongryun make protest against Tokyo Governor's anti-DPRK argument on Oct. 2. Photo shows a press conference in the building of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

A noted xenophobe and ultra-rightist, Tokyo Governor Ishihara Shintaro, as ones might have expected, took full advantage of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. to blame North Korea for its "terrorism." In his TV appearance on September 30, Ishihara argued that "150 Japanese were kidnapped by North Korea and this is a fact known to the Japanese police." Referring to the "threat of North Korean missiles," he also intentionally tried to link it to another "threat of North Korea's biochemical weapons."

Pyongyang instantly condemned the chauvinistic governor for his malignant remark, by saying: "His reckless remarks are absolutely intolerable as they represent the criminal intention of the Japanese reactionaries to stir up militarist and ultranationalist sentiments in Japanese society and escalate their moves against the

DPRK." "If the issue of terrorism is to be handled from a principled stand, it is necessary to call into question, first of all, the fact that Japan has not yet repented its monstrous crimes and state-sponsored terrorism in the past," said the Korean Central News Agency.

Ishihara's abusive remarks against Pyongyang also angered Koreans in Japan. Representatives of the Tokyo Hq. of Chongryun (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) visited the Tokyo metropolitan government office to make a protest against the governor's argument. They told a secretary of the governor on October 2 that the rumor about what he called the "kidnapping of Japanese" is totally fictitious, stressing the fact that the Pyongyang government has consistently

## North, South Hold Governmental Talks on Mt. Kumgang Tourism



Photo shows inter-Korean governmental talks to promote tourism of Mt. Kumgang held at the foot of Mt. Kumgang from Oct. 4 to 5.

North and south Korea held two-day talks to promote tourism of scenic Mt. Kumgang from October 4 to 5 at the foot of Mt. Kumgang, according to an agreement reached at the 5th inter-Korean ministerial talks held in mid-September.

The head of the north side was Kim Taek Ryong, director of Secretariat of Cabinet, and the chief delegate of the south side delegation was Cho Myong Gyun, chief of

Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation Bureau of Ministry of Unification.

At the talks held at the Kumgangsang Hotel, both sides appreciated the great efforts made by the Asia-Pacific Peace Committee of north Korea and the Hyundai Asan of south Korea to pep up the tourism of Mt. Kumgang for the last three years.

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## DPRK Announces Postponement of Reunion of Separated Families

### Statement of CPRF Spokesman

A spokesman for the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) on Oct. 12 issued a statement as regards the fact that south Korea has been put on an "emergency alert" in a tense atmosphere. He said:

The 6th north-south ministerial talks, the 2nd meeting of the committee for the promotion of economic cooperation and the 2nd authorities' talks to pep up Mt. Kumgang tourism are slated to be held in October following the resumption of the north-south ministerial talks in September.

And the dates of exchanging the 4th visiting groups of separated families and relatives and the Seoul visit of the Taekwondo exhibition team are coming near.

But in south Korea the whole army and police have been put on "emergency alert" under the pretext of what is happening abroad, thus creating an unpredictable atmosphere of tension.

A "perfect security posture" is being called for at a "national security council meeting" or "emergency state council meeting." And the military authorities are "discussing measures against the movement of the Korean People's Army" and urging their army to be fully ready to go into action.

This is a dangerous act of going against the spirit of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, which calls for pooling efforts of the nation, and getting on the nerves of

the north, a dialogue partner.

In such tense atmosphere of alertness smooth dialogue and travel cannot be expected nor can there be any guarantee that an accidental event would not take place.

Taking into consideration the situation prevailing in south Korea, we cannot but postpone the exchange of the 4th visiting groups of separated families and relatives and dispatch of our Taekwon-do team to Seoul for the time being.

We feel very regretful for this.

It is our steadfast and consistent will to develop dialogue and negotiation with the south side.

Proceeding from this stand, we will hold as scheduled the 6th north-south ministerial talks, the 2nd meeting of the north-south committee for the promotion of economic cooperation and the 2nd north-south authorities' talks to pep up Mt. Kumgang tourism slated for October.

We consider it reasonable to hold them in Mt. Kumgang area which we had already proposed and where security is guaranteed.

At the same time, we hope that the emergency alert will be lifted and a favorable atmosphere created soon in south Korea so as to exchange the visiting groups of separated families and relatives and Taekwondo exhibition teams at an early date.

We believe that the south side will positively respond to our just measure.

## Exchanged Dogs Pup "2nd Generation" in Pyongyang and Seoul



Photo shows five puppies of a pair of dogs, named "Pyonghwa" and "Tongil" born in the Pyongyang Zoo

In June last year soon after the historic inter-Korean summit, General Secretary Kim Jong Il and President Kim Dae Jung and his wife presented a pair of dogs to each other as a symbol of north-south national reconciliation as well as a sign of personal rapport between the two leaders. The exchanged purebred dogs gave birth to five puppies, respectively, in Pyongyang and Seoul.

In the Pyongyang Zoo, the couple named "Pyonghwa (Peace)" and "Tongil (Unification)"--both of which are pedigree "Chindo (Chin Island) dogs"--had two male and three female puppies on September 17. According to our staff reporter in Pyongyang, the "second generation" puppies are growing quickly in a kennel, commanding wide popularity among Pyongyangites.

"Last year's inter-Korean summit talks and June 15 joint declaration marked a historic milestone in turning the long-continued confrontation and national partition to

national reconciliation and unity," said Chong Sung Gil, head of the technical section. "That's why we can say that the dogs Mr. and Mrs. President Kim Dae Jung presented to General Secretary Kim Jong Il are all the more precious and a fruit of the ardent aspiration of all the Korean people for reunification," he said and added: "I am going to breed them with much loving care." The puppies weighing already over two kilograms each, are soon to be given names.

In the meantime, Kim Dae Jung gave names "Uri (We)" and "Turi (Together or two)" to the pair which Kim Jong Il presented to him. They are also pedigree dogs called the "Pungsan dogs," which are often kept for hunting purposes and noted for their being intelligent and faithful to the owners. The couple can be found in a separate doghouse in the Kids Corner at the Seoul Grand Zoo.

According to the October issue of the monthly "Minjok(Nation)-21" of south

## Pyongyang Slams IAEA's Double Standard

Media of the DPRK condemned the International Atomic Energy Agency for its attempt to apply a "double standard" and show "partiality" to the country in the last annual meeting.

The IAEA in its annual General Conference between September 17 and 21 in Vienna adopted a "resolution backing the full implementation of IAEA verification responsibilities in the DPRK." According to the IAEA's official Website, the "resolution" stated: "The IAEA is continuing to monitor the 'freeze' on facilities under the 1994 Agreed Framework between the United States and the DPRK, but it remains unable to verify the DPRK's initial 1992 declaration of its nuclear program." "States...strongly encouraged the DPRK to respond positively."

This was flatly refuted by Pyongyang. The Korean Central News Agency on September 29 said that the issue of implementing the DPRK-U.S. Agreed Framework allows no interference by others, as it is a matter to be solved between the two countries. "If the IAEA wants to know who is to blame," the comment said, "it should, first of all, call the U.S. into question for being insincere in the implementation of the Agreed Framework."

Reminding the would-be "watchdog of nuclear development" under the United Nations of the fact that 2003, the target year for the U.S. provision of two Light Water Reactors to the DPRK is near at hand, the KCNA said: "If the U.S. had remained sincere in implementing the AF, it would have been put into practice to such a level as would enable the DRPK and the IAEA to start negotiations on verifying the accuracy and perfectness of the initial report on the nuclear substance."

The 1994 accord between the DPRK and the U.S. stipulates that due steps should be taken as regards the former's compliance with the IAEA's safeguards agreement "when a significant portion of the LWR project is completed, but before delivery of key nuclear components." Nevertheless, the project has made no further progress since the groundwork was laid and seems to be delayed until 2008 at the earliest before it is completed.

"Rodong Sinmun," organ of the Workers' Party of Korea, in its signed commen-

tary called the IAEA's statement a "far-fetched assertion," and added: "It is nothing but an impudent move of on the part of the provokers who dream up any fiction to achieve their sinister aim and do whatever they like under that pretext." The paper went on to say that the IAEA "is behaving like a puppet of the United States," departing from its principle of impartiality. "The DPRK states once again," it said, "it will never accept or tolerate any unreasonable 'verification,' 'inspection' or a double standard."

"Minju Joson," organ of the Cabinet, dated October 6 denounced the United States for its another recent sub-critical nuclear test in an underground nuclear test site in Nevada in utter disregard of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. "It is not the DPRK but the U.S. that should accept the IAEA's verification and inspection," it said and added: "Some dishonest elements in the IAEA are acting upon the script written by the United States in a bid to make 'nuclear threat' from the DPRK an established fact."

All of these statements represent Pyongyang's strong skepticism about the hawkish Bush administration which is apparently pressuring the international body. The Bush government, after a months-long "review" of its North Korea policy, announced on June 6 a conditional resumption of dialogue with the DPRK--bearing in mind especially its "precondition" that calls for Pyongyang's "strict compliance with the AF."

Early in October, DPRK ambassador to the United Nations Ri Hyong Chol urged the UN to address the issue of injustice and partiality as regards universal nuclear disarmament. In his speech during the debate in the 56th session of the UN General Assembly, the north Korean envoy said that special attention should be paid by the international body to stopping big countries from threatening the sovereignty of small and weak countries and abusing disputes for dominationist purposes. "In order to remove such partiality and a double standard," he stressed, "it is imperative to enhance the leading role of the United Nations, the function and role of the General Assembly in particular."

Korea, it was June this year that the bitch "Turi" whelped a litter of five males. But their "natural father" is one of the four "Pungsan dogs" which had been sent from the Pyongyang Zoo in 1999 in accordance with an agreement on exchange of animals reached between the north and the south. It was mated temporarily with "Turi" because "Uri"'s growth was a little bit slower than the original "partner." The puppies were named "Sopung," "Ulpung," "Daepung," "Kongpung," and "Wongpung" respectively after each syllable of the zoo "So-Ul-Dae-Kong-Won" meaning "Seoul Grand Zoo," the magazine reported.

"Not a few people from the countryside come up all the way to Seoul to see 'Uri'

and 'Turi' with their own eyes," a guide was quoted by the unification-oriented monthly as saying. "Before long, they are to find partners to have their own 'families'," he added.

"Though it was a weekday that I visited here, visitors were coming uninterruptedly," the reporter for the magazine said. "It seems to me that the reason why the dogs attract so high interest and attention from among the people is not simply because the 'Pungsan dogs' are registered in north Korea as its 'precious natural product No. 368.' But rather because a desire for an earlier unity of the divided country is deep-rooted in the hearts of the people," he commented.

### Mt. Kumgang Talks (Continued from page 1)

The north and the south shared the view that the Mt. Kumgang tourism greatly contributed to the promotion of national reconciliation and cooperation and it was the symbol of inter-Korean relations, the official Korean Central News Agency reported on Oct. 5.

### U.S. Retaliation (Continued from page 1)

been opposed to all forms of terrorism. Pointing to Ishihara's intention, the Chongryun group said: "His remarks represent not only his bitter enmity towards north Korea but also his personal anti-Koreanism based on racial discrimination."

The two sides agreed to meet again for the second round of talks on Oct. 19.

Details of agreed points of the talks remain to be informed. In the 5th inter-Korean ministerial talks, the north and the south agreed to have detailed discussions to promote Mt. Kumgang tourism including a plan to open an overland route to the mountain at a government-level talks.

And "such propaganda is intended to justify Japan's new ambition to invade the Korean Peninsula and the rest of Asia again and to strengthen a public security system in a bid to regulate Koreans in Japan by branding north Korea as a 'terrorism-sponsoring nation'." The protest was followed by a press conference on the day at the same office building.

# Japan's Active Engagement in U.S. Retaliation Brings Clock Back to Its Militarist Days

*Dispatch of SDF to Conflict Overseas Draws Wariness and Anger in Asia*

**Ri Sang Yong, PK Staff reporter**

*The terrorist attacks in the U.S. gave Tokyo strong justification to expand military engagement in international security issues--dispatch of its Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in conflict overseas. Going beyond the limits of Article 9 of the Constitution, Japan took a crucial step toward becoming a "normal state."*

*While the U.S. has been badly bitten by the war bug, Japan is now desperately going ahead with a plan to send the SDF to give wide-ranging powers and more active role to its armed forces. The newly approved anti-terrorism bill allows the Japanese military to take part in overseas military actions for the first time since World War II.*

## "Show The Flag" -- Japan's Rapid Military Expansion

Just days after four hijacked passenger airplanes crashed into and destroyed twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon building outside Washington on Sept. 11, Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro proposed sending the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to back up the U.S.-led military retaliation for these terrorist attacks on the U.S. mainland. In a very quick pledge to its support for the U.S.-led "new war" against terrorism, Koizumi backed his words with a practical action -- announcing a seven-point anti-terrorism plan to support the U.S.-led military operation in and around Afghanistan in retaliation for the September 11 strikes on the U.S. mainland.

When he met and had talks with Bush in Washington on Sept. 20, Koizumi, keen to show that Japan was a primary and reliable ally of the U.S., promised to speedily pass the bill to offer non-combat assistance as a rear guard to help the U.S.-led retaliatory war campaign against Afghanistan's ruling-Talibans who harbored Osama bin Laden and his terrorist group.

Koizumi was careful to say that Japan's seven-point plan was temporary and limited to the support for the U.S. retaliation

for the September 11 terrorist attacks. But Asian neighbors expressed deep concern about the possible resurrection of militarism in Japan.

The anti-terrorism bill was approved in the Diet on Oct. 29, after its passage through the House of Representatives on Oct. 18 and the Upper House on Oct. 29.

Gaining parliamentary approval, the law allows the biggest Japanese military deployment since World War II or the Asia-Pacific War, Japan's defeated imperialistic war in Asia-Pacific region. It is the first time since 1945 that Tokyo has passed legislation allowing its troops to support its ally's military actions outside Japanese territory and its surrounding areas.

The newly approved anti-terrorism bill allows Japan's SDF to provide non-combatant support to U.S.-led retaliation against the September 11 attacks. Under the legislation, though it is a temporary law effective for two years but extendable for up to two more years, Japan could dispatch its military forces to provide rearguard logistical support, such as marine transportation of weapons and ammunition, medical services, provision of supplies, as well as rescue and aid for refugees. The law allows the SDF to use their weapons not only to protect themselves but also to defend those under their care, such as refugees or injured soldiers.

In the newly approved law, Tokyo is able to dispatch the SDF to conflict areas without prior approval of the Diet.

The parliament also approved a bill to allow the SDF to protect U.S. military facilities in Japan and a bill to revise the current law governing the Japanese Coast Guard, allowing it to fire at suspicious ships to stop them.

As a practical step for U.S. support, the Japanese government is planning to send warships and military personnel to the Indian Ocean in an effort to support U.S.-led military operations in Afghanistan, news reports in Japan said on Oct. 27.

Tokyo's plan reportedly includes dispatching fuel-supply ships, destroyers and its state-of-the-art Aegis vessels to the Indian Ocean for transportation and supply

missions and for "intelligence gathering."

## Overseas Dispatch of SDF -- Opening Pandora's Box

Japan's current law, the Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation, enables the SDF to provide logistical support only to U.S. forces in the event of an emergency in specific "areas surrounding Japan." Under the existing law, until now Japanese troops have so far gone abroad only as part of United Nations' peacekeeping activities, and have not been allowed to use their weapons.

But the new law goes further.

It enables the SDF to support an aggressive military action, although the support is limited to logistical one, though the law bans the troops from taking part in actual combat.

Actually, this is widely seen as a turning point in Japan's military and security policy. For the first time, the Japanese Self Defense Forces would take part in military action clearly beyond "areas surrounding Japan."

Critics say that the SDF's planned "non-combat" activities, such as transportation of weapons and ammunition, supply of food, fuel, medical supply, and search-and-rescue missions for soldiers who are lost or wounded in combat, are acts of military operations to back up the acts of fighting the enemy. From the international point of view, logistical support from rear area is regarded as part of a battle with the enemy.

They also expressed considerable doubts about the "non-combat" coloring of Japan's planned support activities for the U.S. in "rear areas." In modern warfare, there is no difference between the front line and the rear area.

Some analysts say that Koizumi wants America's ongoing bombing in Afghanistan to be a good opportunity to enable Japan to carve out a role for itself as an active participant in international conflicts.

More importantly, by setting a legal precedent, the new law will pave the way for eventual revision of Article 9 of Japan's

pacifist Constitution--a process Koizumi and other hawks have long advocated. The expected dispatch of the SDF will make it easier for Japan to expand its military engagement in the East Asian region.

Japan's postwar constitution permanently renounces war and the threat or use of force to settle international disputes.

Conspicuously, since the 1990s Japan has added fresh fuel to the moves of overseas military expansion, as it approved a series of warlike treaties and bills, such as the PKO law, the revised Mutual Security Treaty with U.S. and the Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation and the Law on the Area Surrounding Japan.

## Asian Nations Cautious of Japan's Active Military Role

Many Asian neighbors, colonized by Imperialist Japan, have watched the increasing military role of the SDF with wariness. It is highly likely that any move to boost its military role will spark controversy in Asia because of its past militarism and imperialism.

Although China and south Korea have not directly opposed Japan's efforts to extend its support to the "fight against terrorism," but they have warned against Japan's military expansion.

Pyongyang has harshly criticized Japan's moves. While expressing its determination to oppose all forms of terrorism and another ongoing act of terrorism committed by U.S. and British forces against Afghanistan, Pyongyang accused Japan of taking advantage of the terrorism issue by legalizing the dispatch of Japanese troops abroad.

Upon the passage of the anti-terrorism bill on Oct. 27, Rodong Sinmun, organ of the DPRK's ruling Workers' Party of Korea, said on Oct. 28, "The revival of militarism in Japan and its moves for overseas expansion have already gone beyond the danger limit," adding that the Japanese government is "putting spurs to establishing a wartime system."

Pyongyang's criticism pointed out that Japan's true intention is "to unlimitedly expand the sphere of actions of the SDF and provide a judicial and institutional mechanism for re-invasion of Asia by utilizing the terrorist attacks on the U.S. as a momentum."

Calling it a move for "overseas aggression," Pyongyang said that it would "heighten vigilance against the highly disturbing moves of the Japanese reactionaries and intensify the struggle to check and foil their moves."

## War Victims Call for Japan's Prompt Redress of Its Criminal Past; Japanese Civic Group Hears Testimonies in N. Korea

*By PK Staff Reporters*

PYONGYANG--The visiting civic "Fact-Finding Team about the Truth of Forced Korean Laborers in Japan (Aichi Prefecture)" led by Takeuchi Hiroshi, former mayor of Handa City in the prefecture, visited from October 7 through 13 the capital city of Pyongyang and Wonsan, the second largest city, of the DPRK, to collect further information about the war crimes Imperial Japan had committed to the country during the Second World War, including new testimonies from such victims as forced laborers and so-called "comfort women" for the Japanese Imperial Army.

This investigation work was conducted by the civilian group as part of its 10 years of efforts to reveal what had happened to Koreans during the war, and at the same time, to hear from survivors including those who had been supposed to visit Japan including Handa City and Tokyo in August last to attend the hearings cosponsored by different civic groups and NGOs, but failed to do so due to the Japanese government's refusal to grant them entry visas "for a political reason."



**Members of "Fact-Finding Team about the Truth of Forced Korean Laborers in Japan" based on Aichi Prefecture hear testimonies of north Korean victims.**

The interviewees, six people in all, gave the Japanese team detailed stories on their bitter experiences of the past and asked for a sincere apology and due compensations

for the past wrongdoings, by the Tokyo government.

Listening to them in a Pyongyang hotel, Mr. Takeuchi said: "I, as a Japanese, must

express my deep feeling of apology to the Korean people for their unbearable life-long misfortunes Japan had imposed on them. Back home, we are going to tell the truth to as many Japanese people as possible. And we assure you that we, together with our sympathizers, will continue doing our best to demand the Japanese government recognize its responsibility for its colonial rule of Korea and make an official apology and compensation."

## TESTIMONIES OF WARTIME VICTIMS

*The following are excerpts from what the Korean victims told the Japanese investigation team in Pyongyang:*

### "Days full of national indignation": Ri Se Min(73)

During the Japanese colonial days, my family was living as tenant farmers in Ryongchon County, North Pyongan Province. When an autumn came, a half of the

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## Testimonies of Korean Victims

(Continued from page 3)



crop we gathered in was taken away by the landlord as rent in kind. And a large portion of the remaining half also went to the hands of the Japanese rulers in the name of "delivery rice" which was forcibly collected.

I was very eager to study. My parents managed to send me to primary school, but could not afford to send me to high school owing to our financial situation. One day, I came to know by hearsay that there was a place where I would be able to study without paying tuition. I visited an employment agency in Shinuiju (border city with China) where I was told to enter an apprentice training center at a munition plant located in Inchon (west of Seoul) which produced bombs for the most part. The plant-superintendent was a lieutenant colonel of the Imperial Army of Japan, and the manager of the apprentice training center was also the army's first lieutenant. I worked longer than 10 hours a day in the plant but was paid no wage at all under the pretext that I was just an "apprentice."

It was November 11, 1943 that I was forcibly sent to Japan. This happened to me so abruptly that I was unable to see even my parents and relatives before I left Korea. I was taken to a Mitsubishi aircraft factory in Nagoya to work there. Though I worked day and night there, I was paid no wage at all, too. Afterwards U.S. air-raids on the city started. And as the bombing escalated we were moved to a factory in the countryside. Then I was sent back to Inchon to continue to work there, because the Japanese regarded Korea as their safe rear in the war. In Inchon I greeted our national liberation.

What I cannot forget even now is this: One day, I stole a sweet potato because I was starving. But I was caught in the act of eating it. Then the superintendent lashed me repeatedly at random, shouting at me, "How can you Korean steal in Japan?!" Still now, the scars given me at that time are still left on my body. Young as I was then, I felt national indignation surging up within me not once or twice.

## "Japan forced me to live disabled":

**Ri Sang Ok (75, former "comfort woman")**



I was living in Shinpyong County, North Hwanghae Province, together with my parents, an elder brother and sister. When I was 13 years old, my mother died and my

father was conscripted into the Japanese "National Service Corps." Then, in order to earn a living, my brother became a cowherd, my sister a washer and I a baby-sitter for others. It was when I was 17 years of age that the chief of a ward came and took me and two other girls to Songrim station where 12 other young girls had been gathered. Then, all of us were put on a truck. On our way to somewhere, three to four girls got off the truck in groups. And we, three from the same village, remained. It was dark when the truck reached the final destination I did not know at all. A Japanese military officer named Yasuda took us to a shack surrounded by wooden fences and threatened us by saying, "You shall die unless you remain obedient to me from now on." The following day, Yasuda raped me. I was so scared that I lost consciousness.

From the next day a number of Japanese soldiers came almost everyday to rape us. They beat me on the face so often that my left ear became almost deaf. I heard my friends crying in the next rooms all the time.

One day, one of my two colleagues died. I and the remaining girl made up our minds to escape because we thought we would also be killed if we remained there. We ran into the mountains so as not to be caught. In the mountains we departed, and I did not know what happened to her after that. I kept running away and went down into a remote village where I came to settle as a servant for a peasant's family. I came to know for the first time that it was Suncheon, South Pyongan Province.

It was after Korea was liberated that I went back home. After that, however, I did not marry until I became 38 years old. Because all men without exemption appeared to me to be "beasts" owing to that nightmarish experience of sexual assaults I went through when I was so young. I got married to a man with 3 daughters after all, but I could not have my own child. It was not other than Japan that disabled me and has forced me to remain a mother having no child of my own. Sixty years have passed. But what in the world has Japan done for us ever since?! What I want to say is that Japan must apologize and compensate at the earliest date.

## "1,000 Koreans were victimized in one moment":

**Hwang Jong Su (75)**



We were a family of sixteen, engaging in farming in Yanggu County, Kangwon Province. It was May 14, 1944 that I received a call-up paper issued by the chief of a ward administration. I could take to my legs if I wished at that time. The next day, however, I went to our *myon* office because my parents would have been arrested and beaten if I got away. I was taken by bus and train to Suncheon, the then seat of provincial government. In front of Suncheon station I saw a large group of people who had been gathered from different counties of Kangwon Province.

We arrived in Shimonoseki (a westernmost port city of Japan's Main Island) from which we were taken by Japanese soldiers to Otaru (a mid-western port city of Hokkaido). It was May 25. In Otaru, we were forced to be engaged in laying

groundwork for a munition factory. Four of my fellow workers were killed in accidents which were caused by lack of due measures for workmen's accident prevention.

On the evening of July 7, we were urgently ordered to get on board a vessel named the "Taihei." The Japanese told us that we were going to Sakhalin. But the destination was one of the Kuriles. The "Taihei" was sailing along with four cruisers and three destroyers of the Navy of Japan. On their way to the Kuriles, however, the vessels became easy targets of U.S. attacks. Because of the U.S. raids, out of the fellow Koreans aboard the "Taihei," more than a thousand were killed. Nevertheless, the Japanese handed over the remains of only nine victimized Koreans to us later on. We cremated the remains by ourselves.

The foods given us were so coarse that we were savagely hungry all the time. So all of us used to eat wild nuts with rinds, which often caused indigestion among us. One day, a friend of mine on duty for cooking ate secretly, out of sheer hunger, the head of a dolphin after the Japanese officers had left. But he was caught doing so. The Japanese painted a word "dog" in a Chinese character on his chest and back, and bound him up with an iron chain with the fish in his mouth. Not satisfied with that, they beat and kicked him at random so harshly that he became lame. He was sent back to his hometown.

## Fellow Koreans who died from severe cold:

**Kim Hong Gi (78)**

It was February 1939 that I was forcibly sent to Japan. I, together with some 180 Koreans, was taken to the Sakido Mine situated in the vicinity of Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture. From the following day of our arrival at the mine on, we were forced to work.

Because it was an undersea coal mine, the pits were full of gas and the temperature was as high as over 40 degrees in centigrade all the time, and a lot of seawater leaked in. We had to mine 20 tons of coal a day under such terrible working conditions that both accident prevention and sanitary facilities were lacking. After hewing out coal we had to erect poles inside the pit and fix the machines every day. That's why



we had to work for more than 14 hours a day.

The Korean workers received 4 yen a day while Japanese who were assigned easier jobs were paid 12 yen. I suffered terrible whippings simply because I appeared at the dining room wearing my ethnic costume and I used my native language at a shop.

In 1941 I left there, and in May 1942 I was transferred to the Fukuoka Coal Mine. I could not bear the hard labor there any longer. So I tried to escape with my friend but in vain. The Japanese lashed and beat us mercilessly. I had my rib bones broken and found myself unable to continue the work. Then they made arrangements that I worked as a farm servant for the family of a Japanese millionaire living in Hakata City, Fukuoka Prefecture. Later, I came back home once, but I was requisitioned again in March 1944 to work in Hakodate, Hokkaido. I was forced to work for a ship-building yard which provided miserable foods and accommodation. I was given only just 150 grams of red-beans a day and a shabby dormitory to live in. There was only one stove in a center of the facility in which 1,000-1,500 workers were jampacked. In the dormitory there were 150 Korean compatriots from the same place, of whom four died from severe cold in the winter.

Just think of innumerable fellow countrymen who were killed and got disabled by the Japanese! The Japanese imperialists worked Koreans like beasts of burden and regarded the death of a Korean as that of a fly. Japan must fully indemnify Koreans for everything they lost.

## Roundup of Major Events on DPRK

### September

**3 - 5 --** Chinese President Jiang Zemin, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, paid an official visit to the DPRK and had summit talks with Chairman Kim Jong Il of the DPRK National Defense Commission, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

**5 --** Kim Jong Il gave on-site guidance to the modern September 27 Chicken Factory newly built in Pyongyang.

**11 --** Kim Jong Il inspected KPA units No. 821 and No. 368 and goat and rabbit farms of KPA unit No. 757.

**12 --** A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry answered the question put by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) as regards the large-scale terrorist attacks on the United States, which occurred on Sept. 11.

**15 - 18 --** The 5th inter-Korean ministerial talks were held in Seoul after six months' suspension. North and south Korea issued a five-point joint communique. Both sides agreed to exchange visiting groups of separated families and relatives

and promote cooperation in various fields.

**18 --** Kim Jong Il inspected a sub-unit of KPA unit No.535 and unit No.211.

**19 --** Kim Jong Il visited Kim Chaek University of Technology.

**19 --** A delegation of the Chilean Senate headed by vice-president Mario Rios Santander visited the DPRK.

**20 --** Kim Jong Il inspected a military dog training camp under the Ministry of People's Security.

**23 --** Kim Jong Il gave field guidance to a catfish factory under KPA unit No.534 and to Kwail County.

**25 --** A Mongolian Foreign Ministry delegation headed by State Secretary Ganbold Baasanjav visited the DPRK.

**25 --** A KEDO delegation visited the DPRK to participate in a high-level DPRK-KEDO negotiation for the implementation of the agreement on the provision of light water reactors.