

## **DAVID SNEDDON: ALIVE IN PYONGYANG?**

- Yahoo! Japan News has reported the South Korean Abductees Family Union (which advocates for the rescue of South Koreans abducted into North Korea) has brought forward information from out of North Korea: David Sneddon was kidnapped and is currently alive in Pyongyang; he has a North Korean wife and two children, and he has taught English to the current dictator. The organization has rescued at least eight abductees from North Korea and has contacts within the Asian Underground Railroad.
- David's family learned of this information from the national and international news along with many others in the world. No one in our family had spoken with Choi Sung-Yong, head of the South Korean Abductees Family Union. Experts in our case tell us that Mr. Choi has a reputation for many times being right in a big way but also at times has provided inaccurate information. We are waiting for the information to be verified. We are grateful for any and all efforts by those concerned for David to bring out information, especially considering the dangerous nature of the work involved to rescue abductees.
- Emerging information on David's case keeps pointing towards North Korea. David disappeared in August 2004 and the U.S. State Department took valiant steps to try and recover him. Our family met many times with U.S. and Chinese officials who seemed to genuinely be working to help find David. Ultimately, in 2005 David's case was deemed "inconclusive" after the trail went cold and continual problems were encountered with gaining information about investigation of the witness leads identified by David's family. U.S. State took our case to the highest levels via involvement of the U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt who personally delivered the report of witness leads to China.
- This is the second time information about David's likely captivity in North Korea has been brought to light by non-governmental organizations with expertise and contacts in the Asian Underground Railroad. In 2012, the National Association for the Rescue of Japanese Kidnapped by North Korea (NARKN) obtained information from a "trusted source" in China that an American student matching David's description was handed over to North Korean agents by corrupt law enforcement in China.
- Reports the U.S. State Department launched a full search for David most unfortunately appear to be exaggerated. However, the State Department for the past dozen years has maintained an open investigation for David to assess new and emerging information. We received three confirmations from Capitol Hill after the news for David surfaced that five Congressional offices held a conference call with a dozen U.S. State Department officials to urge investigation of the new information. We have been informed the U.S. State Department is now working to learn more about the information. We will also continue to look into its authenticity and hope that further details may be forthcoming. We remain hopeful. We are grateful to all individuals, reporters and officials trying to help David!