

## **1-PAGE CASE SUMMARY: MISSING U.S. CITIZEN DAVID SNEDDON**

David Sneddon is a U.S. citizen and university student who went missing while touring China a dozen years ago. When Chinese police and the U.S. Embassy could not find him, China theorized that David fell to his death in Tiger Leaping Gorge. This theory was disproven when David's father and two of his brothers went to China and re-traced his footsteps. They documented a dozen eyewitnesses who saw and interacted with David before he disappeared more than 70 miles beyond the gorge, after traversing it safely.

The U.S. Ambassador to China hand-delivered the witness leads to the Chinese government amid many valiant efforts by U.S. Embassy officials to help find David. The Chinese and U.S. joint investigations were ultimately deemed "inconclusive" and David remains the only American to disappear in China without an explanation since the 70's. His passport and bank account remain unused and untouched. He was nowhere to be found in local tourist establishments or hospitals; police confirmed he was not a crime victim; his airline tickets went unused and his backpack unclaimed. He just disappeared.

In the past five years, David's case has re-emerged with a highly-plausible explanation for his disappearance: respected experts on North Korea and Asian Affairs have stated it is most likely that David was abducted by the government of North Korea due to his linguistic talents. David was fluent in Korean and skilled in Mandarin Chinese. He may have been mistaken for an operative on the Asian Underground Railroad that provides safe passage for North Korean refugees through China. North Korean agents are known to operate with China's permission to repatriate refugees in the area David disappeared.

David's case fits a pattern of abduction familiar to experts who've studied North Korea for decades, including former 20-year Pentagon guru Chuck Downs, veteran Wall Street Journal reporter Melanie Kirkpatrick, and leading Japanese experts who maintain the world's best intelligence on North Korea's abductions of foreigners. David's likely situation should be alarming to all Americans. North Korea's admitted state policy is to kidnap citizens of foreign nations to serve as language trainers for its espionage program.

Members of the U.S. Congress have introduced a joint resolution (S. Con. Res. 30/H. Con. Res. 114) to urge investigation of David's likely captivity by North Korea. High-profile cosponsors include recent Presidential contender Senator Marco Rubio, Senate East Asia Subcommittee Chairman Cory Gardner, House Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, Chairman James Sensenbrenner of the Terrorism, Crime and Homeland Security Subcommittee, and Chairman David Nunes of the House Intelligence Committee.

The resolution directs the U.S. intelligence community to investigate David's likely captivity in North Korea in partnership with the U.S. State Department. U.S. officials need greater resources in order to conduct a thorough, coordinated investigation into David's likely captivity. The joint resolution (H. Con. Res. 114/S. Con. Res. 30) now before the U.S. Congress would help David's case move forward by involving the U.S. intelligence community and directing the investigation towards potential captivity in North Korea.