

## **FERRY DISASTER: Rescue Diver Dies Searching**

[HTTP://WHOTV.COM/2014/05/05/FERRY-DISASTER-RESCUE-DIVER-DIES-SEARCHING/](http://WHOTV.COM/2014/05/05/FERRY-DISASTER-RESCUE-DIVER-DIES-SEARCHING/)

MAY 5, 2014, BY STAFF WRITER, UPDATED AT 09:37PM, MAY 5, 2014



JINDO, South Korea (CNN) — A diver searching the sunken Sewol ferry died Tuesday, according to South Korea's Government Rescue Headquarters.

"A civilian diver, Lee, lost the communication line at 25 meters under the sea five minutes into his first dive," spokesman Koh Myung-suk said.

"By the time his colleagues went to save him, Lee was unconscious and unable to breathe by himself," Koh said.

Lee, whose full name was not provided, was helicoptered to a hospital where he was pronounced dead, the spokesman added.

Park In-ho, head of the hospital where Lee died, said the diver's blood was tested and appeared normal except for high potassium.

His chest X-ray also showed no sign of irregularity.

Not including the diver, the death toll in the ferry disaster has risen to 263, with 39 people still missing, the government reported.

Over the weekend, South Korean President Park Geun-hye visited the port where the rescue operation is based to console families and encourage divers.

Nearly 130 divers are combing the ship, looking for the remaining missing bodies. The search-and-rescue operation has turned into a grueling recovery of corpses. No one has been found alive since the ferry sank April 16 with a passenger load largely made up of high school students on a field trip.

The work has become even more difficult because divers have faced closed cabin doors blocked by debris.

Corralling the debris has been difficult for search teams.

Mattresses and clothing from the ship have been found up to 9 miles (15 km) away from the accident site, said Park Seung-ki, a spokesman for the rescue operation.

Large stow and trawler nets will be set up around the sunken ship to catch items that may float away, he said. At the same time, some three dozen ships will be clearing an oil spill from the ferry, which is threatening the livelihood of the local fishermen.

The ferry sank en route from Incheon to the resort island of Jeju, off the nation's southwestern coast.

## **Civilian diver dies trying to recover bodies from sunken South Korean ferry**

[HTTP://FOX4KC.COM/2014/05/05/CIVILIAN-DIVER-DIES-TRYING-TO-RECOVER-BODIES-FROM-SUNKEN-SOUTH-KOREAN-FERRY/](http://fox4kc.com/2014/05/05/civilian-diver-dies-trying-to-recover-bodies-from-sunken-south-korean-ferry/)

MAY 5, 2014, BY CNN WIRE

*This is an archived article and the information in the article may be outdated. Please look at the time stamp on the story to see when it was last updated.*

JINDO, South Korea (CNN) — A diver searching the sunken Sewol ferry died Tuesday, according to South Korea's Government Rescue Headquarters.

"A civilian diver, Lee, lost the communication line at 25 meters under the sea five minutes into his first dive," spokesman Koh Myung-suk said.

"By the time his colleagues went to save him, Lee was unconscious and unable to breathe by himself," Koh said.

Lee, whose full name was not provided, was helicoptered to a hospital where he was pronounced dead, the spokesman added.

Not including the diver, the death toll in the ferry disaster has risen to 263, with 39 people still missing, the government reported.

Over the weekend, South Korean President Park Geun-hye visited the port where the rescue operation is based, to console families and encourage divers.

More than 100 divers are combing the ship room by room, looking for the remaining missing bodies.



**Footage from the South Korean Coast Guard shows rescue efforts from the sinking Sewol ferry off the coast of South Korea, April 16, 2014.**

The search and rescue operation has turned into a grueling recovery of corpses. No one has been found alive since the ferry sank April 16, with a passenger load largely made up of high school students on a field trip.

The work has become even more difficult because divers have faced closed cabin doors blocked by debris.

Corralling the debris has been difficult for search teams.

Mattresses and clothing from the ship have been found up to 9 miles (15 km) away from the accident site, said Park Seung-ki, a spokesman for the rescue operation. Large stow and trawler nets will be set up around the sunken ship to catch items

that may float away, he said.



**Footage from the South Korean Coast Guard shows rescue efforts from the sinking Sewol ferry off the coast of South Korea, April 16, 2014.**

The ferry sank en route from Incheon to the resort island of Jeju, off the nation's southwestern coast.

*CNN's Stella Kim reported from Jindo; Ed Payne wrote from Atlanta*

## Rescue Diver Dies Looking for Bodies on Sunken South Korean Ferry

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2014/05/06/civilian-rescue-diver-dies-looking-for-bodies-on-sunken-south-korean-ferry/>

6 May 2014 by AWR HAWKINS

**On April 29th, a 53-year old diver taking part in the search for bodies aboard the sunken South Korean Sewol ferry became unconscious and later died after descending 25m into the water.**



The diver was known as “Mr. Lee” [According to BBC News](#), the deceased diver was “a veteran crew member of Undine Marine Industries, which specializes in maritime engineering and rescue work.” This was his first rescue dive around the sunken ferry.

“Fellow divers lost communication with [Mr. Lee] five minutes into his dive and later pulled him to the surface,” the report stated.

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won “has since ordered government officials overseeing the rescue operation to thoroughly check divers’ health conditions.”

Follow AWR Hawkins on Twitter [@AWRHawkins](#). Reach him directly at [awrhawkins@breitbart.com](mailto:awrhawkins@breitbart.com).

## Sewol, one year on: Rescue divers struggle in the wake of ferry tragedy

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/sewol-one-year-on-rescue/1784874.html>

15 Apr 2015 By Lim Yun Suk, South Korea Bureau Chief, Channel NewsAsia

SEOUL: The welfare of civilian divers who risked their lives to help find victims’ bodies from the Sewol ferry sinking is among many issues that arose from last April’s tragedy.

When the ferry sank in April 2014, dozens of professional and amateur civilian divers headed to Jindo island in South Korea's southwest thinking they were prepared for the potential dangers of the rescue mission that awaited them.



**South Korean divers during the search and rescue operation of the Sewol ferry**

But the divers would find themselves battling months of bad weather and fast currents. Murky conditions underwater also meant they had to feel their way around the ship due to low-to-zero visibility, and to avoid being hit by floating objects at the same time.

Despite the dangerous conditions, some did as many as five dives a day, often with little concern for their own safety, hoping to recover as many people as possible. "The Sewol site is not only deep, but the tidal current is so strong," said Jung Yong-hyun, Head, Korea Diving Industry Institute. "The Uldolmok (tidal power station) made famous by the Battle of Myeongnyang is nearby. But these divers overcame such strong tidal currents and dived in, thinking of the victims' families.

Not all survived the mission. Two civilian divers died after losing consciousness during the search. And for many of the other divers, the past 12 months have been tough.

"I am afraid to be in dark places alone because the images run through my head," said diver Kim Kwan-hong. "So I keep going out to meet people in wide open spaces and move around. If I walk around, I think of it less."

### **BODIES DECAYED "BEYOND RECOGNITION"**

Nothing could have prepared Mr Kim and many of his fellow divers for coming face-to-face with the bodies. Said another diver, Kim Sang-woo: "I dived in with a sad heart, thinking of the children, but entering the hull is frightening work. The state of the bodies goes beyond our imagination. They have decayed beyond recognition."

Mr Kim Dong-soo is also suffering from the trauma of last year's dives. He was a hero for saving more than 10 people from the sinking ferry. But the recognition has done little to assuage his guilt.

He was back in the news last month after he attempted suicide. He says he cannot forgive himself for not having saved more lives. Police say he has suffered mentally, physically and financially, due to the lack of government assistance after completing the mission. He is now receiving treatment.

The search and recovery operation ended in November. The ship remains submerged in the waters off Jindo.

As the country marks the first anniversary of the sinking of Sewol, many have returned to Jindo to see what has happened since. For them, being at the site of the tragedy has triggered memories of the Apr 16 disaster, when more than 300 passengers, mostly high school students, died as the ferry listed and sank to the bottom of the sea.