

2. Fight against Organized Crimes

A. Organized Crime Groups (Boryokudan)

Membership including associate members of Boryokudan peaked in 1963, at approximately 184,100 persons. Since then, it was on a steady decline until 1987 when it once again started showing signs of growth. With the implementation of the Anti-Boryokudan Act in 1992, this growth trend halted and the number of Boryokudan members began to decline again. As of the end of 2020, Boryokudan membership stands at approximately 25,900.

(Note: Boryokudan is commonly referred to as "Yakuza" and is defined by the Anti-Boryokudan Act as "any organization likely to facilitate its members to collectively or habitually commit illegal acts of violence.")

Boryokudan undertake a variety of unjust or unlawful activities, such as using coercion derived from Boryokudan to pursue economic benefits. Such behavior is based upon their principles which considerably deviate from the general rule of law. They also show their violent nature of adopting any means to achieve their goals. For example, there were cases in which Boryokudan members attacked business operators who would not accept their demands in retaliation or as warnings. Conflicts also broke out over the choices of their leaders' successors.

B. Comprehensive Measures against Boryokudan

To disrupt Boryokudan activities, the police are engaged in strict crackdowns on illegal activities and public campaigns to alienate Boryokudan from society.

In 2015, Boryokudan leaders who defected from the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi, Japan's largest Boryokudan, formed a new group: Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi. Since then, the two groups have been in a state of conflict. Furthermore, a subgroup of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi announced the formation of a new group named Ninkyo Dantai Yamaguchi-gumi in April 2017 (the present group name: Kizunakai) and internal conflicts started within Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi. Their conflicts have become serious and unpredictable.

The police continuously make efforts to weaken and annihilate Boryokudan through strict crackdowns on illegal activities, effective enforcement of the Anti-Boryokudan Act, and alienating Boryokudan from society.

(1) Strict Crackdowns on Illegal Activities

In 2020, the police arrested 13,189⁶ Boryokudan members in 21,050 cases.

Due to Boryokudan activities diversifying, they are becoming more secretive. The police are putting further effort into gathering and analyzing intelligence regarding the fundraising activities of Boryokudan, and intensifying efforts to crack down on Boryokudan activities and have restructured in order to implement these countermeasures more effectively and seamlessly.

Today, Boryokudan resort not only to their traditional fundraising activities such as the illegal sales of stimulant drugs, extortion and gambling, but also to special fraud and other types of fraud abusing various financial aid programs. They also use their organizational power to make profits by intervening in legitimate private business transactions.

(2) Effective Enforcement of the Anti-Boryokudan Act

⁶ This number includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention.

The Anti-Boryokudan Act labels certain criminal groups as designated Boryokudan groups.

As of the end of 2020, there were 24 designated Boryokudan groups. (See Table: Designated Boryokudan Groups)

Designated Boryokudan Groups

No.	Name of Boryokudan	Main Office	No. of Members (as of the end of 2020)
1	Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi	Hyogo	3,800
2	Inagawa-kai	Tokyo	2,000
3	Sumiyoshi-kai	Tokyo	2,600
4	Godaime Kudo-kai	Fukuoka	270
5	Gyokuryu-kai	Okinawa	270
6	Nanadaime Aizu Kotetsu-kai (Daihyosha Kim Gen)	Kyoto	30
7	Rokudaime Kyosei-kai	Hiroshima	120
8	Nanadaime Goda-ikka	Yamaguchi	50
9	Yondaime Kozakura-ikka	Kagoshima	60
10	Godaime Asano-gumi	Okayama	60
11	Dojin-kai	Fukuoka	420
12	Nidaime Shinwa-kai	Kagawa	30
13	Soai-kai	Chiba	120
14	Sandaime Kyodo-kai	Hiroshima	70
15	Taishu-kai	Fukuoka	80
16	Kyudaime Sakaume-gumi	Osaka	30
17	Kyokuto-kai	Tokyo	430
18	Nidaime Azuma-gumi	Osaka	90
19	Matsuba-kai	Tokyo	360
20	Yondaime Fukuhaku-kai	Fukuoka	90
21	Namikawa-kai	Fukuoka	190
22	Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi	Hyogo	1,200
23	Kizuna-kai	Hyogo	230
24	Kanto Sekine-gumi	Ibaraki	100

The Act prohibits members of designated Boryokudan groups from acts such as engaging in extortion or coercing juveniles into becoming their members. In 2020, 1,134 discontinuance orders and 52 recurrence prevention orders were issued. When a conflict breaks out between designated Boryokudan groups or within a designated Boryokudan group, or when members of designated Boryokudan groups attack civilians using weapons including firearms, restriction orders on the use of their offices, facilities, etc. can be issued. Also, when a violent act involved in a conflict is in a manner that causes serious harm to life or limb, and there is a risk that similar violent acts will be committed again, the designated Boryokudan groups can be labeled as the Specific Conflicting Designated Boryokudan groups.

In addition, the Act prohibits designated Boryokudan group members from rewarding other members in praise of violence in conflicts between designated Boryokudan groups, etc., and prevents them from disturbing citizens' exercise of rights for seeking compensation of damages resulting from Boryokudan group members' illegal acts. In 2020, 7 rewarding prohibition orders were issued. Members of designated Boryokudan groups who disobey these orders are subject to punishment under the Act. 5 cases of disobedience were cleared in 2020.

(3) Elimination of Boryokudan from Society



The police have been promoting efforts by the community to eliminate Boryokudan. Specifically, in order to cut off Boryokudans' funding sources, the police, in coordination with the relevant agencies, are promoting Boryokudan elimination activities in wide-ranging industries such as moneylending businesses and construction businesses.

The police are also supporting removal campaigns of Boryokudan offices carried out by local residents, for example by closely cooperating with the competent Prefectural Centers for Removal of Boryokudan which are able to file lawsuits on behalf of local residents demanding removal of Boryokudan offices from the community. The police also provide support for people's actions to recover damages caused in relation to Boryokudans' crimes.

3. Drug Control

A. Drug Offenses

In 2020, the drug situation in Japan was still severe: the number of persons cleared for drug offenses was 14,079, which remained at a high level. 60.2% of the persons cleared were related to methamphetamine. Cannabis offenses accounted 35.8%.

Illegal drugs are very harmful physically and mentally, and they can be a cause of serious crimes and dangerous traffic accidents. Moreover, they are a main source of income for criminal organizations including Boryokudan.

Of the above persons cleared for drug offenses, the number of Boryokudan group members cleared were 4,387, a decrease of 189 (4.1%) from the previous year. Although the number of Boryokudan group members cleared with regard to methamphetamine was 3,577, a decrease of 161 (4.3%) from the previous year, this accounted for 42.2% of methamphetamine offenses. Therefore, it seems that Boryokudan are still recognized as being deeply involved in methamphetamines. The number of Boryokudan group members cleared for cannabis offenses were 751, which accounted for 14.9% of persons cleared in cannabis offenses. While it decreased 29 (3.7%) from the previous year, since the number of persons cleared for offenses of cannabis cultivation was 46, an increase of 4 (9.5%) from the previous year, it is recognized that Boryokudan are increasing their involvement also in cannabis offenses.