

## Chapter 5: Maintaining Public Safety and Disaster Countermeasures

### Section 1: International Terrorism and Countermeasures

#### 1 International Terrorism

##### (1) Terrorist Threats to Japan

Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden died in May 2011. However, his successor, Ayman al-Zawahiri has declared the continuation of jihad against countries in Europe and the USA. In addition, other Al Qaeda related organizations still retain their potency. Furthermore, incidents that target Japanese nationals and interests, such as a terrorist attack in Aménas, Algeria, in January 2013, in which over 30 people including 10 Japanese nationals were killed, have occurred, and it can be said that Japan is facing the threat of overseas and domestic large-scale/indiscriminate terrorism.

##### (2) North Korea

As of June 1, 2013, the police have determined thirteen suspected cases of abduction by North Korea involving 19 victims, and are acting on international arrest warrants issued against eleven North Korean operatives involved in eight abduction cases.

**Column:** New initiatives related to suspected cases of abduction

In order to reinforce police initiatives to reveal the truth behind cases for which the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out, the following new initiatives have been implemented.

- The “Special Guidance Team”, established in the Foreign Affairs Division of the NPA Foreign Affairs and Intelligence Department in March 2013, is implementing guidance for prefectural police and strengthening cooperation with the Japan Coast Guard in terms of investigation and research.
- Active extraction of DNA profiling materials for individual cases, taking the necessities of the investigations and the intentions of families into consideration.
- In June of the same year, in order to appeal to the Japanese people to provide information extensively and where the consent of the families was forthcoming, police posted the outlines of cases and other

relevant information onto prefectural police websites as “Cases of NPA’s Priority Information Gathering”.

#### 2 International Terrorism Countermeasures

In an effort to prevent acts of terrorism, the police are taking measures such as gathering and analyzing information through coordination with overseas security intelligence agencies, implementing administrative measures towards distributors of chemical substances that can be used as materials for explosives, implementing border controls at international ports and airports and promoting vigilance and security at important facilities. In addition, the police are working to improve their response capability in the event of a terrorist attack by implementing daily training for units such as the Special Assault Team (SAT), the Anti-Firearms Squad and the Counter-NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) Terrorism Squad.

Additionally, with regards to terrorist threats against nuclear facilities, police have further reinforced their vigilance and security activities, and are implementing other initiatives such as joint training exercises with the Self Defense Forces and the Japan Coast Guard.

### Section 2: Foreign Affairs and Related Measures

In North Korea, the succession of Kim Jong Un as the First Secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the First Chairman of the National Defense Commission was formalized in April 2012, and a campaign of propaganda to enhance unity and incite fervor was undertaken, and tension on the Korean peninsula was heightened by the launching of missiles under the pretense of satellite launches in December of the same year.

To preserve national interests, police are striving to gather and analyse information related to operations undertaken by North Korea and other nations and the illegal export of materials related to weapons of mass destruction, and are maintaining a stance of strict enforcement against any illegal activities.

### Section 3: Public Safety Related Measures

#### 1 Trends of Aum Shinrikyo and Countermeasures

Police arrested Makoto Hirata in January 2012, and Naoko Kikuchi and Katsuya Takahashi in June of the same year, concluding the arrests of all Aum Shinrikyo related suspects on the NPA's most wanted list. To prevent the recurrence of Aum's indiscriminate mass murder, the police are working with related agencies to reveal and investigate its illegal activities. In addition, police are promoting public relations campaigns in order to prevent the memories of the series of heinous incidents perpetrated by the Aum Shinrikyo, such as the Srin Gas Attack on the Tokyo Subway, from fading, and to maintain an accurate understanding of its current situation.

#### 2 Trends of Extreme Leftist Groups and Countermeasures

During 2012, extreme leftist groups concealed their violent and political leanings and engaged in popular movements and labor movements such as anti-nuclear power demonstrations, etc. The police are pressing ahead with criminal investigations related to extreme leftist groups, sweeping searches to uncover apartments and other places used as underground strongholds, and public relations campaigns using posters and other materials, as well as cooperative measures with related agencies to prevent them from maintaining and expanding their organizations.

#### 3 Trends of Rightist Groups and Countermeasures

During 2012, rightist groups seized on issues such as the landing on Uotsuri Island by Hong Kong activists and the enforcement of Boryokudan exclusion ordinances, to relentlessly criticize the government. In addition, so-called "right leaning citizens groups" have held gatherings and demonstrations, etc. throughout the country, and there was some trouble with opposing groups. The police are striving to prevent serious incidents such as terrorist acts by rightist groups and are engaged in a thorough crackdown on illegal activities.



Rightist protest procession (January, Toyama)

### Section 4: Dealing with Disasters and Security Measures

#### 1 Dealing with Natural Disasters

During 2012, earthquakes, tsunamis, heavy rains, typhoons, gales and storm surges resulted in 50 fatalities/missing persons and 937 injuries. In response, police mobilized units such as the Riot Police Units and the Inter-prefectural Emergency Rescue Units (IERU) and engaged in activities such as search and rescue and searches



Inter-prefectural Emergency Rescue Unit searching for missing persons (Ichinomiya-machi, Aso-shi, Kumamoto prefecture)

for missing persons, etc.

#### 2 Patrols and Security

With due consideration to the affinity between the imperial family and the nation's citizens, the police implement escort and security measures to ensure the safety of their persons, and to prevent crowding accidents among well-wishers lining the streets.

In addition, under the current severe security conditions, with concerns of terrorist attack and other illegal incidents, the police are pressing ahead with appropriate escort and security initiatives to ensure the safety of important officials.