

## Chapter 5 Maintaining Public Safety and Disaster Countermeasures

### Section 1 International Terrorism and Countermeasures

#### 1 International Terrorism

##### (1) Islamic and other extremist groups

The situation of international terrorism has gradually changed with the rise of the ISIL, an organization that was initially related to the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda (AQ). The ISIL has been involved in the murder of Iraqi soldiers, as well as American and British hostages and has posted videos of these acts of violence on the Internet, shaking the international community with its cruelty. In addition, it has been reported that more than 20,000 foreign fighters have participated in the conflict in Syria. It has been pointed out that there is a potential danger that these fighters could carry out terrorist attacks in their home countries after their return. Recently there have been incidents in which Japan's interests and Japanese nationals were actually targeted. The terrorist incidents in Syria involving Japanese nationals which took place in January and February in 2015, and the terrorist incident which took place in Tunisia in March of the same year are examples of such incidents. There is a growing concern over the possibility of Japanese nationals being involved in terrorist attacks or abductions in the future.

##### (2) North Korea

As of December 31, 2014, the police have determined 13 suspected cases of abduction by North Korea involving 19 victims, and are acting on international arrest warrants issued against 11 North Korean operatives involved in eight abduction cases.

In addition, the Japan-North Korea Government-Level Consultations were held in

March 2014 for the first time in over a year and four months, and in the subsequent consultations held in May of the same year, North Korea promised to conduct a comprehensive and thorough investigation into the whereabouts of all Japanese victims, including abductees and missing persons. In response to North Korea's launch of the investigation after the consultations held in July 2014, the Japanese government lifted some sanctions imposed on North Korea. As of April 1, 2015, however, the Japanese government has not obtained any specific information from North Korea on the results of the investigation.

#### 2 International Terrorism Countermeasures

In response to the recent severe situation of terrorism, the NPA established the “NPA Headquarters for the Promotion of Countermeasures against Terrorism” in February 2015 and has been making further efforts to prevent terrorism and to strengthen terrorism response capabilities by considering and promoting counter-terrorism measures.



**Exercises by the Counter-NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) Terrorism Squad**

Among the measures to prevent terrorist attacks, the NPA is promoting cooperation

between the government and private entities for counter-terrorism. It is also enhancing measures to protect nuclear, biological and chemical materials for the prevention of NBC terrorism. In order to enhance the systematic response to terrorist attacks, the NPA is making efforts to improve and strengthen anti-terrorism squads and to promote joint exercises with the Japan Self-Defense Forces.

## Section 2 Foreign Affairs and Countermeasures

### 1 Harmful Activities against Japan and Countermeasures

North Korea has made repeated military provocations, such as launching ballistic missiles, in its rivalry with the U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises. At the same time, North Korea has agreed to continue to hold high-level talks with South Korea. In this way, North Korea's diplomacy has alternated between dialogue and provocation. As for its policy toward Japan, North Korea appeared to have tried to form pro-North Korea public opinion in Japan by accepting Japanese delegations led by famous persons in a positive manner and allowing the Japanese groups to continue to visit the graveyards of their relatives who died in North Korea as a part of efforts to bring back their remains.

### 2 Cracking Down on Illegal Exports of Materials Related to Weapons of Mass Destruction

The police have been tightening their crackdown on illegal activities in violation of the sanctions imposed on North Korea. By April 2015, the police had exposed a total of 34 illegal activities.

## Section 3 Public Safety and Countermeasures

### 1 Trends in Aum Shinrikyo and

### Countermeasures

To prevent a recurrence of Aum Shinrikyo's indiscriminate mass murder, the police are working with related agencies to reveal its actual state and are strengthening the crackdown on its coordinated illegal activities. In addition, the police are also promoting public relations activities in order to prevent memories of the series of heinous incidents perpetrated by the Aum Shinrikyo, such as the Sarin Gas Attack on the Tokyo Subway, from fading, and to obtain an accurate understanding of its current situation.

### 2 Trends in Extreme Leftist Groups and Countermeasures

In 2014, extreme leftist groups, attempting to maintain and expand their organizations, and engaged in popular movements and labor movements such as anti-nuclear power demonstrations while concealing their violence and political leanings.

The police are pressing ahead with criminal investigations related to extreme leftist groups, utilizing sweeping searches on apartments and other places to uncover underground strongholds, and public relations campaigns using posters and other materials.



National Workers' All-Out Rally by extreme leftist groups (November, Tokyo)

### 3 Trends of Rightist Groups and Countermeasures

In 2014, rightist groups conducted protest activities, including propaganda activities on the streets, seizing on such issues as illegal

fishing for coral off the coast of the Ogasawara Islands by Chinese fishermen, target practice conducted by the South Korean Navy in waters including Japan's territorial waters off the coast of the Takeshima islands, and the publishing of articles on the comfort women issue by The Asahi Shimbun which that newspaper withdrew and apologized for later. The police are striving to prevent serious incidents such as terrorism acts by rightist groups, and are engaged in crackdowns on their illegal activities.

In addition, right-wing citizens' groups, including Zaitokukai, are organizing activities such as demonstrations and rallies at various locations and sometimes commit illegal activities arising from trouble with groups which oppose the actions of right-wing citizens' groups. The police continue to take strict measures, based on the law and evidence, should any illegal activity be confirmed.



**Demonstration by a right-wing citizens' group (November, Tokyo)**

## Section 4 Dealing with Disasters and Security Measures

### 1 Dealing with Natural Disasters

In 2014, earthquakes, heavy rains, typhoons, gales and storm surges resulted in 166 fatalities/missing persons and 621 injuries. In August of the same year, torrential downpours in and around Hiroshima City caused landslides, and in September, Mt. Ontake erupted. The police responded to the

series of these large-scale disasters, implementing activities such as the rescue of disaster victims and search for missing persons.



**Search activities for missing persons (Hiroshima Prefecture)**

### 2 Imperial/Dignitary Protection

With due consideration to the affinity between the Imperial Family and the citizenry, the police have implemented security measures to ensure the safety of the Imperial Family, as well as to manage crowds and prevent accidents among well-wishers.

In addition, under the current climate of heightened tension surrounding important officials, with concerns of possible terrorist and other illegal attacks, the police are implementing appropriate security measures to ensure their safety.



**Escort for the Imperial Family visiting the Ise Jingu Shrine (March, Mie)**