

SECURITY POLICE

1. Overview

A. Countermeasures against International Terrorism

The threat of international terrorism to Japan remains.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has been calling their members and followers to attack the U.S., European nations, and other countries in the Global Coalition against Daesh, using knives, vehicles, etc. if the attacker does not have access to explosives, firearms or the like. Currently, although ISIL lost its territorial rule in Iraq and Syria, the group and its affiliates continue to pose a significant threat around the world. It has been pointed that there is a danger that foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) who have engaged in combat in the conflict areas might return to their home countries or move to third countries and commit acts of terrorism.

ISIL and its affiliated groups continue to disseminate propaganda calling for terrorist attacks (against the US, European countries, etc.) even during the spread of COVID-19.

The leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has continued to assert anti-U.S. and anti-Israel ideology, and the group and its affiliates have called for terrorist attacks in Western countries through their online magazines, etc.

To date, there have been terrorist attacks such as at In Amenas, Algeria on January 16, 2013 and Sri Lanka on April 21, 2019 in which Japanese nationals were killed or injured.

In order to fight terrorism, the international community must make collective efforts. To fulfill its responsibility, the Japanese police have:

- Reinforced gathering and analyzing abilities of terrorism-related information;
- Strengthened both domestic and international cooperation by collecting and sharing intelligence on suspicious activities with its partners;
- Enhanced border security in coordination with relevant authorities; and
- Protected critical public facilities.

In order to contribute actively to commitments of the international community to prevent and suppress any acts of international terrorism, the Act on Special Measures concerning International Terrorist Assets-Freezing, etc. Conducted by Our Country Taking into Consideration the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267, etc. was enacted in November 2014, in the 187th Session of the National Diet.

B. The Japanese Red Army (JRA)

SHIGENOBU Fusako, the JRA leader, was arrested in 2000. In 2001, she issued a statement in prison that the JRA was disbanded. However, the statement was to disguise its terroristic revolutionary nature. Therefore, the group is still considered to be unchanged in essence. Seven of its members still remain on INTERPOL's international notice.

C. The "Yodo-go" Group

Among the nine members of the "Yodo-go" group, the extreme leftists who hijacked a Japan Airlines flight and took refuge in North Korea, two have been arrested and another two are believed dead in North Korea. The remaining five, apparently living and operating as clandestine agents in North Korea, are wanted and put on INTERPOL's international notice. There are, however, unconfirmed reports that one of these five may have already died as well.

One of the five members and two wives of the members are suspected of being involved in the abduction of Japanese citizens. The three are wanted and are on INTERPOL's international notice.

D. Suspected Abduction Cases by North Korea

As of the end of 2020, the police have determined that North Korea has abducted a total of 19 victims in 13 cases, where the victims are Japanese nationals in 12 cases (17 victims) with the remaining case being the abduction from Japan of two siblings with Korean domiciles.

It is deemed that North Korea committed these abductions for the following reasons; 1) disguising North Korean agents as Japanese citizens; 2) forcing abductees to train North Korean agents to act as Japanese; 3) recruitment by the Yodo-gogroup, which is still being harbored in North Korea.

In September 2002, the then North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il admitted North Korea's involvement in several of the abduction cases and apologized to the then Japanese Prime Minister KOIZUMI Junichiro at their summit meeting in Pyongyang. Five abductees returned to Japan in October 2002.

The police have obtained arrest warrants for 11 suspects for their involvement in eight abduction cases, and placed them on the wanted list of INTERPOL. The police have continued to investigate abduction cases by exchanging information with relevant authorities both domestically and internationally.

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

In 2013, the police set up a special team in the NPA that instructs prefectural police departments on implementing more effective investigations into the abduction cases. The police have also been collecting DNA samples from the family members of possible abductees. Furthermore, the police started uploading information on possible abduction cases to police websites to encourage citizens to provide relevant information.

"Suspected Abduction Cases by North Korea"

Suspected Cases of Abduction by North Korea			
	Date (Location)	Victim(sex)	Suspect
1	June 1974 (Fukui Prefecture)	KO Kyongmi(F) KO Kang(M)	KINOSHITA Yoko(a.k.a. Hong Su Hye)
2	September 1977 (Ishikawa Prefecture)	KUME Yutaka(M)	Kim Se Ho
3	October 1977 (Tottori Prefecture)	MATSUMOTO Kyoko(F)	
4	November 1977 (Niigata Prefecture)	YOKOTA Megumi(F)	
5	ca. June 1978 (Hyogo Prefecture)	TANAKA Minoru(M)	
6	ca. June 1978 (under investigation)	TAGUCHI Yaeko(F)	
7	July 1978 (Fukui Prefecture)	CHIMURA Yasushi(M) CHIMURA (nee HAMAMOTO)Fukie(F)	Shin Kwang Soo
8	July 1978 (Niigata Prefecture)	HASUIKE Kaoru(M) HASUIKE (nee OKUDO)Yukiko(F)	Choe Sun Chol(possibly pseudonym) Han Geum Nyeong(possibly pseudonym) Kim Nam Jin(possibly pseudonym)
9	August 1978 (Kagoshima Prefecture)	ICHIKAWA Shuichi(M) MASUMOTO Rumiko(F)	
10	August 1978 (Niigata Prefecture)	SOGA Hitomi(F) SOGA Miyoshi(F)	Kim Myeong Suk (possibly pseudonym)
11	ca. May 1980 (Europe)	ISHIOKA Toru(M) MATSUKI Kaoru(M)	MORI Yoriko WAKABAYASHI (a.k.a. KURODA, former family name)Sakiko
12	June 1980 (Miyazaki prefecture)	HARA Tadaaki(M)	Shin Kwang Soo Kim Kil Uk
13	ca. July 1983 (Europe)	ARIMOTO Keiko(F)	UOMOTO (a.k.a. ABE, former family name)Kimihiro



E. Aum Shinrikyo

Aum Shinrikyo, which committed the Sarin Gas Attack on the Tokyo Subway System in 1995, has been divided into two groups following an internal clash in 2007. One is the “Main Group” which apparently believes in and promotes the doctrine of the cult founder MATSUMOTO. The other is the “JOYU Group” which pretends that MATSUMOTO has no influence.

The death sentences of 13 members including MATSUMOTO were carried out in 2018. However, Aum Shinrikyo remains as a group of dangerous nature. To prevent the recurrence of Aum Shinrikyo’s indiscriminate mass murder, the police are continuously working with the relevant agencies to reveal its actual state and are strengthening crackdown on its coordinated illegal activities.



Also, the police patrol the Aum Shinrikyo’s facilities in order to protect the peaceful life of the community residents.

Furthermore, the police raise public awareness of Aum’s dangerous nature by explaining a series of heinous crimes perpetrated by Aum Shinrikyo, such as the Sarin Gas Attack on the Tokyo Subway, and promote more accurate understanding of its current situation.

F. Extreme Leftist Groups



Extreme leftist groups attempt to destroy and overthrow our democratic system by violence.

They have caused a variety of "terrorism" incidents, and maintain the potential to threaten our public safety. In addition, they have intervened in labor movements and mass movements to maintain or increase their influence.

The police make efforts to ensure public security through cracking down on these groups. In 2020, the police arrested 10⁷ activists.

G. Rightists



In 2020, rightist groups aggressively staged demonstrations on matters such as national territory and historical perception gaps with neighboring countries.

The police took action, including cracking down on illegal fund-raising activities, to prevent serious cases. In 2020, the police arrested 85⁸ rightists in 62 cases relating to rightist activities.

In addition, right-wing citizens’ groups have held gatherings and demonstrations throughout the country, and raised various types of trouble with opposing groups.

⁷ This number includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention

⁸ See note above

H. The Japanese Communist Party

The Japanese Communist Party (JCP), the largest revolutionary organization in Japan, continues to adhere to its aim of realizing a communist revolution based on scientific socialism, Marxism-Leninism.

The JCP engaged in subversive activities in the early 1950s. The JCP describes the current situation as a preparatory stage for revolution, and has recently put more emphasis on increasing its membership and organ subscribers, and gaining public support.

Latest membership totals approximately 270,000, including 25 members of the National Diet.

The JCP still upholds a policy that it does not deny the possibility of resorting to violence in the course of revolution, depending on the type of actions taken by the police and the other authorities concerned.

I. Radical Environment Protection Groups

Some radical overseas environment protection groups and animal rights protection groups aggressively take part in protests.

The Japanese police have interest in their activities and influence upon Japan.

J. Threats in Cyberspace

There have been many cases of cyber-attacks targeting Japanese governmental agencies. In addition, it has become clear that private companies with advanced technology have suffered cyber-attacks which were probably intended to steal information. The threats of cyber terrorism and cyber espionage have become extremely serious.

To prevent cyber-attacks and mitigate damages, the police are promoting various measures in cooperation with the private sector, such as critical infrastructure operators and private companies with advanced technology, and will continue to work with the relevant agencies to investigate cyber-attacks and crack down on any illegal cyber offenses.

As cyber-attacks can easily be carried out across borders, the police have been coping with cyber-threats by concluding treaties which cover mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, and cooperating with INTERPOL participants to investigate such cases.

2. Various Activities

A. Imperial Protection



Imperial protection is operated for the security of the Imperial Family. To fulfill the duties of imperial protection, the NPA coordinates the operations with the prefectural police forces within Japan, and with the relevant organizations abroad.

In 2020, the operation for imperial protection was carried out once overseas.