

## Chapter 5: Maintaining Public Safety and Disaster Countermeasures

### Section 1: International Terrorism and Countermeasures

#### 1 International Terrorism

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

In May 2011, the former leader of Al-Qaeda Osama bin Laden, was killed in a U.S. operation. 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. Amidst this, Japan has often been named as a target for terrorism, and the threat of terrorism remains high.

##### (2) North Korea

As of May 1, 2012, 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. In addition, with the understanding that there are cases other than the aforementioned cases for which the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out, the police are conducting thorough investigations into accusations and indictments, etc. related to these cases.

#### 2 International Terrorism Countermeasures

In an effort to prevent acts of terrorism, the police are taking measures such as gathering and analysing 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.

### Column: Terrorism Countermeasures at Nuclear Facilities

There are concerns that the loss of cooling functions, as was seen in the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, can occur as a result of obstructive or destructive actions taken by terrorists and other criminal groups as well as natural disasters. Consequently, in addition to conventional vigilance and security activities, etc. The police are taking all possible measures to prevent terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities by enhancing the human resources, materials/equipment and other matters.



Offshore security

### Section 2: Foreign Affairs and Related Measures

In North Korea, following the death of Chairman Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un became First Chairman of the National Defense Commission. Kim Jong-un clearly stated that North Korea would continue its military-first policy and emphasized his legitimacy as the ruler through propaganda activities. In April 2012, North Korea went ahead with a missile launch disguised as a satellite launch, which resulted in the UN Security Council adopting a strongly critical Chairman's statement.

To preserve national interests, police are striving to gather and analyze information related to various 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.

### 3: Public Safety and Related Measures

#### 1 Trends of Aum Shinrikyo and Countermeasures

In December 2011, a suspect on the NPA's most wanted list, Makoto Hirata, was arrested when he presented himself at the Marunouchi Police Station of the MPD. In addition, in June 2012, two others on the most wanted list, Naoko Kikuchi and Katsuya Takahashi, were identified and arrested in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Prefecture and Ota-ku, Tokyo respectively. To prevent the recurrence of Aum's indiscriminate mass murder, the police are working with related agencies to reveal and investigate its illegal activities.

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

During 2011, extreme leftist groups concealed their violent and political leanings and engaged in popular movements and labor movements such as anti-nuclear power demonstrations, etc. in an attempt to maintain and expand their organizations. The police are pressing ahead with criminal investigations related to extreme leftist groups and sweeping searches to uncover apartments and other places used as underground strongholds, as well as a variety of countermeasures such as requesting the citizens of Japan to provide a wide range of information through public relations campaigns using posters and other material.

#### 3 Trends of Rightist Groups and Countermeasures

During 2011, rightist groups seized on government policies and developments such as the incursion of Chinese fishing boats into waters around the Senkaku Islands, 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.

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

#### 1 Dealing with Natural Disasters

During 2011, earthquakes, tsunamis, heavy rains, typhoons, gales and storm surges resulted in 19,341 fatalities/missing persons and 6,886 injuries. Other than the Great East Japan Earthquake, wide-area wind and flood damage caused by typhoons and other disasters was also significant. In response, police mobilized units such as the riot squad and the Inter-prefectural Emergency Rescue Unit (IERU) and engaged in activities such as search and rescue and searches for missing persons, etc.



Riot police conducting searches for missing persons Hanekawa River under the jurisdiction of Tokamachi Police Station, Niigata prefecture

#### 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 security measures to ensure the safety of important officials.



Security escort for President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea during his visit to Japan.