

Topic IV: Measures against Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi and Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi

At the end of August 2015, 13 direct line Boryokudan leaders that had merged with the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi, Japan's largest Boryokudan, left to form the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi. Since the formation, there have been frequent crime cases involving shooting and injuries committed by members of both groups throughout Japan. Given the situation, the NPA determined on March 7, 2016 that these groups were in an ongoing turf war.

In April of the same year, the Hyogo Prefectural Public Safety Commission recognized the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi as a designated Boryokudan group based on the provisions of the Anti-Boryokudan Act. In June of the same year, the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi was also recognized as a designated Boryokudan group by the same Commission for the ninth time.

As of July 2017, both groups are still in a turf war.

[Column] Latest Trends over the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi

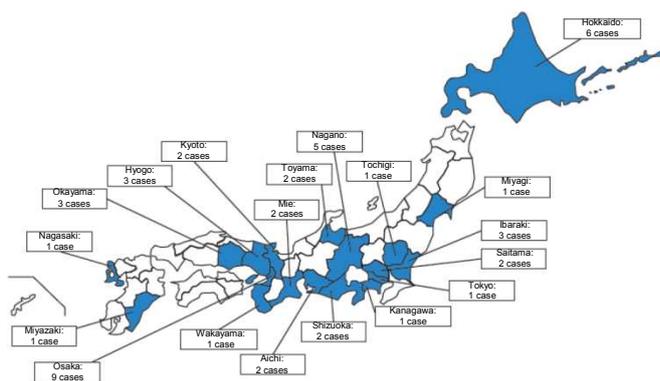
In April 2017, a part of direct line organizations of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi announced the formation of another organization. The police are strengthening efforts to ensure the safety of the lives of people and to weaken and annihilate these groups through the collection of information of related groups including the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi, the implementation of extensive crackdowns and vigilance activities against these groups as well as the application of the Anti-Boryokudan Act.

(1) Occurrence of Illegal Acts Believed to be caused by Turf War between Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi and Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi

Since March 7, 2016 when these groups were determined as being in a turf war against each other, there have been 48 cases of illegal acts believed to be caused by this turf war occurring in 19 prefectures by the end of May 2017. These cases included 6 shooting cases, 3 cases of firebomb attacks and 10 cases of vehicle slamming into Boryokudan offices.

Including a fatal shooting incident that occurred in May 2016 where a senior member of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi affiliate was shot dead on the street in a residential area, violent crimes are committed by these Boryokudan groups within familiar areas of people, posing a great threat to the lives of people.

Occurrence of Illegal Acts Believed to be caused by Turf War



Since March 7, 2016, 48 cases occurred in 19 prefectures (as of the end of May 2017).

Type	Frequency (cases)	Number cleared (cases)	Number of persons arrested (persons)
Illegal acts believed to be caused by the turf war between Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi and Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi	48	31	163
Including firearm shooting	6	4	12
Including the use of firebombs (including those similar)	3	2	6
Including vehicle slamming	10	8	40

(2) Police Countermeasures

1) Implementation of Thorough Crackdowns and Vigilance Activities

Establishing centralized control headquarters in the NPA and related prefectural police for both Boryokudan groups on March 7, 2016, the police across the nation have been conducting extensive crackdowns to prevent repeated incidents caused by the turf war between these Boryokudan groups as well as to weaken and annihilate these groups. The police are also working to thoroughly conduct vigilance activities to ensure the safety of people's lives. By the end of May 2017, the number of arrests related to illegal acts believed to be caused by the turf war between Boryokudan groups was 31 and the number of persons arrested was 163.



The Search of Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi Headquarter

[Case] In May 2016, a member (32) of the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi affiliate shot and killed a senior member of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi affiliate. In June of the same year, the police arrested the member for murder and other charges (Okayama).

[Case] In March 2016, a member (52) of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi affiliate and others injured members of the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi by acts of violence such as mass beating on the road. In the same month, the police arrested the members for violating the Act on Punishment of Physical Violence and Others (Hokkaido).

2) Activities to Eliminate Boryokudan

In addition to crackdowns and vigilance activities, the police are working closely with Prefectural Centers to Promote Movements for Elimination of Violence and bar associations to support activities to eliminate Boryokudan, including lawsuits on the removal of Boryokudan offices.

[Case] In January 2016, an office of the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi affiliate was firebombed. In response to this, in August 2016, the certified Fukuoka Prefectural Center to Promote Movements for Elimination of Violence filed, based on the entrustment of local residents, the provisional disposition to the Fukuoka District Court for the prohibition of the use of the office by the same Boryokudan group in August 2016. The court decision was issued in September of the same year, ordering the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi affiliate not to use the office, and they removed it in October of the same year. This was the first case in Japan that the provisional disposition filed by a certified Prefectural Center to Promote Movements for Elimination of Violence was approved by the court (Fukuoka).

[Case] In response to vehicle slamming and gunfire incidents that repeatedly occurred at an office of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi affiliate in Mito, Ibaraki in March 2016. Mito City, the establisher of the elementary school near the office, filed the provisional disposition requesting the prohibition of the use of the office in cooperation with the Ibaraki Prefectural Police, Ibaraki Prefecture Center to Promote Movements for Elimination of Violence and Ibaraki Bar Association. In April of the same year, settlement was made which included the office not being used by Boryokudan groups and the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi affiliate removed the office in June of the same year (Ibaraki).