

Chapter 5 Maintaining Public Safety and Disaster Countermeasures

Section 1: International Terrorism and Countermeasures

1. Situation of International Terrorism

During 2016, the threat of terrorism by Islamic extremists remained high with a series of terrorist attacks occurring all around the world.

Major International Terrorist Attacks in 2016

Date of occurrence	Cases
January 14	Terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia
March 22	Series of terrorist attacks in Brussels, Belgium
June 12	Terrorist mass shooting in Florida, U.S.A.
June 28	Terrorist attack at an international airport in Istanbul, Turkey
July 1	Terrorist attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh
July 14	Terrorist truck attack in Nice, France
December 19	Terrorist truck attack at a Christmas market in Berlin, Germany

2. Countermeasures against International Terrorism

As the threat of international terrorism against Japan has become a reality, the National Police Agency (NPA) concluded and announced the Counter-Terrorism Strategy of the NPA in June 2015 to be promoted within a span of approximately 5 years until the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The police are strongly promoting anti-terrorism measures, such as information gathering/analysis, border control, vigilance and security activities, response operations and collaboration between government and the private sector, based on the Guidelines.



Anti-terrorism Partnership, Tokyo

Section 2: Foreign Affairs and Countermeasures

1. Harmful Activities against Japan and Countermeasures

(1) North Korea

Adhering to its pursuit of “the parallel development of economy and nuclear weapons (“byungjin”)", North Korea continued to display its military strength through repeated nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches in 2016. North Korea’s increased capabilities to develop and operate these nuclear weapons and missiles pose a new level of threat to Japan.

(2) China and Russia

China and Russia conduct various kinds of information gathering activities in sophisticated and diverse ways in Japan and also conduct operations against Japan through actively approaching political, bureaucratic and business circles and concerned persons of other fields. The police intend to carry out strict crackdowns so that the national interests of Japan will not be damaged due to illegal information gathering activities by China and Russia.

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

In addition to measures against North Korea based on the United Nations Security Council (ban on all imports and exports of weapons, ban on the travel of people, etc.), Japan has also taken its own measures against North Korea (ban on the entry of all North Korean flag vessels into Japanese ports, ban on imports and exports of all items, etc. between Japan and North Korea) in order to comprehensively address various issues, such as abduction, nuclear weapons and missiles. To ensure the effectiveness of these sanctions, the police have been tightening their crackdowns on illegal activities related to these sanctions imposed on North Korea, exposing a total of 36 cases by December 2016.

[Case] Despite the ban on export of all cargos to North Korea since June 18, 2009, a trading company executive (48) exported daily necessities to North Korea via Singapore and Dalian, China in January 2014 without the permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. In February 2016, the police arrested the man for the violation of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (unauthorized export) (Kyoto, Yamaguchi, Shimane, Kanagawa).

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 continuously working with related agencies to reveal its actual state and are strengthening the crackdown on its coordinated illegal activities. In September 2016, the police arrested two live-in communal members of the Main Group for violating the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder (inspection evasion). These two men obstructed the on-site inspection of the Public Security Intelligence Agency by concealing the items subject to the inspection that were necessary for revealing the status of activities of the group (Kanagawa).

2. Trends in Extreme Leftist Groups and Countermeasures

Extreme leftist groups, which aim to realize a communist society through violent revolution, engage in various protests such as mass and union protests while concealing their violence and political leanings without arousing suspicion to maintain and expand their organizations. In 2016 as well, these groups engaged in protests against issues such as constitutional amendment, the US military bases in Okinawa and the restarting of nuclear power plants.

[Column] Clearing the Police Officer Murder Case

Suspecting that Masaaki Osaka who had been designated as the NPA's most wanted suspect for the murder case of a police officer that occurred in 1971 (the Shibuya Riot incident) was on the run and hiding while receiving organizational support from an extreme leftist network called Chukaku-ha (middle core faction), the police designated the case as a Special Reward case in November 2016 and carried out various measures for the arrest.

In May 2017, Osaka Prefectural Police raided an underground stronghold of Chukaku-ha (middle core faction) and arrested a man for obstructing police officers from performing official duties. The police later confirmed that the man was Masaaki Osaka and the MPD rearrested him in June 2017 for murder and other charges.

3. Trends in Rightist Groups and Countermeasures

In 2016, rightist groups conducted protest activities including propaganda activities on the streets involving issues such as the territorial and history issues. The police are working to prevent serious cases such as terrorism by the right wing through the implementation of crackdowns applying various laws and ordinances on firearm-related crimes and illegal acts committed to acquire funds.

In addition, right-wing citizens' groups including Zaitoku-kai whose activities are based on the ideology that promotes extreme nationalism and antforeignism, worked on demonstrations and street propaganda activities involving issues such as Japan's relationship with South Korea and North Korea. In 2016, approximately 40 of these demonstrations were held in various locations throughout Japan. From the perspective of preventing illegal acts arising from the conflict between the right-wing citizens' groups and their opposing forces, the police will continue to take necessary security measures in a fair and equitable position, and strictly deal with any illegal act found and promote necessary training for police officers.

Section 4: Dealing with Disasters and Security Measures

1. Dealing with Natural Disasters

In 2016, earthquakes, heavy rains, typhoons, gales and other natural disasters resulted in 92 fatalities/missing persons and 3,267 injuries. In April 2016, earthquakes centered in Kumamoto Prefecture occurred and in the same year, 26 typhoons occurred with six of them landing on Japan. On August 30, 2016, Typhoon Lionrock, which was the 10th typhoon recorded in the same year, landed on Iwate and Hokkaido Prefecture and brought record-breaking heavy rainfall to the regions.

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 against terrorism and other illegal attacks to ensure their safety.



Escorting the Imperial Family for the Attendance of the Memorial Service Commemorating the 2600th Anniversary of the Death of Emperor Jimmu (April, Nara)