

Topic III: Trends of Jun-Boryokudan and Police Activities

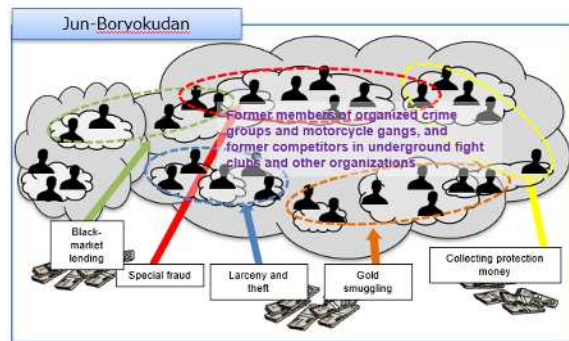
(1) Trends of Jun-Boryokudan

In recent years, persons belonging to groups mainly consisting of former members of motorcycle gangs have not only committed illegal acts of violence such as assault and injury in downtown areas or entertainment districts collectively or habitually, but also conducted illegal fundraising activities such as special fraud and organized theft. Although

such groups have no clear structure as Boryokudan^{Note} there are indications that some of the groups are closely involved with criminal organizations. The police define them as a group equivalent to Boryokudan, naming those groups “Jun-Boryokudan”(i.e., quasi-Boryokudan).

(2) Police initiatives

The police have focused on the subsequent occurrence of crimes such as assault and injury involved with Jun-Boryokudan in downtown areas and entertainment districts, and the close relationship between the members of Jun-Boryokudan and Boryokudan. The police have clarified the actual state of Jun-Boryokudan and strengthened crackdown on them. In light of the fact that apart from committing illegal acts of violence, Jun-Boryokudan engage in special fraud, the collection of protection money and other illegal fundraising activities, and that their relationships with Boryokudan are becoming tighter and the nature of criminal acts they commit are getting more elaborated and sophisticated, the police are making efforts to intensify crackdown on them by using every effective laws and regulations, in addition to clarifying the actual state of Jun-Boryokudan by collaborating beyond departmental and divisional boundaries.



Note: Boryokudan is commonly referred to as "Yakuza" and is defined by the Anti-Boryokudan Act as "any organization likely to facilitate its members to collectively or habitually commit illegal acts of violence."