

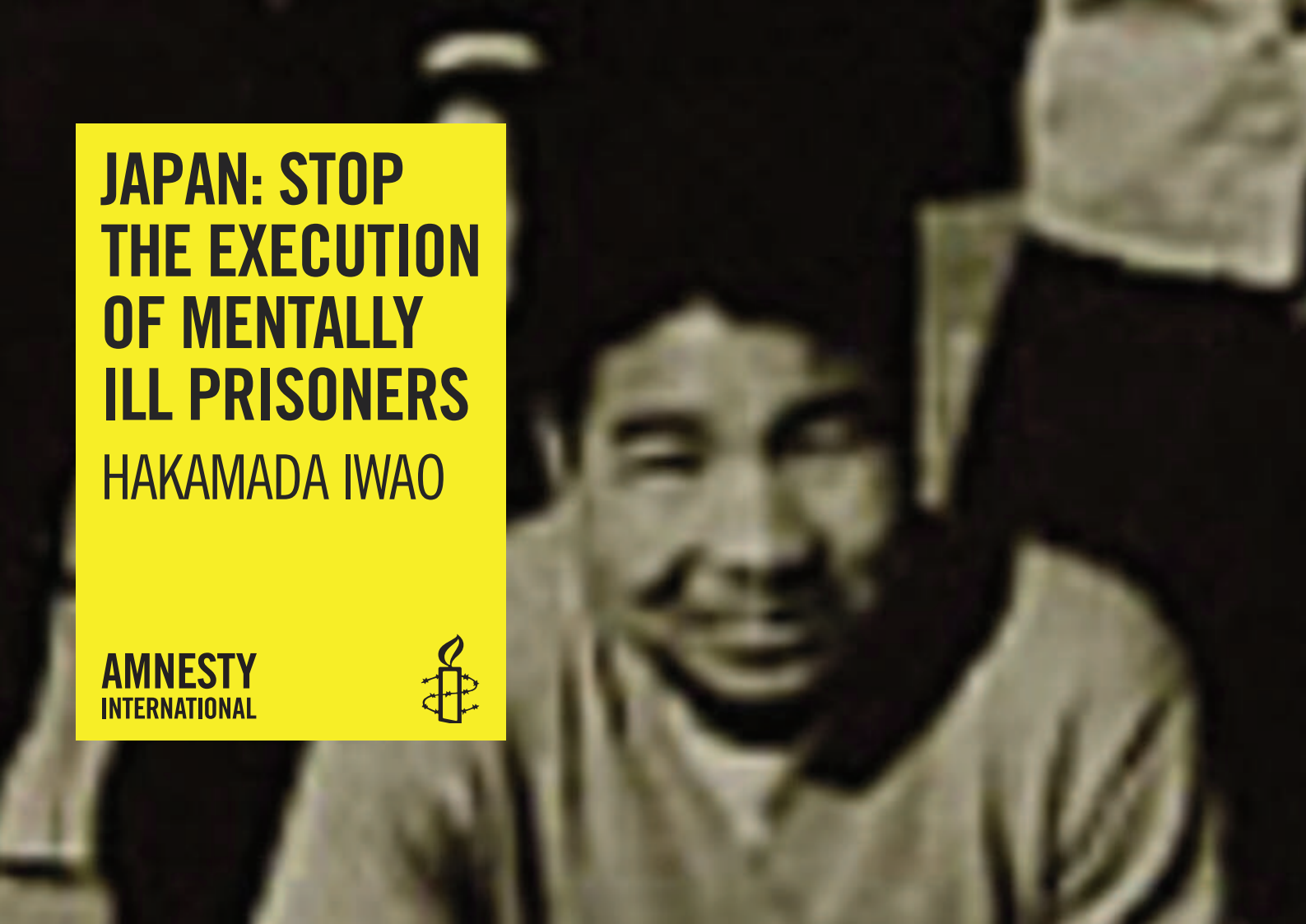
**JAPAN: STOP  
THE EXECUTION  
OF MENTALLY  
ILL PRISONERS**  
HAKAMADA IWAO

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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# JAPAN: STOP THE EXECUTION OF MENTALLY ILL PRISONERS

Mentally ill prisoners continue to be executed in Japan, in violation of international standards.

One of these prisoners, Hakamada Iwao, aged 73, has spent over 40 years on death row for a crime he may not have committed. His confession, which he later retracted, was extracted under duress after 20 days of police interrogation without the presence of a lawyer. One of the three judges at his trial has since publicly stated that he believes Hakamada Iwao to be innocent.

Signs of mental illness began to show within months of Hakamada Iwao's final appeal being rejected. In 2006, after his first mental health assessment, he was found to be suffering from a mental illness, exacerbated by more than 28 years in solitary confinement. He is currently appealing for a retrial.

Like other death row prisoners in Japan, Hakamada Iwao lives in isolation, not knowing if today will be his last.

## TAKE ACTION NOW!

**PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THIS POSTCARD TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN JAPAN.**

*Image: Tokyo Detention House, one of seven locations in Japan where prisoners are executed.*  
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**Dear Minister,**

I respectfully urge the Government of Japan to:

- Initiate an immediate independent review of Hakamada Iwao's case, including a full medical evaluation.
- Commute the death sentence of Hakamada Iwao on account of his mental illness.
- Grant Hakamada Iwao a fair retrial that conforms to international fair trial standards.
- Immediately introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to reviewing laws which permit the use of the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_



*Image: Hakamada Iwao in the 1960s, before he was arrested. © Private*  
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**CHIBA KEIKO**  
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