HAKAMADA IWAO JAPAN

AMNESTYINTERNATIONAL



2008 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS

PLEASE HELP HAKAMADA IWAO

Hakamada Iwao is suffering from mental illness after spending over 28 years in solitary confinement and lives with the constant fear of execution.

Hakamada Iwao has been on death row since 1968. After an unfair trial, he was convicted of the 1966 murder of the boss of the factory where he worked, and the man's wife and two children. The family had been stabbed and their house set on fire.

Hakamada Iwao confessed after 20 days of interrogation by police without a lawyer present. Under the *daiyo kangoku* (substitute prison) system, suspects can be detained for up to 23 days of questioning. There is no limit on the length of interrogation sessions, during which the detainees' lawyers have only restricted access to them. Hakamada Iwao retracted his confession and testified during his trial that police had beaten and threatened him to force him to sign a confession, but he was found guilty and sentenced to death. He has appealed twice without success, and his petitions for a retrial

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were rejected three times, most recently in March 2008. His lawyers submitted a further appeal the following month.

Kumamoto Norimichi, one of the trial judges, stated publicly in 2007 that he had always believed Hakamada was innocent, but that the two other judges at the trial had outvoted him.

Hakamada Iwao appears to have been sentenced to death principally on the basis of a confession extracted under duress. According to his lawyer, the only evidence used against him was flawed.

Death row inmates are banned from talking to other prisoners and they are not allowed to watch television or engage in personal interests or hobbies. They are only notified on the morning of their execution, and their families are typically informed only after the execution has taken place. Hakamada lwao is at constant risk of being executed at any time, unless he is pardoned by the Minister of Justice, or granted a retrial.

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ACT NOW

1. WRITE TO JUSTICE MINISTER MORI EISUKE

- Urge him to retry Hakamada Iwao, meeting international fair trial standards.
- Call for the abolition of the *daiyo kangoku* or substitute prison system.
- Call for a moratorium on executions, and that the sentences of all those now on death row are commuted.

Justice Minister Mori Eisuke 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8977 Japan Salutation: Dear Minister

2. WRITE CARDS TO HAKAMADA IWAO, IN ENGLISH OR JAPANESE, TO SHOW SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT

Hakamado Iwao Tokyo Detention Centre 1-35-1 Kosuge Katsushika-ku Tokyo, 124-0001 Japan



