

Democracy from within an Immigration Detention Center: A Hunger Strike by “Illegal” Migrants in Japan

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Abstract

This paper describe a hunger strike held from March 8th, 2010 to 19th in the immigration detention center (IDC) of Nishi-Nihon Immigration Center in Ibaraki City, Osaka Prefecture, referring to the interviews with supporters of “illegal” migrants, their e-mail and related documents, and the interviews with “illegal” migrants who had been detained. So far, supporters and lawyers of detainees have disclosed actual condition of IDCs, which we cannot see from outside. However, they tend to draw as victims of the hard condition in IDCs. They in fact have much of such an aspect, but sometimes they resist against the policy of immigration control which oppresses them. Describing the above hunger strike, this paper shows detainees are able to become political autonomies as well as being the victims of Japanese immigration policy. Their protest would also give hint to the aim of “democratizing the borders”.

Keywords : Immigration Detention Center, hunger strike, democracy, “illegal” migrants, Japanese immigration policy

1. Introduction

Based on interviews with supporters of “illegal” migrants ¹⁾, their e-mail exchanges ²⁾ and related documents, as well as interviews with “illegal” migrants who have been detained, this paper describes a hunger strike held from March 8th to March 19th in 2010 at Nishi-Nihon Immigration Center (an immigration detention center (IDC)) in Ibaraki City, Osaka Prefecture ³⁾.

Although “illegal” migrants are considered to be “people without rights,” especially in developed states they never come to be entirely without rights, at least theoretically. They can enjoy always some civil rights: physical and mental integrity, preserve some benefits and interests, and so on [Kondo 2007: 173]. Moreover, “illegal” migrants also sometimes succeed in winning some social rights through movements initiated by themselves and their supporters, as well as through the development of international human rights laws. However, “illegal” migrants are usually considered without rights, since they are always exposed to risk of detention and

deportation. For states, “illegal” migrants are literally “illegal.” When they are arrested, they should be kicked out of the state, or detained in reclusive places away from the rest of society. As Hannah Arendt said the deprivation of the human rights is manifested through deprivation of belonging to a community [Arendt 1958: 296-297], and within the operations of deportation and detention “illegal” migrants are not dealt with as human beings.

So far, supporters and lawyers of detainees ⁴⁾ have disclosed the actual conditions of IDCs, which cannot be seen from outside. However, they tend to present an image of detainees as victims of the hard conditions prevailing in IDCs. In fact, this aspect is certainly present, but sometimes detainees resist against the policy of immigration control which oppresses them. In describing a hunger strike in an IDC, this paper shows that detainees are able to become autonomous political actors, as well as being the victims of Japanese immigration policy. Their protest also gives indication on the aim of “democratizing the borders” [Balibar 2004: 108-109].

2. The social and institutional background of “illegal” migrants

Before arguing about the hunger strike in IDC, this section reviews who are detained in the Nishi-Nihon Immigration Center, and why they were detained. Information from the Immigration Control Office is not enough to show the background of detainees who started the hunger strike like their origin countries, their period of stay, reasons for coming to Japan and so on. Their supporters do not comprehensively know such background either because there are very limited visiting hours during which to make contact with detainees. Therefore this article cannot help but be partially incomplete in this respect. Still the narratives of the supporters and the author’s interviews with detainees disclosed that most of the people detained in the Nishi-Nihon Immigration Center and are hoping to stay in Japan. They are people who seek asylum or people who came to Japan since the mid 1990s and have already established their life and livelihood in Japan. This section reviews their social and institutional background and why they were detained.

(1) “Illegal” Migrants as Migrant Workers

In Japan, “illegal” migrants have been recognized as a social issue since late the 1980s, when men came to Japan from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Filipinos, and Iran, in addition to previous “illegal” migrants from China and Korea, and women came from South-East Asia ⁵⁾ [Suzuki 2009, Sasaki 1994]. Those days were those of Japan’s bubble economy, Japanese companies suffered from serious labor shortage so they employed migrant workers. The Japanese government officially showed its disagreement to accepting unskilled foreign laborers in “The 6th Basic Plan for Employment Measures.” The subsequent amendment of the Immigration Act in 1989 (enforced in 1990) reinforced control of “illegal” workers: for example, employing or assisting the employment of “illegal” workers was made a crime. On the other hand, this amendment also allowed accepting *Nikkei* ⁶⁾ without limitation on their activities and established a new status of residence of “trainee.”

In late 1993, the “technical intern training system” was started in order that Japanese companies could legally secure “laborers”⁷⁾. Still, “illegal” migrants were not excluded from Japanese companies and societies. After amendment of the act, the control of “illegal” workers was not very strict and companies continued employing them [Suzuki 2009]. They were valued as a labor force,⁸⁾ rather than was their “illegality” emphasized.

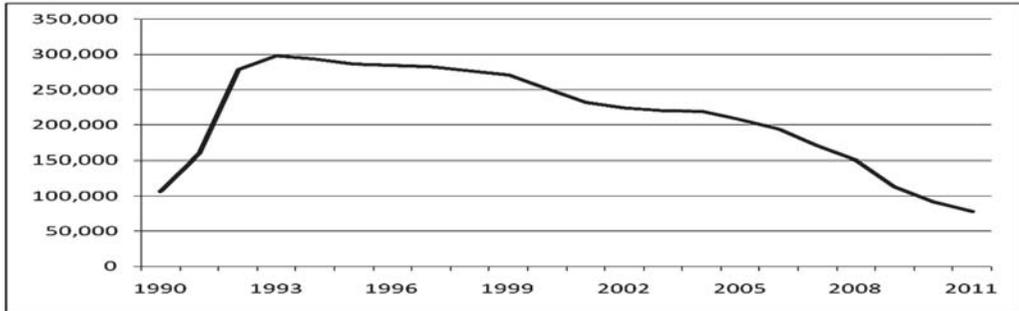
Even after the bubble burst, “illegal” migrants were not dumped immediately [Yorimitsu 2002: 26]. There was demand for their laborer, dangerous and difficult work that Japanese people avoided. Doing such work, “illegal” migrants continued to prop up the bottom of the Japanese economy. However, they were not only laborers but also residents, after prolonged residence in Japan, some also began to settle here. As “illegal” migrants came to have children, they were given the rights to receive medical care for their children, for example midwifery in hospitals, medical and infant care services, maternity passbooks, immunization, and so on [Suzuki 2007: 18]⁹⁾. Thus, many “illegal” migrants established their lives as members of local communities with the help their supporters and local residents. “They established what we can call local citizenships” [Watado 2007: 30].

One of the important factors that allowed “illegal” migrants to settle in local communities was the tacit approval not only of local residents, but also of the Japanese government. For example, when their children enter school, the school sometimes demands the alien registration certificates of their parents. So some “illegal” migrants went to the city hall and had alien registration cards issued, but they were not reported by officers. Moreover, even when they were questioned by the police, they were seldom arrested [Suzuki 2009: 429-431]. Such situations suggested to “illegal” migrants that they could live in Japan.

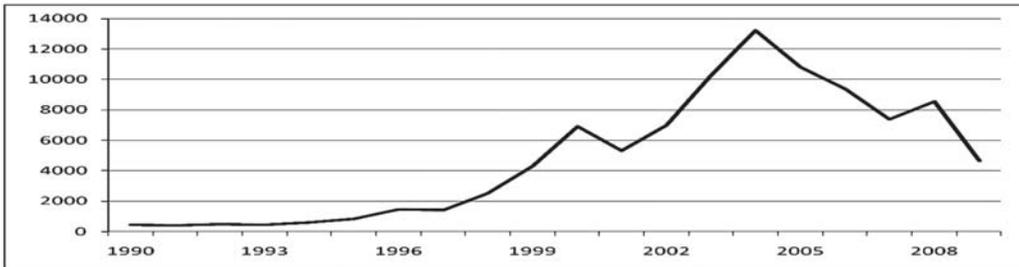
However, since the late 1990s, the Japanese view on “illegal” migrants gradually became harsher. For example, some researchers point out that mass media changed their appellation from migrant workers to “illegal” migrants [Takaya 2007]. Their “illegality” came to be emphasized. Moreover, Japanese government began to consider “illegal” migrants as a cause of worsening public security, as the *Police White Paper* and other reports sometime mentioned a connection between “illegal” migrants and crime and security¹⁰⁾. In such a context, “illegal” migrants came to be seen as the growing ground of crimes. Nevertheless, as written above, control of “illegal” migrants was not strict, and arrests were made just forms of public punishment [Suzuki 2007:18].

However, the situation of “illegal” migrants has changed dramatically since events of September 11, 2001. They came to be seen as terrorists as well as criminals¹¹⁾. In 2003, Metropolitan Police Department issued a “Program on Restoring Civil Order” which states that control of organized crime and control of crimes by foreign residents is an important issue. In response to this, the Ministry of Justice, Tokyo Immigration Control Bureau, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Metropolitan Police Department issued “Joint Declaration on Enhancing Control of Illegal Aliens in Tokyo.” This declaration says that illegal migrants are considered to be a nest of increasing organized crimes committed by foreigners, and planned to reduce the number of illegal migrants in

Tokyo to half its size within 5 years from 2004. This numerical goal was also adopted in “The Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime” issued by the Ministerial Meeting on Crime Control. In fact, the number of “illegal” migrants was reduced from about 220,000 in 2004 to about 110,000 in 2009 (graph 1). Moreover, because strict control of “illegal” migrants has continued after the action plan and also because of the effect of the Lehman shock, the number of “illegal” migrants had fallen down to 78,488 by January 2011.



Graph 1. The number of “illegal” migrants¹²⁾

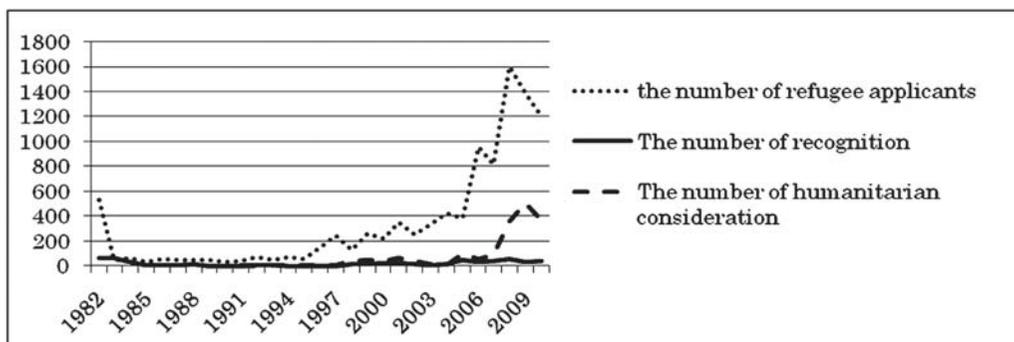


Graph 2. The number of special permission to stay in Japan¹³⁾

Although graph 2 shows some increase in the number of persons who received Special Permission to Stay in Japan, which is issued by discretion by the Minister of Justice¹⁴⁾, this is still a narrow gate for most people, who either have a criminal record, illegally entered Japan, or who are a member of a family exclusively composed of foreigners, even if they have already stayed in Japan for a long time. However, as pointed out above, the Japanese government, which tacitly approved their existence, has partial responsibility in their continued illegal stay in Japan. It is selfish to try to deport them after they have been allowed to establish their livelihoods in Japan. Although they may not be completely innocent, “illegal” migrants are victims of the Japanese immigration control policy, which lacks coherence and a clear policy.

(2) Refugee Applicants

Asylum seekers also are considered “illegal” migrants and are detained as such. Since the amendment of Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (ICRRA) in 2005, the number of refugee applicants has drastically increased to reach over 1,000 per year today. However, as graph 3 shows, the number recognized as refugees is around 30 to 50 per year. Instead of accepting them as refugees, the Japanese government provides more residence permission by humanitarian consideration for refugee applicants. However, since most of the permissions are directed to people who fled from Burma (Myanmar), the condition of people who came from other countries is still difficult¹⁵⁾.



Graph 3. The Number of refugee recognition¹⁶⁾

Some asylum seekers enter Japan illegally or others apply for refugee recognition after the expiration date of their visa. When they apply for refugee recognition, immigration control officers start deportation procedures at the same time. Although refugee applicants are not deported because of the principle of *non-refoulement*, they are detained in an IDC, if they do not have an entitlement of residence. As an exception, they may get permission for a provisional stay if they apply for refugee recognition within 6 months from entering Japan and before the end of the deportation procedure (ICRRA 61-2-4). However, very few can get permission for a provisional stay¹⁷⁾, because some asylum seekers apply for refugee recognition for the first time when they are arrested because they do not know the system of refugee application, or they know the system but they also know that the recognition rate is very low. Even if one had residence entitlement when he or she applied, in most cases, one’s entitlement expires before the examination is completed. Then he or she is likely to be detained.

3. Detention

This section shows the handling of people detained under a written deportation order (detainee), based on the narratives of ex-detainees and their supporters.

Japanese immigration control policy adopts mandatory detention. Arrested “illegal” migrants

are issued the written detention order, and in principle, they are detained in a detention house¹⁸⁾ up to 60 days (ICRRA 41 (1) and 61-6). When an “illegal” migrant is issued the written deportation order, an immigration control officer must have him or her deported promptly to the destination (ICRRA 52 (3)). However, if the officer cannot promptly do so, an “illegal” migrant with a deportation order is basically detained in the detention center of an immigration control center (ICRRA 52 (4)).

However, the principle of mandatory detention has become a mere facade in part. From December 2004, when the departure order system started in order to encourage “illegal” migrants to voluntarily appear at an immigration office, “illegal” migrants are allowed to finish their return procedure without being detained if they meet specific conditions (ICRRA 55-2). In fact, it is not a new system. There had also been cases in which immigration officer did not actually detain an illegal migrant when he or she voluntarily appeared at an immigration office and the officer recognized that he or she would not escape.

Moreover, the legal ground for mandatory detention is ambiguous. ICRRA only states that an immigration control officer “may” detain “illegal” migrants when he has considerable grounds to believe he needs to do so (ICRRA 39 (1)). Although mandatory detention is not the clearly written policy, the Japanese government adopts mandatory detention by arguing that other articles in ICRRA take the detention of “illegal” migrants for granted. However, some lawyers and scholars claim that such an argument is clearly a mistake if we take into account the interpretation of law or development of ICRRA. Thus, mandatory detention fails theoretically and practically¹⁹⁾ [Ohashi and Kodama 2009].

However, as long as the Japanese government adopts such a policy, “illegal” migrants who want to continue living in Japan can be detained. Refugee applicants are not exempted and they also risk being detained as “illegal” migrants. Although IDCs are considered temporary detention centers for “illegal” migrants until deportation, people who want to continue living in Japan and refugee applicants are detained for long terms because there is no limitation for the detention period in IDCs unlike in detention houses.

Such long term detention isolates “illegal” migrants from their families and communities. In IDCs, their contact with outside society is highly limited by frosted glass windows and walls about 4 meters in height surrounding space for exercise, which block outside view from the cells.

We could not see the sky. We did not know the weather. We did not know the outside world in the middle of the information era of the 21 century…… (Mr. B²⁰⁾, an ex-detainee).

Detainees can have contact with the outside only at visitation time up to thirty minutes. Because of this detention policy, they are robbed of the opportunity of “connections with Japanese society,” which is considered to be one of positive elements for special permission for residence in “the 3rd edition of Basic Plan for Immigration Control” in 2005. Moreover, detainees always live

with the anxiety of deportation.

In the early morning around 5:00 AM, when we were all asleep, three immigration officers suddenly came to our rooms and brought out one detainee. Although he was crying “I don’t want to go, I don’t want to go!” they forcibly…… (Mr. I²¹), an ex-detainee).

Such forms of deportation rob them of the opportunity to meet their family and lawyer. Suddenly, they are erased from their society²² .

They lose the “local citizenship,” which they had constructed in spite of the many limitations they faced. As Hannah Arendt argues “the fundamental deprivation of human rights is manifested first and above all in the deprivation of having a place in the world which makes opinions significant and actions effective”[Arendt 1958: 296], they are also dealt with as if they were a person with no right. In IDCs, as Mr. B said “I wanted to be humanely dealt with as a human,” but detainees are not dealt with as human beings.

According to ex-detainees (Mr. I and Mr.B) of Nishi-Nihon Immigration Center, eight to eleven people of different nationalities were detained in cells so small that each person can have as free space only the size of a tatami mat (about 80 × 180cm²). And Mr. S, one of their supporters, says that “until 2003, for security reasons, detainees were allowed to go out of the cells only one hour per week (15 minutes twice for showers; 15 minutes twice for exercise).” Moreover, excess violence by officers over small offences by detainees has been reported²³ . Under such conditions, detainees feel severe stress and develop mental and physical disorders²⁴ . A doctor comes to the IDC of Ibaraki-city only once or twice per week. Supporters question the doctor’s inappropriate handling of detainees. According to Mr. B, the doctor often gives detainees medicines, especially sleeping drugs or tranquilizers, without proper examination. Some detainees take an overdose of such medicines in an attempt to escape from their desperate reality. Moreover, officers seldom permit detainees to consult a doctor outside of the IDC, and when permission is granted, it normally takes one to two months for approval.

Although, the Regulation on Treatment of Detainees states its object is to respect the human rights of detainees and reasonable treatment for them (article 1), many the articles allow the officers huge discretionary power because of “reasons of security and sanitation.” Additionally, even when an officer offends the regulation, because IDCs are isolated from society, such violations are seldom exposed. The IDCs function as a space where “for all intents and purposes, the normal rule of law is suspended and the fact that atrocities may or may not be committed does not depend on the law but rather on the civility and ethical sense of the police (officers) that act temporarily as sovereign [Agamben 2000: 41, the parentheses is added by the author]. In such conditions, detainees sometime try to commit suicide²⁵ . IDCs almost completely rob them of their connections with society, and while do not directly kill them like in Auschwitz²⁶ , detention leads to damages to their physical and mental health, and sometime drives them to their death.

4. Resistance of detainees

Even in such conditions, some detainees have found a way of resistance. Detainees in the IDC of Ibaraki started a hunger strike on March 8th, 2010 demanding their provisional release, although they faced the risk of violence from officers. Their requirements were as follows;

1. To accord provisional release to sick detainee before his or her illness worsens in the detention center
2. To accord provisional release before detainees become mentally exhausted by long term detention and want to commit suicide
3. To accord provisional release to detainees whose procedure would take a long time, even if it is not yet completed.
4. To accord provisional release to refugee applicants during their application process
5. To accord provisional release to detainees when their trial starts, if their case goes to court
6. To finish all investigations and make judgments within six months

Their requirements did not aim at the improvement of the rough treatment described above, but demanded release from detention. Their resistance was against the detention policy itself, which robs “illegal” migrants of “a place in the world which makes opinions significant and actions effective.” Below is a description of this hunger strike in the IDC of Ibaraki based on the narratives of supporters and of Mr. I and Mr. B.

This hunger strike was a protest against the fact that the immigration control office had hardly permitted any provisional release since July 2009. The director of the immigration detention center and a supervising immigration inspector have authority to accord provisional release (ICCRA 54 (2)), and they accorded it to a person who needed treatment in the past. Stopping provisional parole permits worsened the condition of those who needed treatment, and increased the number of long term detainees in the IDC of Ibaraki²⁷⁾. Provisional release permit is the only hope for detainees to escape the IDC, and its interruption was a serious issue for them. They demanded of the director of the detention center again and again to explain the reason why parole permits were not granted anymore, but he did not respond. Moreover, the news that two detainees had committed suicide in January and February 2010 in the IDC of Ushiku also had an important impact on the morale of detainees in Ibaraki.

73 detainees in area A and B of IDC²⁸⁾ of Ibaraki felt a sense of crisis and they refused go to back to their cells after free time and held a sit-in in the morning on March 8th 2010. In area B, all detainees went back to their cells around 2:00 PM because they were told that the director would come there. However, the director did not come. In area A, about 30 detainees ran into the shower room and locked themselves in because officers relentlessly pressured them to go back to their cells. At around 4:30 PM, about 40 officers came to suppress the protest. They cut around the door

of the shower room with an instrument somewhat like a chain saw and bore down on the detainees. Four detainees were placed in segregated custody. That night, a detainee heard the officers chatting amongst themselves, insulting the detainees and laughing at them. To resist the tough stance of the immigration control officers, the detainees started a hunger strike as a last resort.

The officers locked the cells of area A, where the detainees put up strong resistance, and interrogated detainees one by one until midnight. Despite such pressure, no one gave up and the detainees continued the hunger strike. The supporters of the detainees also took action. In order to let people outside of the detention center know about the hunger strike, they distributed leaflets and provided information on the web site and to the media²⁹⁾. As a result, the hunger strike was reported in a few newspapers, and discussed by the Committee on Judicial Affairs of the House of Councilors on March 16th. Moreover, on March 17th, TV news broadcasted the supporters' sit-in action in front of the Ibaraki Detention Center. The detainees and their supporters continued announcing the current condition of the detainees.

However, supporters began to worry about the health condition of the detainees as the hunger strike continued for over 10 days. So on March 18th, supporters tried to persuade the detainees to agree that the supporters would negotiate with the immigration control office, and if this negotiation failed, the detainees would restart the hunger strike again. The supporters demanded that the immigration control office permit parole for detainees who suffer from serious illness and those who had been detained for over one year. Because the immigration control officers wanted to settle the problem, which was becoming bigger, they agreed to the demands of the detainees and supporters. As a result, it seems that the number of detainees was subsequently reduced from about 130 to about 30. Moreover, this resistance influenced detainees in the Ushiku Detention Center, and about 60 detainees in Ushiku went on hunger-strike from May 10th to 21st. They won similar results.

5. Conclusion

Arendt thought that the deprivation of human rights is manifested in being deprived from belonging to a community where one can voice his or her opinions and act meaningfully. In the IDCs, the voice of detainees did not reach officers nor the Japanese government. Although the detainees repeatedly demanded the opportunity to discuss long term detention, the officers refused saying "there is no need to talk with foreigners," Mr. I said. The detainees' voice was not worth hearing.

Jacques Rancière argues that democracy begins when the people (*demos*), who are taken to be incapable of speech, speak out [Rancière 2008]. For Rancière, politics is when people with "no part" raise their voice to demand their part, and politics is when people prove that their voices are worth hearing. If that is so, politics exists even for detainees who are rejected and isolated. By holding a hunger strike, they showed officers that they were capable of speech and were participants in a

dialogue. Then, their protest made the director of IDC of Ibaraki accept their provisional release via their supporters. Another result was that the government promised to amend the treatment of long term detainees³⁰⁾. In the end, despite the director's initial refusal to engage in dialogue, they succeeded in demanding their part as participants in democracy.

Of course, these are tiny accomplishments in regard to the overall immigration control policy of "illegal" migrants. The condition of people accepted on provisional release is yet unstable. They cannot work and they can receive neither welfare benefit nor medical insurance coverage. Furthermore, they must present themselves at the immigration control center once a month. If one is unlucky, he or she can be detained on the spot. Because they are not allowed to work, they have to depend on "illegal" work or on the assistance of supporters for their livelihood. In spite of these remaining difficulties, the success of the hunger strikes gave the paroled detainees confidence that they can realize their demands through their own efforts. With the aim of succeeding in obtaining residence permits, the persons who received a provisional release, including some provisionally released before the hunger strike, established together with their supporters, the "Provisional Release Association of Japan" on September 13th 2010 in Osaka, on October 31st in Tokyo, and September 18th 2011 in Nagoya. Their movement of demanding their share through building associations and networks is spreading all over Japan.

Notes

- 1) Because the term "illegal" tends to be connected with crimes, some international agencies and supporters of illegal migrants often use "irregular migrants" or "undocumented migrants." They are placed outside of borders only arbitrarily by law. However, for this reason, I believe the violence of the law in formulating such borders should be emphasized. So I purposely use the term "illegal" in this presentation.
- 2) This includes the mailing list of the Kansai Supporters Network for Immigration Control Issues. The members of this mailing list are TRY, WITH, RAFIQ, Amnesty International Osaka Refugee Team, Burma Relief Center Japan (BRCJ) and Japan China Friendship Yuyo Kai Osaka.
- 3) The other two IDCs are in Ushiku City, Ibaragi Prefecture, and in Omura City, Nagasaki Prefecture.
- 4) For example, "Kabe no Namida" Seisaku Jikko Iinkai [2007] and Nyukan Mondai Cyousakai [2002].
- 5) Most of the women from South East Asia came to Japan as entertainers. They were called *Japayuki-san*.
- 6) *Nikkei* means Japanese migrants and their offspring. By this amendment, many Japanese-Brazilian and Japanese-Peruvian came to Japan.
- 7) Before the amendment of IRRCA in 2010, they were not protected by Labor Standard Act, Minimum Wage Act, and other labor related laws, because they were technically "trainees" but not laborers. There were many cases of violation against their human rights. For details, see Gaikokujin Kensyusei Kenri Network [2009].
- 8) They also won rights as laborers with the assistance of their supporters. For details, see Karabao no Kai [1993]
- 9) Ministry of Health & Welfare decided to exclude "illegal" migrants from welfare benefits (1990) and national health insurance (1992). Then, increase of unpaid medical bills became a social problem. As the solution to this problem, Ministry of Health & Welfare allowed them to have these basic rights again in 1995.

- 10) The annual *Keisatsu Hakusyo (White Paper on Police)* had never clearly said that a direct relationship exists between “illegal” migrants and a threat to social security until *Heisei 11 nen Keisatsu Hakusyo (White Paper on Police in 1999)*, and “the 2nd edition of Basic Plan for Immigration Control” in 2000, which says that “illegal” migrants are a threat to social security [Suzuki 2009:132-134].
- 11) For example, Eriko Suzuki points out that *White Paper on Police* in 2002 says there is a possibility that some Islam communities in Japan can be used by Islamic militants [Ibid. 137].
- 12) The graph was plotted by the author based on *Heisei 22 Nen Syutsunyuukoku Kanri (White Paper on Immigration Control in 2010)* and the Ministry for Justice press release of “On the number of illegal migrants in Japan (as of January 1st 2011).”
- 13) The graph was plotted by the author based on *Syutsunyuukoku Kanri (White Paper on Immigration Control)* in Heisei 22 nen, 16nen, 10nen and 4nen (in 2010, 2004, 1998 and 1992).
- 14) The number of Special Permission to Stay in Japan has gradually increased, after the Ministry of Justice issued an Official Notice on July 30th, 1996, which allows the status of residence to the “illegal” migrants who have a child born with a Japanese citizen as the other parent. In addition to that, as a result group appearance to Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau by families consisting of only foreigners, Special Permission to Stay in Japan has been granted to more families which have children who were born in Japan or who came to Japan in their early childhood, and who have completed primary school [Yamaguchi 2007: 194]. Partly because of such actions, the Ministry for Justice has published information concerning accepted and rejected cases of Special Permission to Stay in Japan from 2004. The government published the “Guidelines on Special Permission to Stay in Japan” in 2006. This guideline was amended in 2009, and disclosed more detailed factors. The English version of the guideline is available on the Ministry for Justice Website (http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyukan_nyukan85.html).
- 15) The Ministry for Justice press release “On the refugee recognition and others in 2010” published in 2011 says there were 356 people from Burma (Myanmar) out of the 402 people who were accepted as refugees or granted humanitarian consideration as refugee applicants in 2010.
- 16) The graph was plotted by the author based on the Ministry for Justice press releases “On the refugee recognition and others” published in 2011 and 2009.
- 17) Ministry for Justice press releases “On the refugee recognition and others in 2010” says there were only 65 people accepted for provisional stay among 558 processed cases in 2010. The stated reasons for rejection were that 374 people applied for refugee recognition over six months from entering Japan and 246 people had been already issued the deportation order (some people fall into both categories) .
- 18) There are 17 detention houses in Japan; in the regional immigration bureaus of Sapporo, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Takamatsu, Hiroshima, and Hukuoka; in the district immigration offices of Narita airport, Haneda airport, Yokohama, Chubu airport, Kansai airport, Kobe, and Naha; and in the branch offices of Kagoshima and Shimonoseki.
- 19) For detail about this discussion, see [Xiao 2007].
- 20) Mr. B came to Japan in 1990 from Iran on a visitor visa when he was 19 years old. Then he worked at some factories in Tokyo and Mie, and was arrested for violating the Stimulants Control Act. After being released, he was sent to the Nagoya regional immigration bureau and two days later, was sent to the IDC of Ibaraki. He stayed there for three years from July 2007 to July 2010. He has spent half of his life in Japan, and hopes to continue living in Japan.
- 21) Mr. I came to Japan in 1995 from Brazil on the spousal visa of his mother when he was seventeen years old. He worked in factories in Mie. In 1997, his girl friend gave birth to his child. However he was arrested for a car burglary in 2004. He was sent to the IDC of Ibaraki after five years in the prison. He was detained

- in the IDC of Ibaraki for one and half years from January 2009 to May 2010.
- 22) In the deportation process, officers sometimes use drugs or violence to forcibly take them to an airport. For detail, see Kabe no Namida Seisaku Jikko Iinkai [2007]. In March 2010, a Ghanan died in the process of his deportation. Although 10 immigration control officers were charged, the details are not clear yet.
 - 23) For example, [Kobe no Namida Seisaku Jikko Iinkai [2007] and Nyukan Mondai Chousakai [2002].
 - 24) For example, because “a detainee smoked at night, made a noise killing cockroach, loudly complained against his treatment, and so on,” officers continued using violence until he or she kneeled down on the ground [Kabe no Namida Seisaku Jikko Iinkai 2007: 50]
 - 25) TRY, a support group for “illegal” migrants, has reported on several cases. One was of a Pakistani refugee applicant detained for about one year and a half who had four heart attacks and continuous high blood pressure from 190 to 200 mm Hg for three months; the case that a Pakistani detained over nine months who had continuous headaches and fevers and because both his knees became numb and paralyzed, could not walk by himself. Another case was of a Chinese woman detained for 1 year, who suffered from auditory hallucinations from stress, and had insomnia, and so on. All of these ailments developed while the people were in detention.
 - 26) For example, a total of nineteen Afghan refugees applicants detained in Ushiku Detention Center in 2001 tried to commit suicide in a period of about six months, because their traumas from Afghanistan were compounded by the stress of detention and the arrogant manners of the officers [Doi 2003: 65-66].
 - 27) In the Ibaraki IDC, which had about 100 to 130 detainees, twelve detainees had been detained for over one year by August 2009, but this number soared to forty-two by March 2010.
 - 28) The Ibaraki IDC has 4 areas, A, B, C and D. Area D holds people who agreed with deportation. Area C holds women who do not agree with deportation and area A and B hold men who do not agree with deportation.
 - 29) For example, Asahi Newspaper, March 11th 2010 and Mainichi Newspaper March 12th 2010.
 - 30) On July 30th 2010, the Ministry for Justice press release “On verification about provisional release of detained people with deportation order” says that provincial release of long term detainees in IDCs will be decided flexibly.

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