

Monday, September 4, 2023, CEST 1:00PM - 5:00PM

Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

Workshop & Release

The Death Penalty and Retrial in Japan

Why does the Japanese Government still maintain the death penalty and continue to violate the right to life and human rights?



**LIVE
STREAMING**
Participation fee
is free.

Japan still has the death penalty and the method of execution is by hanging. Also, retrial is as difficult as putting a camel through the eye of a needle.

Although Japan has a political system involving a separation of powers that balances the legislature, executive, and judiciary, even when the court is in the midst of a trial for a retrial, the Minister of Justice may suspend retrial proceedings and order the execution of the death penalty.

The retrial proceedings for Iwao Hakamada (87 years old, male), who is seeking to overturn his wrongful conviction, have commenced at the Shizuoka District Court. However, prosecutors are trying to delay the retrial.

In the Osaki case, Ayako HARAGUCHI (96 years old, female), who was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, began her activities to request a retrial after her release from prison. Although there have been three judgements in favor of initiating a retrial, each decision has been overturned by the superior court, and a fourth retrial request is currently pending before the Supreme Court.

Against this background, three lawsuits by death row inmates and others continue in Osaka. These regard decisions to execute a death penalty pending retrial, same-day notifications and immediate execution of the death penalty, and three administrative and compensation lawsuits challenging the cruelty of the hanging method.

On September 4, 2023, from Berlin, in the heart of Europe, we, a team of researchers and lawyers calling for reform of Japan's death penalty and retrial system, held this "Workshop and Press Release" to highlight the Japanese government's human rights violations and to call for cooperation in reform from those around the world who are striving to secure life and rights. We hope that you will listen to our voice.

Date: Monday, September 4, 2023, CEST 1:00PM - 5:00PM

Advance registration is required.

* The recorded video will be archived and available for streaming at a later date (for a limited period).

If you would like to participate online or at the venue, please apply using the form below or scan the QR code.

<https://forms.gle/i84KjnLCX4Mib4d2A>

(The viewing URL will be provided in a confirmation email after registration.)



Organized by: Criminal Justice Future (CJF), a general incorporated association.

Co-organized by: Research Center of Criminal Justice and Wrongful Convictions, Ryukoku University, Kyoto (RCWC), Prof. Dr. Luis Greco, LL.M., Humboldt University of Berlin

Cooperation: Prof. Dr. Henning Rosenau, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

Supported by: Criminology Research Center, Ryukoku University, TKC Corporation, CrimeInfo, non-Profit Organization, and others.

Sponsored by: Eleos Justice, Monash University, Innocence Project Japan (IPJ), FORUM90, and others.

【Program (Tentative)】 *CEST 1:00PM - 5:00PM

1:00 PM Opening: Explanation of the purpose of the project "Death Penalty and Retrial Proceedings in Japan" (Prof. Emer. Dr. Shinichi Ishizuka, Ryukoku University)

1:20 PM Part 1 (Moderator: Prof. Dr. Henning Rosenau, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Report 1: "The Case of HAKAMADA - The Retrial Process that Started After 47 Years of Imprisonment"

Report 2: "Drafting the Retrial Proceedings Law - There is No Legislation on Retrial Proceedings in Japan"

Report 3: "Human Rights Lawsuits against Death Row Inmates - A Trial Challenging the Rights of Death Row Inmates Began in OSAKA"

2:20 PM to 2:50 PM = Break =

2:50 PM Part 2 (Moderators: Prof. Dr. Henning Rosenau, Prof. Emer. Dr. Shinichi Ishizuka)

Report 4: "Retrial in Japan - Insights from Researchers"

Comment 1: "Japan's Death Penalty" (10 minutes)

Comment 2: "Japan's Death Penalty" (10 minutes)

Comment 3: "Comments from Germany" (10 minutes)

3:50 PM Discussion (60 minutes)

4:50 PM Summary and Closing Remarks (10 minutes)



Speaker Introduction (Partial - in no particular order):



Shinichi Ishizuka

Professor Emeritus, Ryukoku University and Representative Director of Criminal Justice Future, a General Incorporated Association



Sangyum Kim

Professor of the Faculty of Law, Ryukoku University



Henning Rosenau

Professor of the Faculty of Law, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg



Luís Greco

Professor of the Faculty of Law, Humboldt University of Berlin

Greetings from Criminal Justice Future,

We are pleased to announce that on September 4, 2023, we will be hosting the "Death Penalty and Retrial in Japan in Berlin" workshop & release at Humboldt University in Berlin. This event marks the first step of our organization's overseas expansion. The aim of this initiative is to expose the current state of Japan's judiciary from the heart of Europe, Berlin, and seek cooperation for reform.

The presenters are defense lawyers involved in lawsuits related to the death penalty and retrial, who will raise pertinent issues. We look forward to welcoming researchers, journalists, and human rights activists from around the world to freely discuss the topics of death penalty and human rights. Fortunately, we have enlisted top-notch interpreters, and the event will be simultaneously streamed with Japanese interpretation.

Thanks to the generous support and co-organization from Research Center of Criminal Justice and Wrongful Convictions, Ryukoku University and Prof. Dr. Luis Greco, Humboldt University of Berlin.

Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2023, CEST 1:00PM - 5:00PM.

*For details on the livestream, please go to the website address or scan the QR code.

If your organization or individual wishes to provide sponsorship (with donation) or support (with your name), we kindly ask for your assistance. You can make your donation through bank transfer or credit card by clicking on the donation banner on our organization's website (Syncable). When doing so, please write "In Berlin" in the communication field, so that we can identify your support for this event.

Criminal Justice Future Website: <https://cjf.jp>

Thank you for your support and we look forward to your participation in this significant event.

Sincerely,

Criminal Justice Future

August 1, 2023

Shinichi Ishizuka, Representative Director Criminal Justice Future (General Incorporated Association)

