

# The Alternative Report on the Initial Report of the Japanese Government under Paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Japan, 30th March, 2007

The CAT Network Japan

## **About our Coalition and the Purpose of this Alternative Report**

The CAT<sup>1</sup> Network Japan is a coalition of NGOs working domestically to protect and promote human rights of persons deprived of their liberty in prisons, immigration detention centers, and psychiatric hospitals. A brief introduction of each NGO follows. This alternative report on the initial report of the Japanese government under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) was compiled for the purpose of rendering the additional information and our concerns relating the issues arising under the Convention to the Committee Against Torture (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”). Because of our limited resources and experiences, this report mainly focuses on issues concerning treatment of inmates in police detention cells, prisons and immigration detention centers, and patients in mental health institutions. We would be glad if this report would be one of the references of the Committee’s members.

## **Coalition Members:**

### The Center for Prisoners’ Rights Japan (CPR):

The Center for Prisoners’ Rights is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1995, with the objective of improving prison conditions and prisoners’ treatment in Japan to comply with international human rights standards. Our members include lawyers, academics, and human rights activists. The CPR is working with international NGOs such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Penal Reform International and others, and together we have held many international human rights seminars and conferences in Japan.

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Tel&Fax: +81(0)3-3259-1558, E-mail: cpr@jca.apc.org

### The Immigration Review Task Force (IRTF) :

The Immigration Review Task Force is a non-governmental, non-religious and non-profit organization founded by citizens, lawyers, and academics in 1994. We have collected testimony of those who were deported from Japan and other witnesses, by interviewing them not only in Japan but also in other countries such as Peru, the Philippines, China, and Iran.

Address: c/o Gendai Jinbun Co., Ltd., Sato Building#201,  
20 Shinano-machi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-0016, Japan

### The Tokyo Center for Mental Health and Human Rights:

The Tokyo Center for Mental Health and Human Rights is a legal advocacy organization for mental health service users in Tokyo. It was established in March 1986 by a coalition of lawyers, mental health professionals, community workers, patients and families after an infamous violation of patients’ rights at Utsunomiya Hospital. The Center offers various services, including a Hot Line Service, visits to psychiatric hospitals in order to resolve problems of inpatients, and publication of human rights literature.

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<sup>1</sup> “CAT” of our name means the Convention Against Torture.

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