

1-1

Three years after the execution of Asahara and others, Aum Shinrikyo maintained its dangerous nature

The Public Security Examination Commission decided to renew the period of surveillance disposition

While even today, the so-called Aum Shinrikyo (organization) continues its activities centered on the following groups: “Aleph”, which explicitly emphasizes absolute devotion to Chizuo Matsumoto, aka Shoko Asahara, the mastermind of the sarin gas attacks on the subway in Tokyo (in March 1995), the “group led by Yamada” (see note), which maintains absolute devotion to Asahara while keeping a certain distance from “Aleph” (herein both groups together are referred to as the mainstream group), and “Hikari-no-Wa,” which pretends to cast aside Asahara’s influence in order to avoid the surveillance disposition (represented by Fumihiro Joyu and known as the Joyu group), since February 2000, the Public Security Intelligence Agency has been conducting surveillance disposition on the group based on the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder (Act on the Control of Organizations), and in

October 2020, the agency requested the Public Security Examination Commission to renew the period of said disposition for the seventh time.

In response to this request, on January 6, the Public Security Examination Commission decided to renew the period of surveillance disposition for three years (expiring on January 31, 2024), finding that there were sufficient facts to conclude that the group still posed a risk to committing indiscriminate mass murder and that it was necessary to continue to clarify the status of their activities.

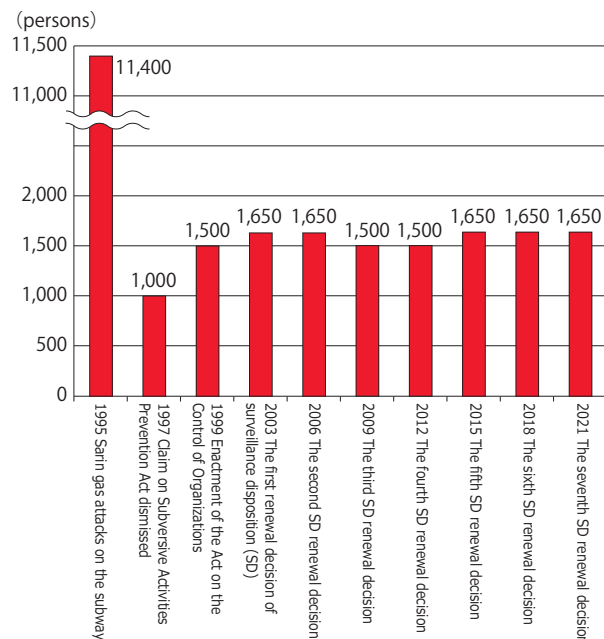
Incidentally, in response to this decision, "Aleph," the “group led by Yamada,” and "Hikari-no-Wa" respectively filed a lawsuit demanding the revocation, etc. of the decision.

Note: The “group led by Yamada” does not use any specific name of its own, so it is referred to by the name of its senior member.

Aum Shinrikyo still under the influence of Asahara

Even now, three years after Asahara's execution (in July 2018), no changes have been seen in the actual state where they remain under the influence of Asahara, such as the mainstream group posting Asahara's photographic portrait on the altar in the facility, and the Joyu group posting a Buddhist painting that projects Asahara in the facility. And, Aum Shinrikyo still now maintains its dangerous nature, as seen in that the majority of live-in members of the mainstream group and all of the live-in members of the Joyu group are those who were the members even before the sarin gas attacks on the subway, and they continued to maintain dangerous "doctrines" that included content recommending


Changes in the number of members in Japan



murder and a closed society of superior orders and subjugation that enabled them to plan and prepare for the sarin gas attacks on the subway in an organized and secretive manner.

## Aum Shinrikyo increased resistance to surveillance disposition

Although Aum Shinrikyo was obligated to report the current status of its organization and activities to the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency every three months based on the Act on the Control of Organizations, both the mainstream group and the Joyu group were found to have problems such as failing to report on matters that should have been reported or reporting inaccurate information.

In particular, "Aleph" did not report to the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency by the deadline of May 15, and even after that, it did not report at all, despite repeated attempts by the Public Security Intelligence Agency to correct the situation to encourage reporting (  p.17, "Special Feature 4 Request for recurrence prevention disposition against Aum Shinrikyo's mainstream group 'Aleph'").

Also, on the on-site inspection based on the Act on the Control of Organizations, during 2021, members of both the mainstream group and Joyu group showed the same uncooperative attitude as before, ignoring the questions of the inspectors, or answering "I will not answer your questions", "I am

No major shifts in the number of members of Aum Shinrikyo have been seen in recent years, and as of 2021, the organization still had about 1,650 members in Japan.

not obliged to answer your questions", or "As you can see". In addition to this, "Aleph" was particularly uncooperative, using multiple video cameras to constantly film the inspectors during inspections, including the inspectors' appearance, and resisting the inspections by claiming, "As this is religious material, it's blasphemy, isn't it?", and in April, a live-in member assaulted an inspector engaged in an on-site inspection and was arrested for obstruction of performance of public duty.

Furthermore, the mainstream group, using the prevention of the spread of new coronavirus infections as a pretext, resisted the entry and inspection of inspectors, claiming, "Don't bring in coronaviruses" and "Are you trying to kill people?", showing their attitude to dissuade inspectors from implementing proper on-site inspections.

In spite of these resistances, the Public Security Intelligence Agency took all possible measures to prevent infectious diseases and conducted on-site inspections in a proper and strict manner, confirming the fact that both the mainstream and Joyu groups were under the influence of Asahara.

### COLUMN

#### Trends of the Asahara family and others regarding Asahara's remains, etc.

When Asahara's wife and other parties were at odds with Asahara's fourth daughter, who claimed to have been designated by Asahara to receive the remains of Asahara, who was executed in July 2018, the fourth daughter filed a petition with the Tokyo Family Court (in December 2018) seeking to designate the fourth daughter as the acquirer of Asahara's ritual succession goods, and subsequently three parties, namely, the fourth daughter; Asahara's wife and second son; and Asahara's second daughter, the third daughter and the first son, fought over where it belonged, as a result of which the Tokyo Family Court ruled that Asahara's second daughter was the acquirer of the object of ritual succession (in September 2020).

The fourth daughter and the wife and the second

son appealed the judgment in dissatisfaction immediately, but the Tokyo High Court dismissed the appeal (in March), and the fourth daughter and the wife and the second son filed a special appeal to the Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal (in July), and the judgment of the Tokyo Family Court that Asahara's second daughter was the acquirer of the object of ritual succession became final and binding.

Since some members of Aum Shinrikyo have expressed an interest in Asahara's remains, and since residents living near the facilities of the organization are concerned that Asahara's remains may be brought into the facilities, the Public Security Intelligence Agency will continue to closely monitor the activities of the group regarding Asahara's remains.

# Inspected facilities of Aum Shinrikyo (January – November 2021)

## Legend

Name of facility	Date of inspection
------------------	--------------------

### Saitama Prefecture

Yashio Oze facility	May 13
Yashio Ise no facility	June 8
Kita-Koshigaya facility	Jul. 7 Nov. 19
Omiya facility	Jul. 21
Koshigaya Osawa facility	Sep. 14

### Ishikawa Prefecture

Kanazawa facility	Oct. 5
-------------------	--------

### Shiga Prefecture

Koga Shigaraki facility	Apr. 22
Minakuchi facility	Apr. 22

### Kyoto Prefecture

Kyoto facility	Jan. 26
	Jul. 20

### Osaka Prefecture

Higashi-Osaka facility	Jan. 21
	Nov. 12
Ikuno facility	Jul. 1

### Hokkaido

Sapporo facility	Jul. 13
Sapporo Shiroishi facility	Jul. 13

### Ibaraki Prefecture

Mito facility	Aug. 8
---------------	--------

### Chiba Prefecture

Noda facility	May 28 Sep. 3
---------------	------------------

### Tokyo

Shin-Hokima facility	Apr. 16
Nishiogi facility	May 20
Hokima facility	Jun. 3
	Nov. 25
Adachi Iriya facility	Jun. 16
	Sep. 10 Nov. 19
Minami-Karasuyama facility	Oct. 13

### Kanagawa Prefecture

Yokohama facility	Jul. 29
	Nov. 29

### Aichi Prefecture

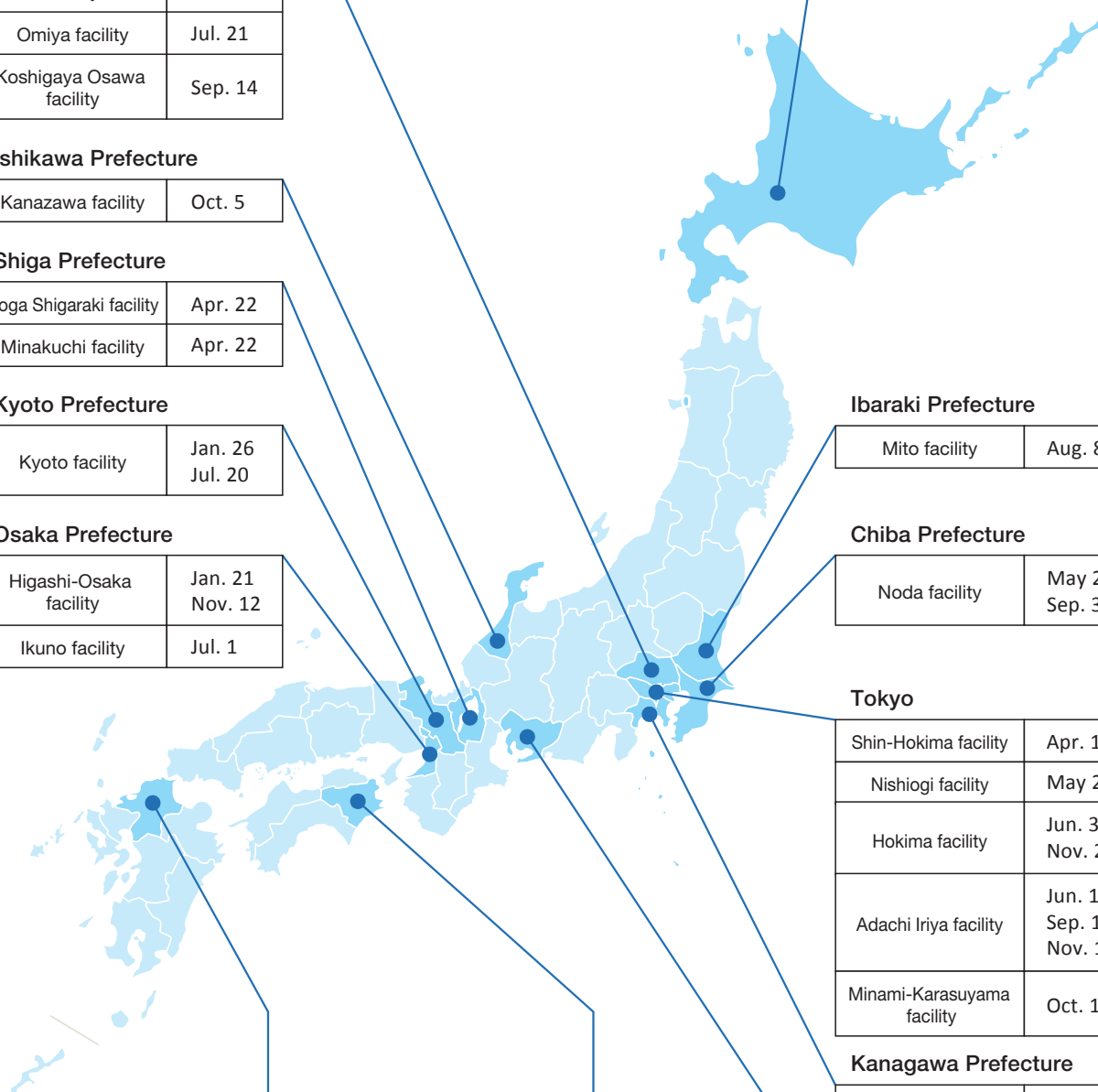
Toyoake facility	Feb. 25
Nagoya facility	Jul. 27
Iwakura facility	Nov. 4

### Fukuoka Prefecture

Fukuoka facility	Mar. 17 Aug. 4
Fukuoka Fukutsu facility	Oct. 21

### Tokushima Prefecture

Tokushima facility	Feb. 23 Aug. 13
--------------------	--------------------



Special Feature

External Situation

1

2

3

4

5

Internal Situation

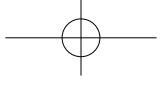
1

2

3

4

Special Feature  
at the End



# 1-2

## The mainstream group still believed in "absolute faith in Asahara"

1

2

3

4

5

1

2

3

4

### "Aleph" continued instruction to inculcate absolute faith in Asahara

"Aleph" continued to display Asahara's photographic portrait on the facility's altar as before, and continued instruction to inculcate absolute faith in Asahara by limiting the number of visitors to the facility and the time they could spend there as a measure to combat the new coronavirus infection, and by gathering lay members at facilities throughout Japan.

In particular, in the "intensive seminars" held three times a year (in January, May, and September) for lay members, although they decided not to hold them in the form of gathering participants from all over the country in a large-scale facility, they provided guidance by broadcasting videos of Asahara's remarks via the Internet to lay members' homes, and by having senior members praise Asahara, as well as

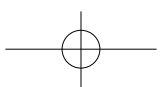
in the "birthday celebration" where they celebrated Asahara's birthday (in March) they likewise had the participants watch a video of Asahara, thereby giving thorough instructions to foster absolute faith in Asahara.

With regard to Asahara's second son, whom Asahara once nominated as his successor, as in the previous year, the senior members made statements calling for his return as the successor, instructed lay members to plead for the second son's return, and held a "birthday festival" (in March) to celebrate the second son's birthday, in an effort to create momentum for the second son's return to the group's activities, but there were no concrete moves that would lead to its realization.

### Even in the midst of the Corona disaster, recruitment activities were conducted nationwide

While "Aleph" was conducting systematic recruitment activities nationwide to attract new members during 2021, in light of the corona disaster, it shifted its emphasis from face-to-face recruitment methods such as calling out to people on the street to non-face-to-face recruitment methods using SNS and web conference systems. On the other hand, the recruitment method was the same as before, wherein by explaining the teachings preached by Asahara without specifying the name of the organization or Asahara's name to the solicitation targets, thereby reducing their resistance to the organization, deepening their personal relationships, and putting

them in a situation where it would be difficult for them to refuse and thus induce them to join. Meanwhile, in May, a live-in member was arrested on suspicion of violating the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions on charges that he had a contract made by pretending to give a yoga lecture, even though he was really soliciting for "Aleph," and another lay member was arrested on suspicion of fraud on charges that he rented a room in a condominium under the false pretense that it was for residential use, even though the purpose was actually to use it as a base for recruiting for "Aleph."



## The “group led by Yamada” was active upholding the "absolute faith in Asahara"

The “group led by Yamada,” which operated at a certain distance from “Aleph,” maintained activities upholding absolute faith in Asahara, like "Aleph," by posting photographic portrait of Asahara and

documents that demanded devotion to Asahara in its facilities, and by storing many teaching materials containing Asahara's statements.

1-3

### The Joyu group continued to “conceal Asahara,” but remained under Asahara's influence

In 2021, the Joyu group emphasized that it had casted aside Asahara, with Fumihiro Joyu criticizing Asahara through talk events, etc. by making negative comments about Asahara, such as, "Asahara believed in his psychic powers, but he also felt that there were various limits" (in August), and saying that "we are operating a group of a sort of Buddhist or psychological circle called 'Hikari-no-Wa' based on our reflections on our past beliefs or activities" (in April).

On the other hand, they continued to display a Buddhist painting and other images projecting Asahara in their facilities, and even in the midst of concerns about the spread of the new coronavirus infection, they held "Intensive Seminars" three times a year (in January, May, and August), during which

they performed yoga exercises that Asahara claimed were important, and they also preached as if they were defending the teachings Asahara had preached, such as Joyu saying, "The pure aspects of Buddhism are part of the teachings of Aum Shinrikyo" (in August). Furthermore, they repeatedly conducted "tour of sacred sites" to visit shrines and temples that the Joyu group had once positioned as "places associated with Asahara" and that seemed to have a close relationship with Asahara.

In light of these activities, it is recognized that the Joyu group is continuing its efforts to "conceal Asahara" by pretending that Asahara's influence has been eradicated, and that the fact that they are still under Asahara's influence has not changed.

Special Feature

External Situation

1

2

3

4

5

Internal Situation

1

2

3

4

Special Feature  
at the End