

## Statement

We are thankful to, and have great respect for, the pope, who took an interest in young refugee applicants living in Japan, including Turkish Kurds, and invited them to the Youth Gathering.

First, in regards to the detainee who starved to death at the Omura Immigration Services Center and in connection with the government's announcement that there "was no problem in handling the situation," Iso Kikuchi, bishop of the Archdiocese of Tokyo, made his view public, saying: "We lost this man because of the words, 'he died of his own accord,' and the fact that such thinking is rampant."

The Ministry of Justice rejects more than 99% of those seeking protection in Japan (and 100% of Turkish Kurds). Furthermore, they seek to bind, endlessly detain, and demand the return of detainees. Despite this, there are those who plot legal revisions causing forceful repatriation of those who continue to seek protection.

Through the actions pointed out by the pope, we have come to realize anew our conviction that the direction in which people are moving is different than that of the Ministry of Justice.

The detainee and repatriation technical committee members who are currently convening must seek an argument that does not make them ashamed of themselves, and understand that this is not a problem confined to one government ministry; it is a problem that holds life in the way, and a major problem for humanity that the world must take responsibility for.

Now that the distress of the refugees in Japan has become known, most of the people of the world are united in having high hopes.

Kurdish Refugee Attorney Group

Contact Information: Takeshi Ohashi Law Office

Phone: 03-5951-6440 Fax: 03-5951-6444

[to21709@swan.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:to21709@swan.ocn.ne.jp)