

## **The situation of child protection in Japan**

### **A. Current Status of Juvenile Victimization**

#### **(1) Penal Code Offenses Victimizing Juveniles**

In 2007, the police recognized 304,685 Penal Code offenses that victimized juveniles, a 1.4% decrease from the previous year. By category, felonious offenses stand at 1,345, an 8.0% and violent offenses at 15,775, a 6.0%, larceny offenses at 260,560, an 0.4% decrease respectively over the preceding year.

#### **(2) Offenses Harmful to Juvenile Welfare**

In 2007, a total of 7,375 juveniles were victimized in welfare offenses, an increase of 1.6% from the preceding year. Categorized by school and employment, high school students lead the list of victims, followed by junior high school students.

#### **(3) Child Prostitution and Child Pornography**

Child prostitution and child pornography are matters of international concern and are grave concerns in protection of children's rights and development of youth.

The Act on Punishing Acts Related to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and for Protecting Children was enacted in May of 1999 and became effective in November of that same year. The police are striving to effectively enforce this act.

In response to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child on the sale of Children, child prostitution and child pornography which Japan deposited the instrument of ratification in January 2005, the Act on Punishing Acts Related to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and for Protecting Children was revised in June 2004 and enforced in July of the same year.

This act made it punishment distributing of child pornography by an electromagnetic way and other acts in proportion to the outline of the above Protocol.

In 2007, the total number of persons arrested in violation of this act was 1,361 for 1,914 offenses. For child prostitution, 984 persons were arrested in 1,347 cases, including 596 persons (60.6%) in 679 cases (50.4%) involving the use of on-line dating services, 61 persons (6.2%) in 61 cases (4.5%) involving the use of telephone clubs. For child pornography, 377 were arrested in 567 cases, including 172 persons in 192 cases involving the use of the Internet.

In 2007, the number of victimized children under the age at 18 in child prostitution decreased 13.7% to 1,144 from the previous year. In 2007, the number of victimized children under the age at 18 in child pornography increased 8.7% to 275 from the previous year.

#### **(4) Child Abuse**

Child abuse such as violence to children by their parents is one of the biggest social

problems in recent years.

The number of abuse cases cleared by the police in 2007 reached 300 and the number of offenders was 323, a increase of 3(or 1.0%) and a decrease of 6(or 1.8%) over the preceding year respectively. The number of victimized children was 315(a decrease of 1, at 0.3% over the previous year). Out of these, 37 children were killed.

The police are making every effort to prevent and detect such kinds of cases through various police activities.

At the same time, when incident are recognized as crimes, the police immediately take appropriate actions against them and conduct counseling services for victimized children, as well as give advice and guidance to their parents in cooperation with the Child Counseling Center and other related authorities, with the Juvenile Support Centers as the central figure.

## **B. International Cooperation**

### **(Countermeasures against Sexual Exploitation of Child)**

G8 Justice and Interior Ministers approved in May 2007, "Reinforcing the Internet Fight Against Child Pornography" at their meeting in Munich. They approved in June 2008, "Concluding Declaration", including of the fight against sexual exploitation of children, at their meeting in Tokyo.

The NPA is promoting measures, including exchange of information with relevant countries through ICPO to detect a suspect in child pornography.

G8 Lyon - Rome Group had been studying the establishment of an international child sexual exploitation database, and, in September 2005, the establishment work of this database was taken to ICPO.

(These sentences are compiled from "Police of Japan")