

2. Fight against Organized Crimes

A. Organized Crime Groups (Boryokudan)

Membership including associate members of Boryokudan peaked in 1963, at approximately 184,100 persons. Since then, it was on a steady decline until 1987 when it once again started showing signs of growth. With the implementation of the Anti-Boryokudan Act in 1992, this growth trend halted and the number of Boryokudan members began to decline again. As of the end of 2019, Boryokudan membership stands at approximately 28,200.

(Note: Boryokudan is commonly referred to as "Yakuza" and is defined by the Anti-Boryokudan Act as "any organization likely to facilitate its members to collectively or habitually commit illegal acts of violence.")

Boryokudan undertake a variety of unjust or unlawful activities, such as using their organizational power to pursue economic benefits. Such behavior is based upon their principles which considerably deviate from the general rule of law. They also show their violent nature of adopting any means to achieve their goals. For example, there were cases in which Boryokudan members attacked business operators who would not accept their demands in retaliation or as warnings. Conflicts also broke out over the choices of their leaders' successors.

B. Comprehensive Measures against Boryokudan

To disrupt Boryokudan activities, the police are engaged in strict crackdowns on illegal activities and public campaigns to alienate Boryokudan from society.

In 2015, Boryokudan leaders who defected from the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi, Japan's largest Boryokudan, formed a new group: Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi. Since then, the two groups have been in a state of conflict. Furthermore, a subgroup of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi announced the formation of a new group named Ninkyo Dantai Yamaguchi-gumi in April 2017 (the present group name: Ninkyo Yamaguchi-gumi) and internal conflicts started within Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi. In September 2017, a person who was bodyguarding the Ninkyo Yamaguchi-gumi's leader was shot to death. Their conflicts have become serious and unpredictable.

The police continuously make efforts to weaken and annihilate Boryokudan through strict crackdowns on illegal activities, effective enforcement of the Anti-Boryokudan Act, and alienating Boryokudan from society.

(1) Strict Crackdowns on Illegal Activities

In 2019, the police arrested 14,281⁷ Boryokudan members in 26,761 cases.

Boryokudan activities are diversified and becoming more secretive. The police are putting further efforts in to gathering and analyzing intelligence regarding Boryokudans' fundraising activities, and intensifying crackdown efforts on Boryokudan activities.

(2) Effective Enforcement of the Anti-Boryokudan Act

Today, the Boryokudan resort not only to their traditional fundraising activities such as illegal sales of stimulant drugs, extortion and gambling, but also to violent interference in civil affairs. They use their organizational power to gain profits by intervening in legitimate private business transactions.

To combat these activities, the Anti-Boryokudan Act was enacted in May 1991 and enforced in March 1992. The Act has been revised several times to enhance its effectiveness.

⁷ This number includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention.

Any violent criminal groups whose actions fall within the prohibited conduct prescribed in the Anti-Boryokudan Act can be labeled as designated Boryokudan groups. Their members are then prohibited from conducting illegal activities specified by the Act.

As of the end of 2019, there were 24 designated Boryokudan groups. (See Table: Designated Boryokudan Groups)

Designated Boryokudan Groups

No.	Name of Boryokudan	Main Office	No. of Members (as of the end of 2019)
1	Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi	Hyogo	4,100
2	Inagawa-kai	Tokyo	2,100
3	Sumiyoshi-kai	Tokyo	2,800
4	Godaime Kudo-kai	Fukuoka	280
5	Gyokuryu-kai	Okinawa	300
6	Nanadaime Aizu Kotetsu-kai (Daihyosha Kim Gen)	Kyoto	30
7	Rokudaime Kyosei-kai	Hiroshima	130
8	Nanadaime Goda-ikka	Yamaguchi	60
9	Yondaime Kozakura-ikka	Kagoshima	60
10	Godaime Asano-gumi	Okayama	60
11	Dojin-kai	Fukuoka	450
12	Nidaime Shinwa-kai	Kagawa	40
13	Soai-kai	Chiba	140
14	Sandaime Kyodo-kai	Hiroshima	80
15	Taishu-kai	Fukuoka	90
16	Kyudaime Sakaume-gumi	Osaka	30
17	Kyokuto-kai	Tokyo	450
18	Nidaime Azuma-gumi	Osaka	110
19	Matsuba-kai	Tokyo	390
20	Yondaime Fukuhaku-kai	Fukuoka	100
21	Namikawa-kai	Fukuoka	200
22	Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi	Hyogo	1,500
23	Kizuna-kai	Hyogo	300
24	Kanto Sekine-gumi	Ibaraki	110

The Act prohibits members of designated Boryokudan groups from engaging in extortion or coercing juveniles into becoming their members etc. In 2019, 1,112 discontinuance orders and 32 recurrence prevention orders were issued. When a conflict breaks out between designated Boryokudan groups or within a designated Boryokudan group, or when members of designated Boryokudan groups attack civilians using weapons including firearms, restriction orders on the use of their offices and facilities can be issued.

In addition, the Act prohibits designated Boryokudan group members from rewarding other members in praise of violence in conflicts between designated Boryokudan groups, etc., and prevents them from disturbing citizens' exercise of rights for seeking compensation of damages resulting from Boryokudan group members' illegal acts. In 2019, 3 rewarding prohibition orders were issued. Members of designated Boryokudan groups who disobey these orders are subject to punishment under the Act. Five cases of disobedience were cleared in 2019.

(3) Elimination of Boryokudan from Society



The police have been promoting efforts by the community to eliminate Boryokudan. Specifically, in order to cut off Boryokudans' funding sources, the police, in coordination with the relevant agencies, are promoting Boryokudan elimination activities in wide-ranging industries such as moneylending businesses and construction businesses.

The police are also supporting removal campaigns of Boryokudan offices carried out by local residents, for example by closely cooperating with the competent Prefectural Centers for Removal of Boryokudan which are able to file lawsuits on behalf of local residents demanding removal of Boryokudan offices from the community. The police also provide support for people's actions to recover damages caused in relation to Boryokudans' crimes.

3. Firearms Control

A. Firearms-related Crime

(1) Number of Incidents

In 2019, there were 93 firearms-related crimes, a decrease of 10 cases from the previous year. Handguns were used in 15 murders and 18 robberies.

Firearms-related

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Incidents	110	112	104	83	93
Handgun-related incidents	58	71	60	43	55
Murder	5	13	9	3	15
Handgun-related incidents	5	12	9	3	10
Robbery	17	25	19	12	18
Handgun-related incidents	16	24	19	10	18
Others	88	74	76	68	60
Handgun-related incidents	37	35	32	30	27