
Violence Against Women

me to follow him so he could take my finger prints. While he did so, he whispered something, then held both of my hands as though he was hugging me from behind. I felt his penis harden, then he hugged me harder.

from the Japayuki-san Joho Center
Shuppan-Kyoku, 1985

There is more evidence of sexual harassment and rape by officials against foreign women detained in the Center of Immigration: "In 1982, a Columbian told me about a case of rape committed by an official of the detention center"; "Sometime in 1992, I heard a woman from Ecuador was raped in the detention center"; "A four- or five-year-old girl was harassed"; "My roommate was raped, and then she committed suicide." Such evidence, however, has not been proven at this point.

Support groups

Some lawyers, scholars, media practitioners and support groups have organized a coalition to investigate the immigration problem. The group conducted a closed-door investigation and found that the rights of detainees are violated at any time, from during arrest up to before repatriation. The evidence gathered by the group remains limited, however, because many of the victims have been deported to their countries immediately after their release and cannot appeal their cases.

The Association in Kotbuki for Solidarity with Foreign Migrant Workers, also known as Kalabaw-no-kai, gives assistance to migrants with problems of unpaid wages and illegal dismissal, and those related to intermarriages. It is also gathering evidence of human rights violations in immigration detention centers and seeks assistance from NGOs in other countries for this effort.

by Toru Takahashi, translated by Masumi Azu and Elson Boles
source: Solidarity with Foreign Workers

contact details:
Kalabaw-no-kai
3-11-2 Matsugage-cho Sanwa Bussan Bldg.
Room 701 Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi
Kanagawa, 231 Japan
Tel: (81-45) 662-5699; Fax: (81-45) 633-2262

Center for women in crisis in Pakistan

Rape, sexual assault and other crimes against women detained in police stations, torture cells and prisons are on the rise in Pakistan. Finding the need for a separate section to deal with the problems of women torture survivors and their families, the group Voice Against Torture established the ROSHNI-Centre for Women in Crisis.

ROSHNI's work includes identifying different crisis situations that women face and developing strategies for crisis intervention. The project extends social, psychological, clinical and legal support to women whose rights have been violated. It gives special attention to tortured, humiliated, cruelly punished, battered and sexually assaulted women. With the help of the health professionals from the Rehabilitation and Health Aid Centre for Torture Victims (RAHAT), ROSHNI is able to provide facilities for rehabilitation, psycho-social support and health aid to survivors of different forms of violence against women.

The group conducts psychotherapy, physiotherapy and other different stress-reduction techniques to help rehabilitate the victims. Counselors also tackle other issues related to women's mental and physical health including gender discrimination, child-parent relationships, marital harmony and family planning.

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