



## International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

NGO Report (CCPR136)

JAPAN

September 11.2022

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About NGO Human Rights Kanto (HRK)

HRK disseminates information in pursuit of correctness as a human being.

This time, HRK sue for the actual situation of human rights violations, such as "**Damage of the Child abduction**", "**Parent-Child Disconnection**", "**Parent-Child Separation**", "**Family Collapse**", "**Abuse of children**", "**Malicious operation of Family legislation**", and administration in Japan. And ask for justice improvement.

HRK is an NGO group that promptly amends the family law system in Japan, amends the civil law to "**Joint Custody**", "**Introduction of Friendly Parental rules**", and seeks fair and sound operation.

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## Introduction

On July 8, 2020, the European Union (EU) plenary session of the European Parliament will allow Japanese parents to unilaterally remove their children in Japan, such as when the marriage between a national of an EU member state and a Japanese person fails. A resolution requesting the Japanese government to promptly take measures to ban people from meeting with separated parties was adopted with 686 votes in favor, 1 against, and 8 abstentions.

Japan is a party to the “The Hague Convention” that regulates the treatment of children who have been taken away across national borders, but this does not apply to domestic removal.

The resolution emphasized "serious abuse of children," based on the fact that there were a considerable number of children being removed. We also urged the EU European Commission and member states to ask the Japanese side for improvement.

The actual situation of unlawful arrest by the police

On July 24, 2020, my wife took my child to my wife's parents' home without my husband's consent. Then the husband brought the child back from his wife's parents' home. However, police arrested a husband who was trying to bring him back, probably on the suspicion of predated minors. The wife said he consulted about her husband's violence (it is just a consultation, and it is unknown whether there was any violence), but for some reason police arrested the husband as "suspecting underage predation."

You should usually think that the wife who took away the child will be arrested for the current crime of "underage minors". If there is violence by the husband, the wife should "notify" the police, not "consult." Police should arrest a wife for looting minors, as the wife originally removed her child from her home. However, the reality of Japan is that the husband, who brought the child back, would be arrested for "suspecting the predation of minors." In Japan, the existence of actual DV, violence, and abuse is ignored, and it is decided that the one who unconditionally takes the child away and detains the child first is favorably judged and the other is treated disadvantageously. It is an arrest that only exists.

In Japan, where such reality exists, false DV and false abuse are easily rampant, and malicious and systematic “kidnapping of children” are frequently conducted for the purpose of misuse of the judicial and administrative systems. Has been criticized by foreign countries and continues.

Of course, the biggest victim in this case is the child. In this case, the children are awaiting severe abuse such as "brainwash abuse," "one-parent alienation," "parent-child separation," "family breakdown," and "loyalty conflict."

The new, invisible and dark “abuse” and “human rights abuses” that take place in such an economic powerhouse deprive the child's life from the inside. This new serious darkness issue

is a new human rights issue that should be corrected early. Because in Japan, where a husband tries to save a child from this terrible abuse, his rights and freedoms are trampled and everything is buried in the darkness.

The content of this accusation is the "new darkness problem" of Japan, a developed country that is trying to maintain a "single custody system" from the prewar system and an economic superpower of Japan.

## **1. Human rights issue of Child Abduction in Japan**

In the case of Japan, if one of the parents living together is abducted, the child will not be arrested, but if the other affected parent recovers the abducted child, he will be arrested and arrested as "Abduction."

The court has traditionally applied the "principle of continuity" effectively, and there is no problem if the abductee abducts the Child. However bringing the child back to his/her house by the separated parent is child abuse, detention of persons, minors. Has been determined to constitute a felony of kidnapping. This decision does not matter whether the person is married or not.

Therefore, in Japan, the abductor's civil liability (or the criminal liability of some countries) for the abduction of a child by a parent is not legally defined.

## **2. Human rights lawyer teaches "Child Abduction"**

On March 24, 2020, the following contents were reported by the Diet members at the Japanese Diet (Law Committee).

On May 15, 2018, it was reported that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan Bar Association held the "Custody of Children (Custody) and Hague Convention Seminar for International Marriage" in Paris and "instructed the abduction of actual children" in Paris. It was

The Hague Convention is officially called the "International Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction," and in order to solve the international childbirth abduction issue, the procedure of returning a child to the country of origin and visiting the parent and child It defines the realization of exchange. Japan joined in 2014.

At this seminar, Lawyer S gave a lecture on the Hague Convention to Japanese (mainly mothers) living in France.

Lawyer S is a person who is widely known as a "human rights lawyer."

Everything the human rights lawyer spoke in Paris was recorded by the participants. When listening to the recorded content, there is nothing to admonish, "In line with the purpose of the

Hague Convention, consider children first and discuss properly after divorce with the couple." It specifically taught how to violate a child's right to "how to take a child to Japan without applying the Hague Convention."

The following is a partial content.

"Everyone, I would like to know that if I go back to Japan, I wouldn't have to go back if I had to sue the Hague Convention (appeal against the shield). I'd like to talk a little from now on."

"I don't meet all the reasons for refusal to return anymore. None of them were good. Then, if I was brought to justice in Japan, it wouldn't be an absolute return. "It's a feature of the Japanese court and the Hague case in Japan that we do things that come back and do not come back no need to give up."

"A quick look at the text, it's important here, so let's look at it... There is Article 28. Article 28 is the reason for refusal to return. Write here. If there is something like that, you don't have to return your child."

"By looking at this article 28...", "By returning the child to the country of habitual residence, there is a serious risk of causing harm to the child's mind and body and putting the child in an intolerable situation." You're writing .....By looking at all this, there is no DV for the mother, though... "Violence that causes the opponent to cause psychological trauma to the child when the opponent and the child enter the country of habitual residence. "Afraid of receiving such things" is written.

The other party is my mother. About you the other party. It is a partner to the Hague Convention. I would rather take him home. If the opponent and the child return to France in the future, one of the judgment factors is whether or not the husband's petitioner may be subject to violence affecting the child. Is written."

In the Article 45 Hague Convention, there are only about two reasons for refusal to return children. Obviously, refusal to return is not the main focus of the treaty. It is only allowed in exceptional circumstances. It's natural because it's a treaty to prevent the abduction of children.

Nevertheless, Lawyer S explained for 30 minutes endlessly what to do in order to receive the provisions that would be allowed only in that extremely exceptional case. It is a big problem to have done the "Guided the abduction of children".

The Hague Convention is a treaty that puts the interests of children first. However, the fact that lawyers misuse the system in this way has become commonplace in Japan.

This easily violates the human rights and rights of the child.

It is a blasphemy of the Hague Convention.

### **3. One-sided false DV, fine Japan**

If the wife kidnaps the child and sues the child for DV, she goes to court and the court finds her husband has DV and allows the child to be taken. This is the operation of a Japanese court.

If a Japanese parent who kidnapped a child from abroad and returned to Japan claimed that he/she received DV, and made a petition for refusal to return under Article 28, a Japanese court would refuse to return it based on this DV standard in Japan. You can decide whether to come or go.

Moreover, it is clear from Article 28 that there is a "fear" of violence. The word "fear" is a terrifying word that can be expanded and interpreted indefinitely. And it is the Japanese judges who judge the "fear".

In other words, if you enter the grounds of a Japanese court even one step, international rules such as the Hague Convention will not be applied at all. Based on the usual "dumb tricks" that human rights lawyers do, if a parent is kidnapped and they are returned to Japan with evidence of the DV they have made, a Japanese judge will refuse to return them.

At the seminar, Lawyer S explained to the Japanese in France as follows in order to receive the application of Article 28.

"It's also important to come back with proper (DV) evidence. For example, go to a hospital in France to get a proper medical certificate, or if you are in a shelter, give a certificate to the shelter. , Or if you go to the police, write down a record of the history you consulted with the police, etc... It is necessary to bring such evidence properly back home."

No matter how much a Japanese judge is, it is difficult to be DV certified even if there is no evidence. In particular, the case of the Hague Convention is also seen by the international community. Therefore, it would be helpful if you could get "like" evidence.

The three pieces of "evidence" presented by Lawyer S are the three-point set that human rights lawyers use to guide the fabrication of DV in Japan.

Medical certificates for hospitals can be issued immediately by asking for a disease name such as "stress enteritis". The fact that he "was" in the DV shelter is also evidence in Japanese courts. The fact that you "consulted" with the police or the Women's Counseling Center can also be used as evidence. If you use these three points, you can easily forge the proof of DV, even if you have no DV at all, and the Japanese court will confirm the fact of DV.

In other words, what Lawyer S wants to say is that if you kidnap a child in Japan according to your own guidance, you will be able to find out the fact that even if a false DV is used, it is a "domestic implementation law" that put DV into the reason for refusing to return the child. It means that it is not necessary to return the child by using the operation of the "Japanese court".

In 2011, a Japanese abduction by a Japanese child was reported on US ABC broadcast. Among them, a Japanese wife kidnapped a child, and after returning to Japan, an email was sent to her American husband. The email proudly says, "Now it's time to start this game in Japanese rules."

This was an exchange before Japan joined the Hague Convention, but the situation remains almost the same today.

In other words, even though Japan has entered into the Hague Convention, it is possible to kidnap a real child under the "Japanese rules" as before joining the Hague Convention. As lawyer S says, this is "the characteristics of the Japanese court, The Hague case in Japan".

And, as I wrote in the email above, this is a "game" for the real child abductor and the human rights lawyers who support it.

And the kids are the ones who are the most wrinkled to enjoy the game.

#### **4. Single-parent separation syndrome (PAS)**

Single parental separation syndrome (abbreviation: PAS) is a term proposed by Richard A. Gardner in the early 1980s. Parents who care for their children due to divorce or separation of their parents (custodial parent). However, by blowing negative images such as slander, slander, and bad language on the other parent (non-custodial parent), the mind control and brainwashing are performed to pull the child away from the other parent, and as a result, there is a valid reason. It refers to the situation in which one parent cannot be seen without a question. Sometimes it is translated as "brainwash abuse." Also, if the parent who took the child has a new companionship, the child will be referred to as the "dad or mother" to try to erase the existence of the real father and mother from the child's memory. Is also said to hit this.

- Children raised by one parent are prone to mental problems

Children raised by a single parent are prone to problems such as poor academic performance, sleep disorders, depressive symptoms, suicide attempts, illegal activities, disturbed ethics, and drug addiction. Heatherington, a professor at the University of Virginia, researched the effects of divorce on children, saying, "Children raised by one parent alone will double their mental trouble (not mentioned here but in remarried families. It has been pointed out that similar problems are likely to occur).

- Disadvantages for child development and development

Professor Michael Lamb of the University of Cambridge said, "In order to prevent the separation of one parent and the child from penalizing the child, the time spent with one parent is more than 30-35% of the child's time, even if the time is allocated well. Is necessary."

- Cannot play the role of father

The father's role and the mother's role have some parts in common, but some parts are different. Fathers prepare their children to teach about a society in which they can grow and be welcomed. The father encourages the child's independence. Also, teach children about discipline, rules, labor, responsibilities, cooperation, competition, etc. Raising children solely by the mother, especially in the education of boys, does not provide sufficient training and preparation on these points, making them unskilled adults.

## **5. The actual situation of "Visitation" between separated parents and children.**

It has been said that the family quotes that have been submitted by the family court for Visitation are 2 hours once a month in Tokyo and 1 hour once a month in Aichi prefecture (Nagoya city).

It can be said that this reality represents the harmful effects of the current parent-child relationship in Japan. Naturally, there are many parents who are parents and children but cannot meet at all because they have been unilaterally refused to meet.

If you make up a false DV or abuse of a lie, if you visit the child, you will find out that it was all a lie, and it will be a great trouble both as a family court and in documents and procedures. Needless to say. In these circumstances, malicious abuse of DV protection support systems and court systems are often overlooked. It is also a major reason why cohabitants strongly refuse to meet and meet.

A parent who lives apart from a child due to divorce or separation can contact the parent who is living with the child, even though the agreement has been reached for mediation of "Visitation" to ask the family court to meet with the child. According to a survey conducted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, more than 40% of cases did not occur.

Although it was pointed out that it would not be easy to meet after the agreement, it was confirmed for the first time in this survey.

on the other hand,

In a research study conducted by the Family Affairs Information Center on a total of 197 cases of 101 cases of parents who experienced divorce and 96 cases of children who experienced divorce of parents, 31 out of 41 children (75%) who had the Visitation However, he seems to have accepted the visit exchange positively.

In consideration, many children want to meet and interact with non-custodial parents, it is meaningful to increase the sense of security by feeling the love and presence of non-custodial parents, and children who have never met. It is said that some of the children say that some children express their feelings toward their non-custodial parents.



**Request for “Visitation” between parents and children separated  
by two courts rejected Tokyo High Court**

On August 13, 2020, 14 men and women accused the state of damages because they had suffered mental distress due to undeveloped system that requires "Visitation" to meet children separated by divorce etc. In an appeals court decision, the Tokyo High Court upheld the first instance Tokyo district court ruling that rejected the claim, and rejected the plaintiff's appeal.

The Civil Code stipulates that parents should discuss and decide on an exchange when they divorce. The plaintiffs argued that it was indispensable that the parents who lived with their children would not be penalized if they broke their promises.

The November 1st trial decision pointed out that the method of conducting face-to-face exchanges differs depending on the family situation, and the interests and welfare of the child should be considered first. He rejected the claim as saying, "The right to visit and interact is not guaranteed in the constitution, and the provisions of the existing law do not violate the constitution."

**By "new coronavirus" infectious disease measures,  
Actual situation of visit exchange**

Since April 2020, there have been many cases in which visit exchanges are canceled or refused due to the "new coronavirus". The cousin's argument is that there are quite a few cases of rights infringement and humanitarian issues due to unilateral assertion that there is a risk of infection with the new coronavirus and it is not possible to visit and interact because of concern.

**6. Call for an animal experiment called a "trial visit" to abolish human  
rights violations that apply to human parents**

Before the court decides to "visit an exchange" with the child, the animal experiment "observing human parents and children using the facilities of the family court on a trial basis" is an animal experiment from other countries, The human rights infringement system that the permission for the visit exchange is finally granted only in the case where it is determined that the contact between the parent and the child is safe as a result of the experiment in the Japanese court. Exists. Depending on the court, there is a camera such as a surveillance camera, and the behavior of the visit exchange is observed and recorded one by one by the cohabiting parents, court investigators, lawyers, etc. in separate rooms. In a vicious survey, parents and children who feel resistance to animal experimentation and unfamiliar parents and children are negatively caught in the face-to-face exchange, such as "the child is scared of the separated parent and scared" The stories recorded are not uncommon.

## **7. Harmfulness of the single custody system after divorce**

Japanese civil law provides for "single custody." Japanese civil law stipulates clearly in the case of divorce of parents, by agreement or court order, after divorce only one parent may be granted custody with the power to eliminate the other parent entirely. (Article 819 of the Civil Code)

Custody includes legal and physical custody. In Japan, there is no "joint custody" system after divorce.

Therefore, in Japan, under this "single custody" system, a single parent who has been deprived of custody after divorce is also treated as a stranger by his/her child.

New DVs and abuses caused by the family members who have been taken away have become social problems.

And it has developed into a big human rights issue. Abuse of such a system is frequently carried out every year, and severe child abuse such as "single parental alienation" is left undisclosed and concealed, resulting in a serious human rights violation.

Even the administrative bodies and the judicial system have already been exploited, and they are in a serious situation that can no longer be solved domestically.

The shared sharing of parental responsibility by children's parents during divorce is unrelated to Japanese tradition and Japanese law. When parents divorce in Japan, one parent will always bring their children and the other will be completely separated from the child's life. The system in which a child belongs to one family and is registered in the family register is an extension of Japan's prewar traditional practice.

Thus, the "single custody" system is not only a law enforced by separated parents, but also a dictatorship of the rights of children. In fact, it is considered entirely inappropriate in Japan for parents who do not have custody of their children to exercise the well-being of the family (parent-child exchange such as visits and letters without the permission of the custodial parent). Be sure to strictly adhere to the strict rules created in a slavery relationship so as not to offend the mood and feelings of the custodial parents, and obtain the permission of the custody parents, nothing can be admitted in Japan. It is a "single custody" system.

And it is operated by stipulating that it is in the best interests of a child to only request a very limited "interview interaction" with the child (often once a month for about 1-2 hours). It has been.

The "single custody" system significantly limits the freedom of children to visit and interact, and bears a life subject to the will of the custodial parent. Non-custod parents and children are confronted with a human rights issue that forces criminal and dominant relationships.

Japan's "single custody" system violates the basic human rights for parents and children to pursue happiness because their children are loved and raised by their parents. Also, the basic right to raise a child as a parent is forcibly deprived. Japan's "single custody" system, which forcibly deprives parents and children of their happiness, is clearly against the best interests of the child.

The largest element of serious "human rights violations" for these families, parents and children is the "single custody" system.

### **8. Family law should be urgently revised to introduce "joint custody" in which parents are involved with children even after divorce**

In Japan, only one of the parents can have custody after divorce, and the custodial parent often takes care of the child (coincidence of custody and custody), so only one parent can visit. I cannot access my child.

The "face-to-face interaction" of meeting the child is institutionally inadequate and cannot be forced.

One parent who really loves his child cannot see the child after the divorce even after arranging the visit, or want to see the child, but one parent firmly refused this for some reason and the mediation of the visit. It is a painful case where the conflict is extremely long and deepens. As a divorce lawyer, I often deal with these cases.

Perhaps it is a consequence of the fact that custody after divorce is given to one parent, and in Japan today, it is not illegal for a couple to leave a house with a child under joint custody or joint custody. This is the "take away" problem.

On the other hand, once one of the parents begins to take care of the child alone, even if the child is divorced and has joint custody, the return of the child from there will be "kidnapping" (separate house). Supreme Court sentenced on December 6, 2005 that one parent was found to be guilty of abduction of minors when he took a child from the other parent by force. It seems that the nature of was rather malicious, and not all cases are "kidnappings").

A child can feel stable and affection by touching both parents even after divorce, and the parent who is the main caregiver can reduce the burden by keeping the other parent involved. In that case, I think it is natural that a system of "joint custody" and "joint custody" that allows both parents to be involved in their children even after divorce is good.

## **9. Introducing "Principle of Tolerance for Visitation" (Friendly Parent Rule)**

The friendly parental rule is that the parent who is able to establish a friendly relationship with the other parent is the parental authority of the child. Also known as the principle of forgiveness, it is a standard adopted in California, USA.

### **The Chiba Family Court Matsudo Branch adopted the "Friendly Parent Rule," but was defeated by the Tokyo High Court.**

The decision of the Chiba Family Court Matsudo Branch on March 29, 2016 was that the wife took out the eldest daughter (2 years and 4 months old at that time) and took care of it for 5 years and 10 months, during which the husband and eldest daughter had only a total of 6 visit exchanges. In spite of not responding, the husband designated her husband as the custody of the eldest daughter in the case of planning a 100-day visit exchange between his wife and eldest daughter.

This was a pretty groundbreaking decision.

However, the Chiba court ruling was changed by the high court, and the eldest daughter's custody was designated as his wife.

The high court ruling states, "The sound growth of a child and the interests of the child cannot be ensured only by the face-to-face exchange with the parent's divorced non-custodial parent. This is not the case, and it cannot be said that the intention of the parents to meet and interact with the parents is more important than other circumstances." At this time, in the high court, on the wife's side, a large defense team was formed, revealing the existence of great judicial pressure. (Tokyo High Court decision on January 26, 2017).

Since the appeal of this high court decision was rejected (Supreme Court decision on July 12, 2017), the high court decision has been finalized.

### **A class action lawsuit seeking an "Visiting" between parents and children who do not have custody after divorce. It was rejected again by the High Court.**

**(Tokyo High Court, Aug.2020)**

The Tokyo High Court said in an appeal ruling that 14 men and women sought damages from the country, saying that they had suffered mental distress due to the lack of a system to require "Visitation" to regularly meet children separated by divorce etc. On August 13, in favor of the Tokyo District Court's ruling that rejected the claim, the plaintiff's appeal was dismissed.

According to the Civil Code, when a divorce is made, parents discuss and decide on Visitation. The plaintiffs argued that it was essential for the parents who lived with the child to break the promise without penalty, and that legislation for Visitation was essential.

In November 2019, the first-instance judgment stated that "the right to visit cannot be said to be guaranteed in the constitution, and the provisions of the existing law do not violate the constitution."

## **10. Essential problem of "Child Guidance Center"(CGC)**

At the temporary shelter, the role of "improving the life of the child" after being protected for reasons such as abuse and the role of "observing the state of the child" to decide whether to return to the parent or leave it at a child care facility Has a role to play.

In 2019, a third-party committee in Tokyo surveyed seven temporary shelters in Tokyo. Then, many facilities had irrational rules and rules, such as "meal toward the wall" and "limit the number of shampoos".

On the other hand, the children of the temporary shelter are saying this.

"My house should have come tight, but it's too tight here."

"Like a prison."

"I'm afraid the punishment of being alone"

Temporary shelters do not even expose their addresses to most abusive parents and are strictly protected from the outside to prevent abusive parents from returning.

Private language is strictly prohibited. Mobile phones, clothes, and underwear are confiscated.

Conversation is prohibited even at meals. They are constantly monitored by the staff, and they are not allowed to make eye contact with others.

### **Human rights issue of "temporary protection" by the "Child Guidance Center" (CGC)**

The original purpose is to protect children from abused families and to protect their lives. However, strange facts and cases have been reported in recent years in the "temporary protection" actually performed.

Temporary protection often exceeds two months, and there are many parents and children who cannot even meet at all.

There are various causes, but it is said that a noticeable method has been reported to CGC in recent years. This is an increase in reports of abuse due to falsehood and harassment. In recent years, this has been affected by the enhancement of administrative services and subsidy

systems for childcare, or the expansion of interests related to the protection of these children. It is an evil and destructive behavior that is derived from emotional conflicts, jealousy and conspicuousness caused by jealousy and intolerance to such changes in society and values regarding childcare, and it is an aggressive and destructive behavior, and for children, It becomes a tragedy that cannot be compensated.

When such a person who is controlled by such a bad feeling is in a person who is close to a child or a child-rearing family, it can be said that the child protection system has been abused to the contrary. It becomes a big problem. The most victims are children, many of whom lead to irreparable "parent-child separation" and "family breakdown".

And for some reason, the Child Guidance Center rarely actively intervenes in families that seek help due to serious abuse. On the other hand, among victims who have had family intervention, there are many cases in which they cannot even meet afterwards, their parents and children are separated, and they are separated from their families, and then they have desperate emotions and get mentally ill.

## **11. Institutional defects and problems of Child Guidance Center (CGC)**

Such outright human rights violations are commonplace every day, and the number of malicious cases is increasing in recent years.

Normally, these cases must be scrutinized to determine whether they are abuse cases. However, there are many cases in which proper judgment cannot be made in the actual practice.

What the hell is that?

The reason for CGC's announcement is that "child abuse has been increasing year by year, work has become too busy, and there is a catastrophe that cannot be dealt with very much." There is a conspicuous tone in the media reports that "there is a shortage of CGC staff. The budget is not enough. The big increase is required."

But is this true?

In the actual report, "four CGC staff participated in the hearing of the trial in less than 10 minutes. In addition, due to measures against the new coronavirus infection, the listening seats were about 30% less than usual. However, there are only about 15 seats, but the CGC staff have been waiting for a chat with four people more than an hour before the trial was opened, and at the same time the CGC staff monopolized the listening seat at a glance. It was said that he did."

In this situation, CGC's explanation is that there is a shortage of CGC staff, it is not possible to deal with child abuse due to busy work, etc. Is.

What do you mean by the report that child abuse has so rapidly increased in the Japanese society where the birthrate is declining and the population is aging rapidly?

If you look closely at the report, the number of cases of abuse damage judgment is not increasing.

It became clear that it was reported simply by catching the fact that abuse reports were increasing.

It is unavoidable to think of this as a report aimed at increasing the budget for child abuse.

It can be pointed out that the number of reports of abuse has increased, and it can be pointed out that the number of reports intended to abuse the system mentioned above has increased considerably.

Furthermore, the problem is that the CGC is not scrutinized for the presence of abuse, it is a formal response, that is, the CGC surpasses "temporary protection" and "institutional entry" with custody only by "suspecting abuse". It is a system that can be exercised.

Here, I can point out the big problem of CGC. In other words, regardless of the fact, you can easily exercise parental separation from your family and separation from your family with doubts. Furthermore, it is pointed out that there is a system deficiency that can perform de facto dictatorship work, such as the fact that there is no external organization that investigates and corrects this reality and mistakes.

Due to this institutional defect, even if the rights and existence of children are abused, they will be concealed without being pointed out and blamed by outsiders, and serious violations of human rights, such as the child's life and family being taken away in an instant, will be left. However, it is reported that there are many cases in which the CGC represses parental and human rights.

## **12. “Children's mental well-being” Japan ranks 37th among 38 countries including developed countries. UNICEF survey.**

According to a UNICEF-United Nations Children's Fund survey of children's well-being, Japan was ranked 20th out of 38 countries including developed and emerging countries (6th in the previous survey 7 years ago). It ranks first in the field of physical health, while spiritual well-being ranks 37th.

UNICEF conducted a survey for the well-being of children in 38 countries including developed countries and emerging countries including Japan based on various data of each country for the first time in 7 years, and announced the results in September 2020. Did.

According to it, the Netherlands is the first place, Denmark is the second place, Norway is the third place, and Switzerland and Finland are the top European countries, and Japan is the 20th place.

The survey ranked each in three areas of physical health, mental well-being, academic ability, etc. in Japan, in the field of "physical health" calculated from the obesity rate and mortality rate of children, 1 It was rank.

On the other hand, in terms of "skills" that measure academic ability, although they have a high level of academic proficiency, they ranked 27th in the top countries due to their social adaptability.

As for "mental well-being", we ranked 37th (2nd worst) as a result of the survey results on the satisfaction of life at the age of 15 and the suicide rate of young people.

The UNICEF Institute for Innocenti, who wrote the report, pointed out that further measures are required, saying "Mental health of children should be proactively addressed as a part of health problems".

"In times of crisis and calm, families need a family-friendly government and workplace in order to grow a happy and healthy next generation," said the UNICEF Secretariat.  
"Investing in children is a direct investment in our future."

### **13. Recommendations to the Japanese Government from the United Nations. 【CCPR Article No.】**

- 1) Immediate abolition of "single custody" and early revision of the family law to "joint custody". 【CCPR Article 23-4、 26】
- 2) Amendment of the law to introduce the "Friendly Parent Rule" 【23-1】
- 3) Strict punishment of "child removal case" and early operation 【8-2】



- 4) Creation and operation of a prompt and effective relief system for "child abduction victims" **【17-2】**
- 5) Early compliance and awareness of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in courts and administration **【5-2】**
- 6) Immediate abolition of the Child Guidance Center (CGC) "temporary protection" system **【17-1】**
- 7) Establishment of an external auditing organization that can administer, supervise, discipline, suspend business, etc. of the Child Guidance Center (CGC) and conduct neutral and independent sound operations. **【2-3(b)】**
- 8) Establishment of a legal system to promote, strengthen, and monitor the work support acceptance system with local communities and civic groups for the work of the Child Guidance Center (CGC). **【14-3(g)】**
- 9) Immediate abolition of hostage justice **【23-1】**
- 10) Creation of a support system for local groups and local activities that support the upbringing of children **【2-3(c)】**
- 11) Immediate abolition of the "trial visitation" (experimental observation of parent-child reunion) system conducted in the court. **【7】**
- 12) Strict punishment for abuse of systems related to children and family support projects **【2-3(b)】**
- 13) Rehabilitation of abusive parents (including abductors and perpetrators), CGC staff, adoptive parents, faculty and staff to adults, creation of an independence support system,

humanitarian and advanced rehabilitation operation, and expansion of post-correspondence measures. **【2-3(a)】**