



September 2016

Take action for Matsumoto Kenji

Japan

Population: 127 million

Capital: Tokyo

Language: Japanese is spoken most widely spoken language.

Question:

Is Japan to the North, East, South or West of China?



Map data ©2016 Google

KENJI'S STORY

Kenji was sentenced to death in September 1993 for two separate robberies and murders.

Kenji has an intellectual disability. Intellectual disability affects a person's ability to learn, communicate and look after themselves.

During Kenji's sentencing the court recognised that Kenji was dependent on his brother and that he could not stand up to him. His brother was also suspected of being involved in the crimes, however he died before he could be sentenced.



©Private

Kenji has been on death row for 23 years.

Death row is a prison for people who have been sentenced to death by execution.

In Japan, people on death row are kept in a cell by themselves. This is called solitary confinement. They are not allowed to speak to other inmates and only have occasional visits from family or lawyers. When they are in their cell they are forbidden from moving and must remain seated.

Over the years Kenji's mental health has become very bad. He is confused and is not able to communicate. Last year he stopped drawing. He is still being held in solitary confinement.



Right in the Spotlight

ARTICLE 3

“We all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Simplified Version

TALKING POINTS

What does a ‘right to life’ mean?

Do you think Kenji’s safety is being protected on death row?

What do you think should have happened to Kenji following his trial?

Take Action!



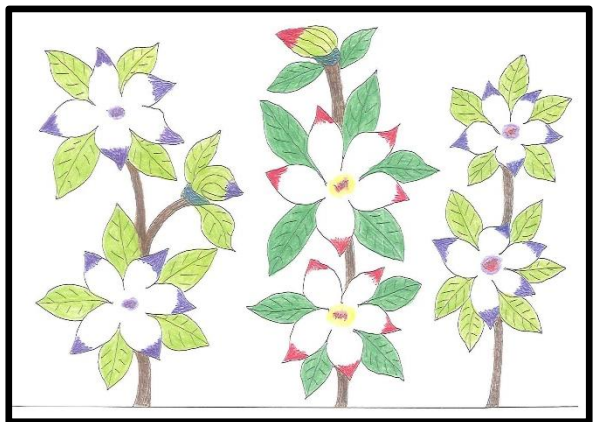
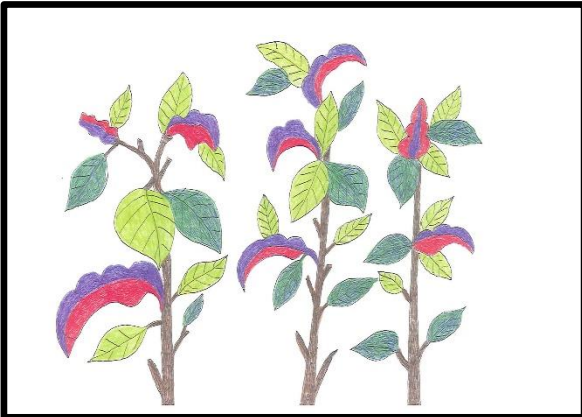
We take action for people all over the world, like Kenji, who have had their rights taken away from them. We do this through solidarity actions and appeal actions.

What does solidarity action mean? Solidarity actions are sent to the people who have had their human rights taken away, and to their family and friends, to let them know that people are supporting them in their struggle for justice.

What does appeal action mean? Appeal actions are to make people in power sit up and take notice of a cause that you care about. Amnesty is made up of ordinary people across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Your voice helps to ensure that when we speak, governments listen.

Drawings by Kenji

Kenji used to like drawing. On this page and the next page, you can see some of Kenji's drawings.



Take solidarity action

We are sending cards to the prison where Kenji is being held. We do not know if he will be given the cards we send him, but we hope that by showing the prison guards that we care about him it will make them treat Kenji better.

LET'S GET CREATIVE

Kenji used to like drawing pictures of animals and plants.

Draw a picture of your favourite animal on the front of a card for Kenji.

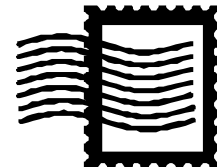
Inside your card write a message to let Kenji know you care about him and to tell him that you hope he gets treated better and is able to start drawing again.



Take appeal action

We are writing appeal letters to Mitsuhide Iwaki, the Minister of Justice in Japan. We want him to recognise that Matsumoto Kenji should not be executed, especially as he has an intellectual disability, as well as ensure he is treated well in prison and that he has access to healthcare.

Dear Minister



Tell the minister what you have learnt about Matsumoto Kenji's case.

Urge him to not execute Matsumoto Kenji or anyone else on death row in Japan.

Ask him to improve the treatment of Matsumoto Kenji and of other prisoners in Japan.



CAN I



Send a religious card or message



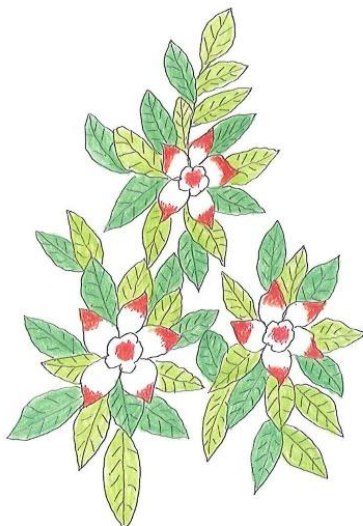
Mention Amnesty International



Include my full name and address. (You can add your first name if you wish.)

Send your letters and cards to us and we will forward them on:

Alice Sims
Human Rights Education Unit
Freepost RL00-XXEY-CTEE
Amnesty International
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA



Don't forget to include your name and the name of your school with your cards and letters (but not on the cards themselves).

Junior Urgent Action Cover Letter

Please include this with any items you submit

Name of teacher/guardian submitting these items:

Are you a: ☐ Teacher
☐ Parent

Email:

School name:

School address:

Home address:

Number of items included in this envelope:

Please can you tell us the following?

How many young people did you use these resources with?

If a teacher, which year groups did you use these resources with?

How would you rate the quality of these resources? (Tick one box)

☐ 5 excellent ☐ 4 ☐ 3 ☐ 2 ☐ 1 poor

Any other comments?

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☐ Tick if you would like to join our Teachrights e-newsletter which is a great way to receive info on future educational packs.

☐ I would like to receive email updates about the full range of Amnesty's work and other ways to support them.

If at any time you prefer not to receive updates from Amnesty, please email sct@amnesty.org.uk specifying which updates you do not wish to receive. We care about your details and we will never share your phone number or email address. For more information about how Amnesty processes personal data, see our privacy policy at www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy

Please post to:

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