

## JAPAN

### Matsumoto Kenji

#### FACING DEATH PENALTY DESPITE MENTAL DISABILITY

Matsumoto Kenji was sentenced to death in 1993 for two robberies and murders he has had a severe intellectual disability since birth. According to his lawyer, he was coerced into confessing by police who pressured him to 'be a man'. Kenji had been charged with his brother, Matsumoto Hiroshi, on whom he depended – but Hiroshi took his own life in detention. After 21 years in harsh detention conditions, including solitary confinement and limited exercise, Kenji now uses a wheelchair and suffers from a delusional disorder. His request for a retrial has been submitted to the High Court in Osaka. It is not known how long it will take them to reach a decision.

+ [www.amnesty.org.uk/kenji](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/kenji)



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#### CAN I SEND A SOLIDARITY LETTER?

Because of Matsumoto Kenji's disability his case is not considered suitable for letters and cards to be sent.

#### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Write to:** Mitsuhide Iwaki  
Minister of Justice  
1-1-1 Kasumigaseki  
Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 100-8977  
Japan



**Tel:** 00 81-3-3580-4111  
**Twitter:** @MOJ\_HOUMU

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

**In your letter:** Call on the authorities not to execute Matsumoto Kenji and to introduce a moratorium on executions in Japan. Urge the minister to improve the treatment of death row inmates, including an end to solitary confinement and to promote a debate on the abolition of the death penalty in Japan.

