

Japan has accepted Ukrainians, but not other refugees

1 June 20th is World Refugee Day, an international day designated by the United Nations. According to the UNHCR, ①refugees are “people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.”

2 At least 89.3 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes, and 41% of them are under the age of 18. 52% are from the three countries: Syria(6.8 million), Ukraine(5.7 million), and Afghanistan(5.7 million).

3 ②Japan's acceptance rate for refugees has been extraordinarily low compared to other advanced countries. In 2022, 3,772 applied for refugee status, but only 202 were accepted.

4 Despite its strict refugee policies and ethnic ③homogeneity, in 2022, Japan took in 2,302 Ukrainians, much more than a few refugees it typically accepts each year. Ukrainians have entered Japan under a framework set up specifically for them. Technically, Ukrainians aren't categorized as “refugees,” but called “evacuees.” It doesn't mean Japan has changed its overall refugee policy.

5 “Japan should accept more displaced people,” the head of the UN refugee agency told Nikkei in an interview on June 15th.

refugee 難民 designate 指定する flee-fled-fled～:～から逃げる conflict 紛争 persecution 迫害
be forced to～:～することを余儀なくされる acceptance 受け入れ・容認 rate 割合・率 extraordinarily 非常に
compared to～:～に比較して advanced country 先進国 apply for～:～に申し込む・志願する policy 方針
ethnic 民族的な homogeneity 同質性 take in～:～を受け入れる specifically 特に technically 厳密には
evacuee 避難者 overall 全般的な displaced people 避難民 ★()

★the UNHCR=the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 国連難民高等弁務官事務所

Q1 下線①の定義を説明しましょう。

Q2 下線①について：

- (1) How many refugees are there in the world?
- (2) What percentage of them are children?
- (3) Where are many of them from?

Q3 下線②について：日本の今年の難民受入れの割合を計算しましょう。

Q4 下線③の意味を選びましょう。

- a) the quality of being all the same or the similar kind
- b) the quality of including people from different backgrounds

Q5 難民受入れに積極的ではない日本が、多くのウクライナ難民を受入れた背景に、どのような事情がありますか。

Q6 下のグラフを見て、気づいたことを発表しましょう。



[グラフ資料] 難民認定数の各国比較 (2022年)

★難民支援協会 HP

Why did Wishma Sandamali die in Japan?

1 On March 6th, 2021, Wishma Sandamali, a 33-year-old woman from Sri Lanka, died at an immigration facility in Nagoya. She had been detained there since August 2020 for overstaying her visa. Support groups and doctors say she died from starvation. Her death has sparked a debate on the treatment of 1,500 asylum seekers currently in detention in Japan, a country which does not have enough political will to protect refugees proactively.


2 Wishma came to Japan on a student visa in 2017. She was studying Japanese and her dream was to become an English teacher in Japan. At that time, she was suffering from violence from her Sri Lankan boyfriend she lived with. After the boyfriend stole Wishma’s money and smartphone, she couldn’t continue to study in Japan. She stopped attending classes in May 2018, and the school expelled her.

3 As her student visa was revoked, she applied for refugee status to extend her stay in Japan, but it was rejected by the immigration authorities in January 2019. Her stay in Japan became illegal.

4 One day, Wishma could no longer bear the violence of her boyfriend, so she asked for help at a police station in Shizuoka. She was not protected, but was arrested because she had no visa. She was immediately detained at the Nagoya detention center.

immigration facility 入管(入国管理)施設 detain 勾留する overstay a visa ビザが切れて不法滞在している
 starvation 飢餓 spark a debate 議論を巻き起こす treatment 扱い・待遇 asylum seeker 亡命希望者
 (asylum 保護施設/seeker 探求者) currently 現在 in detention 勾留中の political 政治的な will 意志
 proactively 積極的に expel 退学させる revoke 無効にする extend 延長する reject 拒否する
 immigration authorities 出入国管理局 illegal 違法の bear 耐える ★()

- Q1 Where is Wishma Sandamali from?
- Q2 How long has she been detained in an immigration facility in Nagoya?
- Q3 ウィシュマさんの死亡事件が、国内外で大きな議論となっているのは、なぜですか。(1)ウィシュマさんが亡くなった時の状況と、(2)これまで日本にやって来た亡命希望者に対する日本の待遇の2点を踏まえて、説明しましょう。
- Q4 In May 2018, why was Wishma expelled from her school?
- Q5 ウィシュマさんは、どのような経緯で「不法滞在者」(illegal alien)になりましたか。
- Q6 One day, why did she ask for help at a police station in Shizuoka?
- Q7 When she asked for help at a police station, what happened to her?

	<p>Death of Sri Lankan woman sparks debate over Japan's asylum policy 【FRANCE 24 English】</p>
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Wishma's family sue Japanese government

5 In January 2021, she became ill. She requested medical care, but did not receive treatments. She wrote letters to ④START, a support group for foreign detainees in Nagoya. "These people don't take me to the hospital because I am in custody of them. I need to recover but I don't know how to do it. Please help me to recover," she wrote in a letter. On February 16th, ⑦immigration officials denied Wishma's request for provisional release to receive medical treatment.

6 Wishma died on March 6th 2021 at an immigration facility in Nagoya. The family's legal team has demanded the government to release all the security camera footage of the facility as evidence. They say, "The bereaved family has the right to know the truth, and the judges have the duty to know."

7 On March 4th, 2022, a year after her death, Wishma's bereaved family sued the Japanese government, demanding ¥156 million in compensation. The family claim that she was illegally detained and died due to a lack of necessary medical care. "We want the Japanese government to apologize and admit its responsibility for her death," Wishma's sister Wayomi said in the first hearing at the Nagoya District Court.

8 The Immigration Services Agency said that the immigration center staff lacked awareness on handling emergencies, and that there were problems with the facility's medical and information sharing system. This March, the Nagoya District Court announced that they will show security camera footage in court on June 21st and July 12th.

sue 起訴する treatment 治療 detainee 抑留者 in custody or ~:~に身柄を拘束されて provisional release 仮放免 legal team 弁護団 demand 要求する footage 映像 evidence 証拠 bereaved family 遺族 duty 義務 in compensation 慰謝料として claim 主張する hearing 公聴会 District Court 地方裁判所 Immigration Services Agency 出入国在留管理庁 awareness 認識 handle 対処する

Q8 下線④STARTは、どのような団体ですか。

Q9 What is the big problem she had faced since January 2021?

Q10 入管施設の職員たちが、下線⑦のような対応をしたのは、なぜだと思いますか。あなたの意見を書きましょう。

Q11 What has Wishma's family's legal team demanded the government to release?

And when will they show it in court?

Q12 On March 4th, 2022, what did Wishma's bereaved family do?

Q13 ウィシュマさんの姉のワヨミさんは、第1回公聴会で何と言いましたか。

Q14 What did the Immigration Services Agency say about the immigration center staff?

Q15 ウィシュマさんが亡くなった事件から見えてくる、日本の問題とは、何ですか。

What is a big problem you see behind Wishma's death? Please write your opinion.

★次の文を3回以上読んで、暗唱しましょう。

1. Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.”
2. Japan's acceptance rate for refugees has been extraordinarily low compared to other advanced countries.
3. On March 6th, 2021, Wishma Sandamali, a 33-year-old woman from Sri Lanka, died at an immigration facility in Nagoya. She had been detained there for overstaying her visa.
4. She applied for refugee status to extend her stay in Japan, but it was rejected by the immigration authorities.
5. Wishma’s bereaved family sued the Japanese government, demanding ¥156 million in compensation.

(和訳)

1. 難民とは、戦争、暴力、紛争、迫害から逃れ、他国で安全を見つけるために国境を超えてきた人です。
2. 日本の難民受け入れの割合は、他の先進国と比べて非常に低い。
★have been は継続を表す完了形です。
「今、低い」というより、「これまで、ずっと低かった」というニュアンスになります。
3. 2021年3月6日、スリランカ出身の33歳の女性、ウイシュマ・サンダマリさんが、名古屋の入管施設で亡くなりました。彼女は、ヴィザが切れて不法滞在しているという理由で、そこに拘束されていました。

★第2文で “She had been detained there” と、過去完了が使われているのは、ウイシュマさんが亡くなったことを「過去」、(亡くなる前に)ウイシュマさんが拘束されていたことを「大過去」として扱っているからです。

4. 彼女は日本での滞在期間を延長するため、難民の申請をしましたが、出入国管理局によって拒否されました。
5. ウイシュマさんの遺族は、日本政府を起訴し、賠償金として1億5600万円を請求しました。

★demanding…以下は、分詞構文になっており、下記のように書き換えることができます。

=Wishma’s bereaved family sued the Japanese government, () () ¥156 million in compensation.



Death at immigration facility raises questions about medical care

★NHKのニュース記事で、Wishmaさんがボランティアに助けを求めて書いた、直筆の手紙の写真を見ることができます。