

We Oppose the “Supervisory Measures System” of the Immigration Bureau

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By June 2024, the current provisional release system of the Immigration Bureau will be replaced by a “Supervisory Measures System.” This “Supervisory Measures System” is a system that violates the human rights of those who have been provisionally released.

Currently, a foreigner detained at the Immigration Bureau needs a guarantor in order to be “provisionally released.” Those who have no choice but to stay in Japan because they are refugees but not recognized as such, because their lives are in danger if they return home, or because they have been in Japan for a long time and have family there, can only get out of the detention center by finding a guarantor and becoming “provisionally released.”

However, under the “Supervisory Measures System,” instead of a guarantor, a “supervisor,” selected by the Immigration Bureau, is required in order to release the detainee from the detention facility. The supervisor is obliged to supervise the foreigner who has left the detention facility (the supervisee) and report to the Immigration Bureau. Moreover, if the supervisor fails to report, the supervisor is also subject to a fine.

If the “Supervisory Measures System” is implemented, for example, where you live, with whom you live, who pays your living expenses, who is the contractor of your residence or cell phone, whether you have a job, who your friends are, what you usually do, where you usually go, who you usually meet, and other information about your daily life and privacy will all be subject to monitoring through the supervisor. It will be like being locked in a prison without a cage.

Until now, supporters, family members, and friends have taken on the role of guarantor to help detainees escape from the immigration detention environment, where humans are treated like animals. The previous relationship of mutual help and trust between human beings will become a domination-subjugation relationship of one who supervises and one who is supervised.

Many supporters are opposed to the “Supervisory Measures System,” which violates the human rights of those who have been provisionally released as described. This is because we do not want to be “supervisors” who monitor provisionally released persons and hand over their privacy information to the Immigration Bureau. The “Supervisory Measures System” is a law that destroys the relationship of trust between supporters and provisionally released persons.

Let us all raise our voices against the “Supervisory Measures System” together!