

# MUSLIM IN JAPAN

2020 Tokyo Olympics | Hospitality | State Security



## Summer Edition to Ghost Guides to Tokyo 2020

25 July 2017  
Tokyo, Japan

By Sabrina Kim & Sarah Mercurio



**Mega events** such as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games heighten national security concerns, often provoking use of state power in ways that result in discrimination against citizens and foreigners alike. Japan is no exception.

**Our research** focuses on profiling Muslim populations based on national origin, race, and ethnicity in the name of security and safety against terrorism. The current war on terror identifies ISIS as an international enemy, which has been seen to drive discrimination against those of Islamic faith.

**Our approach** was to research policies and media perceptions of Muslims in Japan. We then visited the Tokyo Mosque in Japan and interviewed Muslims to learn first-hand about their experience of living in Japan and practicing their faith.

# Policy and Practice

*2008-2010 Surveillancing | 2013 State Secrecy Law | 2017 Anti-Conspiracy Bill*

# 2008-2010 Surveillancing

Documents leaked to media in 2010 reveal a systematic surveillance of Muslim populations in Japan.

Police officers tracked names, addresses, affiliations, recorded conversations, and establishments visited.

A resulting lawsuit awarded 90 million yen to 17 plaintiffs as compensation for crimes against their right to privacy.

However, the court also concluded that the monitoring was “necessary and inevitable” to protect the public from international terrorism.

分類				№	
国籍(本籍)		出生地			
氏名		男 女	生年月日 (年齢)		
現住所					
勤務先 (住所)					
使用車両					
容疑					
	原票写真(H10年8月)				
対応状況 及び方針					
家族	関係	ファミリー 氏名	生年月日 (年齢)	勤務先	住所(関・別) 別の場合は住所
子					○ 同 ○ 別
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					現場写真(H 年 月)
入国	上陸年月日	旅券番号	旅券発行年月日		
在留資格	永住者	本国住所			
	在留期間(在留資格)	登録年月日	登録市区町村	登録番号	
在留					
関係					
住所歴	期 間	住 所 歴	期 間	通学・勤務先歴(住所)	
学 歴					
職 歴					
免許関係	免許種別	取得年月日	免許番号		
犯罪情報	検挙年月日	罪名	検挙番	処分結果	
所属団体	地位・役職・役割等			身 体 特 徴	
モスクへの 出入状況				身長	
立ち寄り 録録				体 格	
				髪	

**SECRET**  
Not to be discussed with third countries

Jan. 25 2009  
Ref. No. 03- -09

Subject: [REDACTED]

## 1. Identification

Nationality : [REDACTED]  
Name : [REDACTED]  
Date of Birth : [REDACTED]  
Passport Number : [REDACTED]  
Status : Permanent  
Address in Japan : [REDACTED]  
Occupation : [REDACTED]  
Family : [REDACTED]  
Place of Birth : [REDACTED]  
Home Address : [REDACTED]  
Phone Number : [REDACTED]  
Immigration Record : [REDACTED]

## 2. Family and Background of [REDACTED]

(1) Parents and brothers / sisters

(2) Before the entry

(3) After the entry

**SECRET**  
Not to be discussed with third countries

Redacted copies of leaked surveillance documents leaked.

# State Secrecy Law

The 2013 Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets (“State Secrecy Law”) became law in 2014, establishing fines and imprisonment for leaking state secrets or even seeking to learn state secrets.

These provisions imposed penalties on leaking state secrets as defence against terrorism and espionage.

The law sets charges against state employees for up to 10 years and 10 million yen. In addition, journalists and activists can be prosecuted under the law, facing up to five years in prison for leaks, and up to 10 years for acquiring state secrets through illicit means.



Protestors demonstrate after passing of State Secrecy Law in Tokyo, Japan.



# Anti-Conspiracy Bill

The Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds ("anti-conspiracy bill") passed in June 2017. The bill lists 277 new types of punishable crimes related to preparatory acts for the purpose of committing terrorism.

Crimes include arranging funds or goods, inspection of locations, and other seemingly unrelated plans, such as theft of forestry, destroying cultural artifacts and violation of copyrights. The vagueness of terms used in the bill, such as "organized group", "planning" and "preparatory action" raise concerns about privacy and the potential increase in surveillance activities prior to charges.

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## Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy

REFERENCE:  
CL/N°N 2/2017

18 May 2017

Hon. Prime Minister,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 28/16.

In this connection, I would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information I have received concerning a proposed bill revising parts of the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds, also known as the 'anti-conspiracy' bill which due to its broad scope may, if adopted into law, lead to undue restrictions to the rights to privacy and to freedom of expression.

According to the information received:

A bill revising parts of the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds, also known as the 'anti-conspiracy' bill was submitted by the Japanese Government to the Parliament last 21 March 2017.

Reportedly, the amendments proposed significantly expand the scope covered by Article 6 (Preparation for organized homicide and other organized crimes) of the law. According to the translation made available to us the new article would read as:

*"Article 6 : 2(1)Two or more persons who plan, as part of activities of terrorist groups or other organised criminal groups, the commission of criminal acts listed in the following sections by such groups, are subject to the punishment prescribed in each of those sections, if any of them have arranged funds or goods or carried out*

UN Special Rapporteur warns Prime Minister Abe of right to privacy issues in Anti-Conspiracy Bill.

# Faith and Practice

*Our look at policy provided a perspective on Japan from an international gaze, and through that lens we presumed that the reception of those associated with Islam would be met with fear and discrimination.*

*Our experience in Japan has proven otherwise.*

# Ghost Guide to Tokyo 2020 Muslim in Tokyo

This fold-out is an addition to a series of 16 that, together, constitute the Ghost Guide to Tokyo 2020. This project conceptualized between the UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative and Waseda University investigates the ghosts of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Each fold-out delves into sites and communities that this international event will unsuspectedly affect, from homeless groups in Yoyogi Park, to fishmongers and operators at the iconic Tsukiji market. This 'counter-guide' to Tokyo offers a collection of alternative narratives of the city that the Olympics might otherwise render invisible.

## MUSLIM PRO 2020

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## A project by:

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# Special Edition to the Guide: Muslim in Tokyo

Democratic nations across the globe suffer from fear in an age stricken with terrorism. This fear is pronounced in many ways, including state policies that raise domestic concerns over surveillance, sanctuary, and freedom. The nature of hosting an international mega-event such as the Olympics intensifies state fear and is often exhibited through government-backed policies that impact citizens long after the Olympics pass. The Tokyo Olympic Games are no exception to this rule.

**UCLA**



Urban Humanities Initiative



**Sabrina Kim  
Sarah Mercurio**



## HISTORY OF ISLAM IN JAPAN

### 1900s

Japanese introduced to Islam through trade and ally-relations throughout Meiji period.

### 1920s - 1930s

Economic interest in Middle East grows

600 Muslim residents in Japan.  
3 Mosques built (Kobe, Nagoya, Tokyo).

Qur'an translated into Japanese.

### 1980s

Labor needs lead to immigration wave from Muslim-majority countries.

Emigrants build Mosques, open Halal restaurants, and Halal specialty stores.

### Tokyo Mosque (Camii)

- Built in 1938
- One of the first three mosques built in Japan
- Opening ceremony supported by the government had multiple international dignitaries
- Demolished and rebuilt in 2000 funded entirely by the Turkish government
- Known to be the most beautiful mosque in Asia in present day

## RISE IN FEAR OF TERRORISM

### 2001

9/11 attack triggers international counter-terrorism efforts.

Terrorists profiling occurs among Muslim population.

### 2008

The police department surveillances roughly 90% of the 14,254 foreign nationals from Muslim countries registered in Tokyo.

### 2010

Articles leaked to the Japan Times revealing systematic surveillance of Muslims under the guidance of National Police Agency.

17 Muslim plaintiffs pursue lawsuit for blanket monitoring of Muslim populations.

### 2014

Court rules that plaintiffs receive 90 million yen in compensation for privacy violations.

The 2013 State Secrecy Law enacted, imposing penalties of fines and imprisonment for leaking state secrets.

### 2010 Policy Leak

Collected personal information included but where not limited to:

- Birthplaces
- Home and work addresses
- Names and birthdays of family members
- Personal histories
- Immigration records

"Even the names of local mosques visited by the 'suspects' were included



## LOOKING TOWARDS THE 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS

### 2012

Halal cuisine services gradually become more accessible due to government-backed subsidies for Halal certificate holders.

### 2013

Tokyo is announced as the next Olympic host.

The Japanese government relaxes visa requirements for Southeast Asian countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam.

More prayer rooms are established in major airports and tourist locations in preparation for Olympic tourism.

### 2017

The Anti-Conspiracy Bill is passed, defining 277 new types of punishable crimes related to acts of terrorism, such as theft of forestry and violation of copyrights.

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, Joseph Cannataci argues against the bill on the grounds of purposefully vague language that may lead to violation of privacy rights.

### 2020

Number of expected Muslim tourists is projected to reach over one million throughout 2020.

## GROWING HOSPITALITY

### Present Day

61 mosques located in Japan (13 in Tokyo)  
Over 100,000 Muslims living in Japan

Japanese National Tourism Organization provides welcome guides to Muslims in an extension of Japanese hospitality.

Various halal-related websites such as "Halal Media Japan" and "Japan Muslim Guide" are established by private firms.

The websites provide critical information on locations of mosques and prayer spaces, sightseeing guide, and Halal-friendly restaurants.

Halal Expo 2017 is scheduled in December 2017, supported by the Japanese government.

## A PRAYER FOR TOKYO 2020

As an international mega-event, the Olympic Games transform host cities into fortified Olympic Cities through infrastructure development, venue construction, and tightened security. Producing a mega-event in the era of terrorism heightens the need for safety measures at the national level. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) stands as a major threat in the war on terrorism, a fact that often results in discrimination against Muslim populations on the grounds of profiling by race, ethnicity, and national origin. This trend is apparent in Japan as demonstrated through the 2010 leaked reports in which police systematically surveilled Muslims in Japan as "suspects" of terrorists acts. Subsequent policies, such as the State Secrecy Law and the recent Anti-Conspiracy Bill further define the government's stance on counter terrorism through unwarranted surveillance and silencing dissent.

And yet, while these Olympic-driven laws are being enacted, Muslim residents feel remarkably comfortable living in Tokyo. Personal interviews among Muslims in Tokyo have revealed a hospitality to Islam, marked by welcoming community members, abundant halal options, and web-based support through social media and websites providing resources for Japan's Muslim residents and tourists. Tourists are welcomed through relaxed visa requirements, government supported Islamic events, and prayer room locations in airports and major tourist locations. The extension of Japanese hospitality has resulted in a positive trend in Muslim population growth despite police efforts to target Muslims as potential national threats.

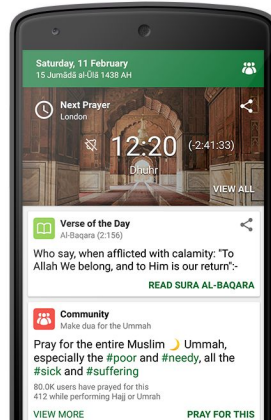
Interviewees reported that when they can discuss traditions such as Ramadan fasting, five daily prayer times, and women wearing hijab, they do not feel as if they are treated differently. Instead a short moment of shock is often followed by curiosity, which ends in general understanding.



Furthermore, we learned how modern resources, such as mobile phone apps (i.e. MuslimPro) and websites providing locating halal establishments, prayer rooms, and mosques (i.e., Halal Media Japan) helped make Japan a welcoming home for Muslims.

## Most Popular

Muslim app in the world





Japan has been backing a movement toward hospitality for Muslims, such as introducing prayer rooms in airports and high tourist traffic areas. Government backed subsidies are also available for businesses with halal certificates.

Growing support for Muslims falls in line with the Olympic hospitality for international tourists. In 2020, there are projected to be over 200,000 Muslim tourists visiting Japan.



Today, there are over 100,000 Muslims living in Japan and the number is steadily growing. During our visit to the largest Mosque in Tokyo, *Tokyo Camii*, we witnessed approximately 500 attendees present for Friday prayers.

Sixty one Mosques are spread throughout the country to support this growing faith, 13 of which are in Tokyo.



# Findings

1. There is a stark difference between policy and culture in Tokyo when it comes to Muslim acceptance
2. Our interviews found a wide acceptance of those of Islamic faith, while also suggesting a barrier in communicating Muslim lifestyle choices to a Japanese audience.



# The Policy & Practice Divide

The Japanese government has adopted policies (i.e., the State Secrecy Law and Anti-Conspiracy Bill) that carve a path toward the criminalization of organized groups such as faith-based organizations. As leaked information reveals, Muslims have been targets of surveillance as one such criminal group.

And yet, while Muslims seem to be targeted in the national gaze as a potential threat, our conversations with Muslims in Japan prove a general feeling of acceptance in day to day interactions, both among citizens and law enforcement.



Protests occurred across the nation against passing the Anti-Conspiracy Bill in 2017.  
Image courtesy of the Asahi Shimbun, <http://www.asahi.com/>

# Understanding Practice

Interviews also revealed that what Muslims found most concerning was a wider lack of knowledge about their religious traditions. Interviewees suggested that conversations about religion were relatively quiet, and thus more education about diverse practices were needed at the municipal and national level.

While preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics has provoked a warm invitation to Muslim tourists, the onus to educate non-Muslim Japanese about difference remains the responsibility of local Muslim populations.

## Come and enjoy Japan.

Japan is overflowing with appeal for any tourist. In addition to its unique climate, which shows a different character in each of the four seasons, Japan combines traditional culture with the attributes of an advanced, modern nation. Beautiful natural surroundings. Safe, clean cities. And above all else, the pride of Japan is the sincere hospitality that it offers to visitors from overseas. Many people from countries around the world, and from widely varied cultures, including Muslims, visit Japan to fully experience this appeal.

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Image from the “2013 Japan Travel Guide for Muslim Visitors,” published by the Japan National Tourism Organization.

# Thank You!



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