

## Human Rights That The Person Does Not Know that they have

To begin with, I want to ask all of you a question. Do you think that your human rights are respected? Each of you has various opinions to this question but the answer is very simple. Yes, as you know, our human rights are respected in our country.

Then, I'll ask you another question. Do you know that you have human rights? This question seems very strange. However, there are some people in the world who don't know they have human rights. Now the theme I'm going to talk about is human rights that the person does not know that they have.

I'll show you one example of human rights that the person doesn't know. It is Honor Killing which defines murder as an honorable act. You may think killing people is never an honor but the idea is caused by the difference of consciousness of human rights. Today I'll introduce a book titled *Burned Alive* that write about a woman Souad. Souad was born in Jordan that is a male – dominated society. In the village where she was born, women are forced to work like slaves. It is usual for such women as the wife or a daughter to be physically hurt by her husband and her father. One day she had a sexual intercourse with her boyfriend before marriage which is taboo in the village. Her family got very angry to find her wrong and viewed souad as a shame. Souad was burned alive by her uncle. She was saved by neighbors but is still seriously hurt not only physically but also mentally. on the other hand, although her family tried to kill her, they were admired as a hero without any punishment. In other words, Honor killing is murder committed by people who want to remove such a dishonor of female relatives of the family, which result in defending the reputation of their family. According to a research by UNHCR in 2010, about 5000 people suffer from Honor killing every year. In the region where honor killing is done, it has been a local custom. Even women who are made to obey state the agreement with the killing in a lecture of NGO. This is that Human rights which they don't know. People who live in the region have little consciousness of the crime and don't regard honor killing as a crime. Thus it seems that the victims are actually many more than we expect.

Then, why does such a murder called honor killing happen? Honor killing is found in the Islamic area but has nothing to do with the Islam. I've thought 3 viewpoints. First, because of the local custom or culture which include two problems. One is because honor killing is accepted in the community, the other is because a male gender identity is made of an honor or a shame. It's difficult for an outsider to interfere in both problems. Secondly, it's the social institution. The institution has 3 problems. Honor killing is legally a crime but the national government can't intervene, so the common law in the region is given priority. Also, the crime honor killing can't be found because police or a court share the idea of honor killing. Furthermore, the residents in the region hide the murder. Finally, Education. Most of the damaged women have never been educated. As a result, they can't understand the situation of their suffering. In the case of one country in the Islamic region, the literacy rate of women is 23% and a school enrollment rate is only 13%.

I tried to think how the situation can change. We know we can't change the custom or culture immediately. When I reviewed the course of Japan in the past, Men used to dominate women. However, because of dramatic changes such as economic growth or modernization, the way of Japanese thinking was turned towards gender equality. That's why, it would be better to change the social situation in order to solve the problem and essential to do financial support. Regarding the social institution, the government need to improve the power to rule the country stabilizing the unstable situation. Finally, the government is required to assure women in the region of rights to take education and make women go out into society. In this way, to make such people conscious of human rights results in letting them recognize human rights that they don't know that they have. I believe it is not a duty as communities but a duty as individuals that we should focus on, so that we can take the first step to the consciousness to the human rights.