

## "Trend of the World" is Not Good Enough

By TAMAKI Hiroshi

There have been a lot of arguments in Japan on whether Japan should abolish the death penalty or not. Some people say that it should be abolished simply because it is the "trend of the world." But I cannot agree with such an argument. Each country in the world has its own domestic background. Even if the majority of the countries in the world adopt a certain system, it does not necessarily follow that every country is obliged to adopt it without exception.

Besides, the Japanese law requires that the Minister of Justice enforce the death sentence. Some people argue that Mr. Hatoyama Kunio, now Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, deserves to be dismissed from a standpoint of the "common sense of the world," who gave a green light to execution one after another when he was Minister of Justice. But I think this kind of argument misses the whole point. On the contrary, it could be argued that a Minister of Justice who, in violation of the law, does not administer capital punishment does deserve to be dismissed.

When it comes to the "trend of the world" as a basis for the abolition of the death penalty, it cannot simply be said that the trend of the majority in the world in its own right should dictate what is right or what must be adopted. While the "trend of the world" is right in some cases, it is wrong in other cases. In discussing whether to continue or to abolish the death penalty, it is imperative that discussion should be made in a calm manner and be based upon facts and logic, with which we could analyze the reasons either to abolish or to continue the death penalty.

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