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Onderwerp: Lack of Support in Japanese Orphanages

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May 1, 2014

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Witness: Lack of Support in Japanese Orphanages



 In Japan, orphaned and abandoned children grow up in institutions, denying them a family life. [Watch now >>](#)

Masashi Suzuki sat in the quiet upstairs level of the McDonald's in a Tokyo suburb. The restaurant was bright and cheerful, but Masashi's expression was somber. His parents abandoned him as a baby, he said slowly, in a listless voice. From age 2 he lived in a government-funded institution in Funabashi, Chiba prefecture, just south of Tokyo. He explained that he was released from the institution at 18, and over the past two years, he'd been through 20 different jobs. He had also skirted being homeless, he said, sounding deeply exhausted. Masashi cared about his appearance – he wore fashionable, albeit worn, clothes and had styled his hair – but a sense of isolation clung to him.

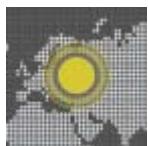
It gradually became clear that, growing up in an institution, Masashi hadn't acquired the knowledge and life skills necessary to live independently. Nor had he received the continuing support he needed to reenter Japanese society.

Nearly 34,000 children in Japan live in institutions after being taken from or abandoned by their parents. This is in stark contrast to what happens in the majority of developed countries, which place most such children in foster homes or with adoptive families.

[Read Masashi's story >>](#)

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The escalating crisis in Ukraine is putting journalists and political activists at increasing risk of politically motivated violence, such as unlawful detention, abduction and assaults.

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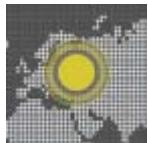


[In Syria, New Barrel Bombs Hit Aleppo](#)

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad is talking about elections, but for Aleppo's residents, the only campaign they are witnessing is a military one of barrel bombs and indiscriminate shelling.

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[In Bulgaria, Asylum Seekers Summarily Expelled](#)

In recent months Bulgarian border police, often using excessive force, have summarily "pushed back" people who appear to be asylum seekers from Syria, Afghanistan and other countries across the Turkish border.

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[In the United States, Oklahoma Should End Barbaric Lethal Injections](#)

During an attempt to execute Clayton Lockett by lethal injection, Lockett began to mumble, calling out "man" and "something's wrong," tried to lift his head, and began to go into a seizure. He died of a heart attack 40 minutes after the execution had begun. Such a botched execution is nothing less than state-sanctioned torture.

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