
Editorial

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Abe's astute paper on refugee issues forms the centrepiece of Issue Six. The paper spans both Australia and Japan, allowing a unique and considered trans-national reading of refugees and how they are treated in the lands they flee to for safety. Abe argues that the current international system, based on the principle of equality of sovereign states, require that individuals belong to a state to ensure their protection and to ascertain state responsibilities for particular individuals. Refugees are a problem in this system precisely because they have broken bonds with their state of origin and are left stateless either *de jure* or *de fact*. Despite a good history of human rights, Abe points out that Australia has recently consistently failed to provide human rights to the refugees that have come to her shores. The Australian government's hard line policies on illegal immigrants and refugees also put in world-wide spotlight the plight of desperate young children, unaccompanied minors, pregnant women and the elderly, all confined under inhuman conditions in outback refugee camps, the infamous Woomera detention centre in particular. Moving from Australia across a discussion on global politics of refugees and borders, Abe draws us skilfully into the development of Japanese laws and judicial decisions concerning refugees in an attempt to show how far Japan have come and where the country is headed for in terms of asylum policies.

Staying in Japan and border control issues, Kawabata examines the role of fear/justice in the everyday life of consumer society. In particular, I examine the use of fear/justice in the politics of border control in relation to the 'crisis of neo-racism'. As a case study, Kawabata examines the activities of the Okayama Guardians, a vigilante group established in 1998 in Okayama. Vigilante activism in this regional city is positioned as a grassroots activity in the context of globalization and the decline of a welfare state, and the ideological assertions of the Okayama Guardians are critically examined through an ethnographic account of their patrolling activities. Kawabata proposes that the limitations and possibilities of vigilante activism hinge on the establishment of networks with other social movements.

Networks and social movements in action are captured by an *AsiaRights* interview with members of Migrant Worker's Television in Korea. In 2005, the Korean

Community TV Channel RTV launched a new initiative: Migrant Worker's Television (MWTV). Unlike some more "mainstream" versions of multicultural broadcasting, this is television made both for and by members of the migrant worker community itself. Indeed, as we discovered, its presenters include undocumented migrants, who run the gauntlet of Korea's Immigration Bureau even as they make and broadcast their programs. MWTV broadcasts weekly news programs in nine languages (Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, English, Indonesian, Mongolian, Nepali, Russian and Tagalog), focusing on issues of importance to migrant workers, news from home countries and explanations of Korean news for foreign residents. It also broadcasts a regular Korean-language discussion program: The World of Migrant Workers. AsiaRights staff caught up with two of MWTV's presenters, Mahbub (from Bangladesh) and Minod Moktan (from Nepal).