

Expert on Islamic law helped student convey travel plan to ISIS



①A former college professor mediated between a Japanese student who planned to join the Islamic State of Syria and one of its leaders, but denies he recruited for the militant group.

Ko Nakata, who taught Islamic law at Doshisha University in Kyoto, told The Asahi Shimbun in an Oct. 7 interview, "Using a smartphone app, I contacted a commander of the Islamic State who I was acquainted with and conveyed in Arabic the student's plan to travel to Syria to join the group."

②The commander told him the student would be welcome.

However, Nakata denied he was recruiting youngsters to join the organization that is making headlines by beheading hostages.

"I don't pledge allegiance to the Islamic State, nor do I recruit," he said.

③The 26-year-old student is being investigated by Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department's Public Security Bureau. He could end up being charged under a rarely used article of the Penal Code: preparing or plotting to wage war privately against a foreign nation.

The student, who is on leave from Hokkaido University, is the first Japanese known to have had plans to join the Islamic State.

"He (the former professor) told me that the Islamic State would welcome me," police sources quoted the student as saying.

④Nakata, 54, is a leading researcher of Islamic philosophy in Japan.

He has traveled to areas controlled by the Islamic State five times, including research trips, since March 2013.

Nakata said he met the student this past August through a Japanese man connected to a used bookstore in Tokyo's Akihabara district that posted a help-wanted ad for work in Syria.

"I want to go as soon as I can," he quoted the student as saying.

⑤He also helped the student convert to Islam and study Arabic.

During the police investigation, the student admitted to planning to leave for Syria on Oct. 7 to join the Islamic State.

The Islamic State commander oversees the western part of the area under its control, according to Nakata. He said he was expected to contact the group when the student arrived in Turkey.

【October 09, 2014 / THE ASAHI SHIMBUN】 allegiance 忠誠 convert 改宗する

★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. What is ISIS? What do you think made youngsters from around the world become attracted to joining such group?
2. What do you think is the reason behind the mediation that the professor in this article did between the student and the Islamic group?
3. Do you know anything about the Islamic law?
What do you think is the main reason for the ISIS' fight?
4. There is a saying that teachers are the second parents to their students.
What do you think are the responsibilities of a teacher to his / her students?
5. If the ISIS continues to develop its power, what do you think will be the situation of the world in the future?
Do you think WW3 is possible to happen?
6. If you're going to put yourself into the Japanese student's shoes, and you saw that ad posted in the bookstore, what are you going to do?
7. Make sentences using the following words: convey, militant, mediate, commander, acquaint, allegiance, wage and convert.

イスラム国に参加しようとしていた日本人の動きが初めて明らかになった。この大学生は古書店の求人広告に関係する人物に紹介され、7月にイスラム教徒になりアラビア語を習い渡航準備を始めたという。武器に関心を持つ別の日本人男性も同様の計画をしていたと判明した。シリアには80カ国から1万5000人以上の外国人戦闘員が渡り、国際テロ組織アルカイダやイスラム国などで活動していると言われている。それらの戦闘員が自国へ戻りテロ活動を行う脅威が懸念されている。今回は使われた法律の日本語は、刑法93条の私戦予備・陰謀罪。