

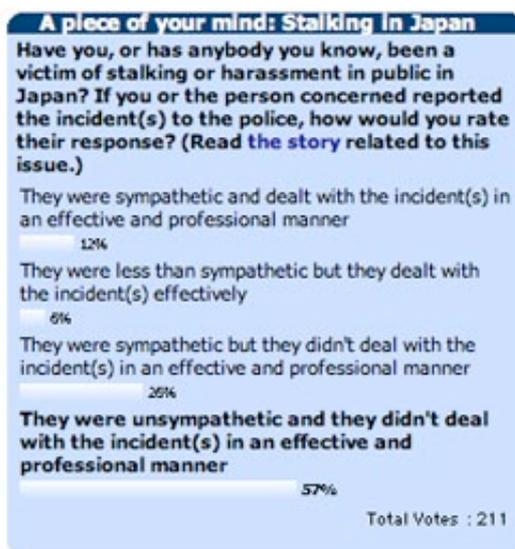
Yakuza dealt with my stalker

The Community page received more readers' mail regarding a previous article on stalking. This is the latest one:

I was stalked for almost six months.

It started off when a car passed by and the driver asked me if he could invite me for a ride. I'm a good-looking woman, and used to these sort of flirtations, so I simply ignored him.

But, one week later, I saw him waiting near the train station, and he was still giving me the remarks. He seemed to know where I live and what time I usually come home.



The results of a survey posted on Japan Times Online April 17-21.

Realising the danger, I reported it to the police. No action was taken.

I began to panic when one night I heard my flat's door knob being twisted from outside. I went to the police again and still no action was taken.

I was already giving up and planning to move place when one night I saw the man again, and ran to the police "koban." He tried to speed off, but the traffic lights turned red and he had to stop, so I forced the policeman to go and check on him. That was the first time the police ever found out his details.

Can you imagine? What had they been doing for all these months?

Anyway, he denied my accusations, saying that he was waiting for his girlfriend who lives in the area. Since he'd already been questioned by the police I was afraid he would change from

flirting to attacking me. So I sought legal help, but even the lawyer wasn't interested in taking up my case.

One day, I befriended a bar owner near my house and told her about my problem. She said to me, "Don't worry, I'll take care of it for you."

True enough, I haven't seen the man around since. I learnt some months later that she told her yakuza customers to take care of it and told me not to worry about it anymore . . . and the case was closed.

But the issue here is why no people in official authorities, like the police or lawyers, take this matter seriously? I was lucky that the bar owner took pity on me and helped me out.

I think this issue is alarming and should be given serious attention.

J.S., Tokyo

Send comments on this issue to: community@japantimes.co.jp.

Read more readers' responses.

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