

Shiga cops stop rebuffing suicide victim's father

Jiji, Kyodo

OTSU, Shiga Pref. — The father of a 13-year-old boy who committed suicide last October successfully filed a police complaint Wednesday accusing three schoolmates of bullying and threatening his son.

The complaint, which was finally accepted by the Shiga Prefectural Police, was the father's fourth attempt to lodge a formal police complaint since the death of his son. The police rebuffed him three times, stating it was difficult to confirm the allegations because the victim was dead. But since the case drew national attention, the mayor reversed an earlier denial and stated this week that the suicide was directly caused by bullying.

"Now that the complaint has finally been accepted, I can tell that to my son," the father, 47, said in a written statement drafted by his lawyer. "I strongly hope the truth will be discovered and that the boys who bullied my son will be punished, apologize and be rehabilitated."

According to a survey the school conducted on the incident, some students said the boy was forced to eat a dead bee and to practice committing suicide.

School fight goes on Net
Kyodo

KOBE — Video footage of junior high school students assaulting an elementary school boy in Ako, Hyogo Prefecture, has been posted on the Internet, police said Wednesday.

Among the assailants are two male ninth-graders who were arrested earlier this month on suspicion of assaulting a high school boy in Ako. The police plan to question them about the videotaped attack as well, they said.

The one-minute-long video, believed to have been recorded at a park, shows one of the boys punching and kicking the pupil, who offers no resistance.

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