

to submit a list of members and details of assets to the authorities. In January 2003 and 2006, Japan's Public Security Intelligence Agency received permission to extend the surveillance for another three years to monitor the group's activities.

Arrest of Key Leaders

Between March 22 and May 16, the police arrested more than 200 Aum Shinrikyo members.¹⁹ They had questioned several Aum Shinrikyo members taken into custody shortly after the Tokyo sarin attacks who had identified a number of individuals involved in the Tokyo attack and key leaders. On May 16, 1995, investigators searching through an Aum facility in Kamikuishiki found Shōkō Asahara and arrested him. On the same day, the police arrested 41 Aum Shinrikyo members on murder and murder-accomplice charges and designated four other Aum Shinrikyo members as National Police Agency most-wanted suspects.²⁰ Asahara was put on trial. He pleaded not guilty to all charges, claiming that his followers acted without his knowledge. Nevertheless, he was sentenced to death. Some Aum leaders received death sentences, while others received life sentences. Many members sought appeals, but Japanese courts rejected most of them. On September 15, 2006, Asahara lost his final appeal against the death penalty.

Indeed, Aum members were indicted on various charges, including the subway gas attack, illegal production of drugs, and a range of violent acts. Interviews with a number of former Aum members demonstrated that illicit narcotics, such as LSD, were integral parts of some Aum Shinrikyo ceremonies.²¹ Aum Shinrikyo was involved in a number of violent crimes other than the 1995 sarin-gas attack: the November 1989 kidnapping and murder of Tsutsumi Sakamoto, a lawyer representing concerned parents of Aum members, along with his wife and son; the February 1994 lynching of Kotara Ochida, an unco-

¹⁹ Mark Mullins, "The Legal and Political Fallout of the 'Aum Affair,'" in Robert Kisala and Mark Mullins, eds., *Religion and Social Crisis in Japan: Understanding Japanese Society Through the Aum Affair*, New York: Palgrave, 2001, pp. 71–72.

²⁰ NPA (1996, p. 20).

²¹ See, for example, Juergensmeyer (2000, pp. 103–118) and Lifton (1999).