

operative Aum member; the June 1994 sarin-gas attack in Masumoto that killed seven and injured more than 200 people; and the February 1995 kidnapping and murder of Kiyoshi Kariya, a Tokyo notary.<sup>22</sup> By mid-1996, more than 400 cult members had been arrested. Most of the arrests were based not on a connection to terrorism or the sarin attack but on kidnapping or drug charges.<sup>23</sup> For example, Tomomitsu Niimi (Aum's minister of internal affairs) and Ikuo Hayashi (who ran cult clinics and presided over human experimentation) were arrested for confining followers; Kiyohide Hayakawa (Aum's minister of construction) was arrested for trespassing; Fumihiro Joyu (who ran the Moscow office and then became Aum's spokesperson) was arrested for perjury; and Yoshinobu Aoyama (Aum's attorney) was arrested for libel.<sup>24</sup>

As information regarding Aum Shinrikyo's involvement in the Tokyo attacks began to surface, residents who lived near Aum Shinrikyo facilities began to feel insecure and called police for protection and assistance. In an effort to allay these concerns, Japanese police increased patrols on foot and by car in these areas. For example, in Fujigamine, where there were several Aum Shinrikyo facilities, the police opened a temporary regional-security center in July 1995 to provide residents with patrol and consultation services. To allay concerns among residents in the Hitoana area, where Aum Shinrikyo's Mount Fuji headquarters was located, the police established a temporary station in an open lot in front of the Aum Shinrikyo facility.<sup>25</sup> In some cases, the local population took independent action. In the town of Kitamimaki, for example, farmers dug a moat around an Aum Shinrikyo facility and staffed guard towers for six months.<sup>26</sup> In addition, police offered consultation services to members of Aum Shinrikyo and their families who wanted to leave the cult and return to society. The police, in

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<sup>22</sup> Mullins (2001, p. 71).

<sup>23</sup> Mark Mullins, "The Political and Legal Response to Aum-Related Violence in Japan: A Review Article," *Japan Christian Review*, Vol. 63, 1997, pp. 37–46; Pangi (2002, p. 438).

<sup>24</sup> Kaplan and Marshall (1996, p. 269).

<sup>25</sup> NPA (1996, p. 24).

<sup>26</sup> George Wehrfritz, "Crushing the Cult of Doom," *Newsweek*, November 22, 1999, p. 44.