

Woman held for blocking probe into abuse of father

Kyodo News

A 43-year-old woman in western Tokyo has been arrested after refusing to let municipal officials enter her home to probe suspected abuse of her 85-year-old father, police said Monday.

Due to that refusal, Sumie Kishida, an unemployed resident of Nishitokyo, becomes the first person ever arrested for allegedly violating a law aimed at preventing abuse of the elderly, according to the Metropolitan Police Department.

After Kishida's arrest, her father was placed in protective custody and hospitalized, where he was listed in weak but not life-threatening condition, police said.

Kishida told investigators the police action violates her right to privacy, according to MPD officials.

She and her father are the only occupants of the house.

For years, Nishitokyo officials have tried at the request of Kishida's brother to visit the house and check up on the man's condition. Kishida never allowed the officials into the house.

She also thwarted the city's attempts since last



Garbage blocks the front door of the Nishitokyo home of Sumie Kishida on Monday morning. She has been arrested in the alleged abuse of her elderly father.

KYODO PHOTO

summer to inspect the house on suspicion that Kishida was neglecting her father, according to police.

Kishida's arrest is based on her rejection, without a justifiable reason, of the city's inspection of the house in line with the law against abuse of the elderly, according to the MPD.

According to the city, Kishida piled up garbage at the front door and the bathroom is unusable. Her neighbors repeatedly complained to the city that cats kept at the house were spreading foul odors, officials said.

Baby-killer sentenced

CHIBA (Kyodo) A 37-year-old unemployed man in Matsudo, Chiba Prefecture, was sentenced Monday to nine years in prison for fatally abusing the 9-month-old son of his girlfriend last year.

Prosecutors had demanded a 10-year term for Koji Ishii. The girlfriend and the son lived with Ishii in his apartment in Matsudo.

According to the court, Ishii beat the infant repeatedly on March 12. He then placed the boy in a bathtub filled with hot water. The boy died early the next day due to either suffocation or shock from the external wounds.

Presiding Judge Masataka Ito said Ishii, irritated after having a quarrel with his girlfriend, started beating the infant when he would not stop crying despite efforts to soothe him.

"The crime is so short-sighted, and the defendant gave unreasonable accounts of the death and tried to make it look like the boy drowned in the bathtub," Ito said.

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