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Junko Furuta, a 17-year-old Japanese student with ambitions of becoming an idol singer, had already started working at a plastic molding factory to pursue her dreams in addition to attending school. On the day she was abducted by four local teenagers, Hiroshi Miyano, Jō Ogura, Shinji Minato, and Yasushi Watanabe, who were known for their history of serial offending. These boys had connections with a Japanese gangster, which gave them an air of invincibility. They not only raped her multiple times but also brutally tortured her until she was reduced to skin and bones from starvation. They took sadistic pleasure in tormenting her, and it's tragic that they were able to continue these heinous acts for so long before finally killing her in January 1989. After Junko's death, the boys encased her body inside a concrete drum and disposed of it by hiding it in a cement truck. Their actions remained undetected until an unrelated rape case led them into custody. The Japanese movie 'Concrete' based on this case highlights the horrific details of what happened to Junko. The movie follows the story of Hiroshi Miyano, who was the group's de facto leader and had connections with a local gangster. He believed he could get away with anything due to his affiliation. According to reports, the group was responsible for several other rapes and thefts in the area without facing severe consequences. A month into Junko's captivity, she became frail from lack of food, which led the boys to look for another victim. They eventually gangraped a different woman at the end of December 1988. The investigation into this incident led to Hiroshi's arrest and he mistakenly confessed to Junko Furuta's murder. He was later convicted and sentenced to 17 years in prison but appealed, which resulted in an additional three years being added to his sentence by the Tokyo High Court. He finished serving his sentence in 2009. After his release from prison, Hiroshi changed his name to Yokoyama and attempted to lead a normal life. However, he struggled with staying away from crime and was arrested again on suspicion of fraud in 2013. Since being released from custody, Hiroshi has led an extravagant life, often flaunting his wealth through high-end fashion and luxury cars. Reportedly, he is open about his ties to the criminal underworld and various pyramid schemes, which generate a significant portion of his income. Jō Ogura was released from juvenile prison in 1999 after serving eight years for committing bodily injury that resulted in death. Following his release, Jō reportedly lived a normal life, even forming a relationship. However, in 2004, he kidnapped and assaulted Takatoshi Isono, the manager of a hostess club, believing the latter was involved with his then-girlfriend. Jō was subsequently sentenced to four years in prison for assault but walked free in 2009. Shinji Minato, who was 16 at the time of Junko's murder, was tried as an adult and sentenced to 4-6 years in prison in 1990 after pleading guilty to a single charge. However, he appealed the sentence, which was increased to 5-9 years by Judge Ryūji Yanase. After his release from prison, Shinji moved in with his mother and attempted to lead an everyday life. He resurfaced in 2018 after being arrested for attacking a company employe with a metal rod and slashing their throat. Yasushi Watanabe, who was also under 18 when he got involved in Junko's murder, was treated as an adult by the authorities. Yasushi pleaded guilty to committing bodily injury that resulted in death and received a sentence of three to four years in prison, which was later upgraded to five to seven years. After his release from prison in 1996, Yasushi has lived a quiet life under the radar. (Note: The original text is rewritten without comments or translation, and only paraphrased text is provided.) Junko Furuta: Japanese High School Girl Abducted, Raped and Murdered Unknown motives led to the imprisonment of Jō Ogura, Shinji Minato, Yasushi Watanabe, and Miyano for abductions, rape, and murder. The court found them guilty on all counts. Miyano received a 20-year sentence, which he served in full. Ogura got 5-10 years, serving 10. Minato was sentenced to 5-9 years, serving 9. Watanabe received 5-7 years, serving 7. After the crimes, Miyano's parents paid ¥50 million (approximately \$350,000 or \$830,000 today) in compensation to Furuta's family. On November 25, 1988, Miyano and Minato rode their motorcycles around Misato with plans to rob and rape local women. They spotted Furuta, who was on her way home from work. Acting on orders, Minato kicked Furuta off her bicycle and fled. Miyano approached Furuta under the guise of witnessing the attack and offered to walk her home. After gaining trust, he took her to a nearby warehouse and threatened her, claiming to be a yakuza member. That night, Miyano took Furuta to a hotel in Adachi, where he raped her. He later bragged about it to Ogura, who told him not to let Furuta leave. The next morning, Miyano took Furuta to a park, where the others were waiting. They confined her at Minato's house for 40 days, using her as a sex slave. On November 27, Furuta's parents contacted the police about her disappearance. The kidnapers forced her to call her mother three times to convince her she had run away and was safe. The group dropped this pretense when it became clear that Minato's parents would not report them to the police. Later, on November 28, Miyano and others gang-raped Furuta again. As punishment for an escape attempt, they repeatedly punched her in the face and burned her ankles with a lighter. They forced Furuta to dance naked, masturbate, stand on the balcony at night, insert objects into her body, drink large amounts of substances, smoke cigarettes, and inhale paint thinner fumes. Furuta's Abduction and Murder: A Descent into Brutality In December 1988, Furuta was kidnapped by a group led by Miyano, who subjected her to repeated physical and emotional abuse. The violence escalated rapidly, with Furuta being beaten, burned, and forced to endure extreme psychological trauma. Her condition worsened, leaving her malnourished and confined to her room due to injuries. As the month progressed, Furuta's appearance transformed, with visible signs of torture and her face becoming unrecognizable. The group continued to inflict pain on her, including being forced to drink her own urine and endure convulsions. Miyano's anger boiled over, leading him to set Furuta ablaze, resulting in her fatal injuries. The perpetrators attempted to cover their tracks by hiding the crime scene and avoiding detection. However, their actions ultimately led to their downfall. When questioned by police, Miyano provided cryptic information about Furuta's disappearance, believing it would mislead investigators. The drum containing Furuta's body was eventually recovered on March 29, and her identity was confirmed through fingerprints. In July 1990, all parties involved were found guilty of kidnapping, gang rape, and murder. Despite being juveniles at the time of the crime, they were sentenced by the Tokyo District Court. Given article text Nakamura and Ihara were sentenced separately for their roles in Furuta's murder. While the exact terms of their sentences are not specified, it is known that they received prison time for their involvement in Furuta's kidnapping and rape. Following his release from prison, both men appeared to have attempted to rebuild their lives but were ultimately unable to escape the consequences of their actions. The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department received widespread public pressure to punish the perpetrators of Miyano's murder severely, including life imprisonment or the death penalty. However, the prosecution and courts faced criticism for their sentencing decisions, which some perceived as lenient. In contrast, a previous case in 1980 resulted in the death sentence and life imprisonment for defendants with similar circumstances. Experts attributed the differences in sentencing to factors such as the number of victims and the demonstration of clear premeditation. A eulogy delivered at Furuta's funeral reflected her friends' resolve to fight against similar crimes, vowing to create a world where such heinous acts no longer existed. The case of Junko Furuta, a 16-year-old Japanese high school girl who was murdered and tortured by a group of individuals in 1989, has been well-documented. The incident occurred when Furuta was invited to a party, where she was brutally beaten and subjected to various forms of torture for several weeks before eventually dying from asphyxiation caused by being wrapped in concrete. The perpetrators, who were all minors at the time of the crime, were later tried and convicted in court. One of the main perpetrators, Keiichi Tanaka, received a 20-year prison sentence after being found guilty of murder, attempted murder, and other charges. In subsequent years, several of the original perpetrators were rearrested for various crimes, including confinement, injury, and fraud. In one case, a perpetrator was arrested again in 2004 for attempting to kidnap and torture another person. The incident has been extensively reported on in Japanese media, with many outlets highlighting the extreme brutality of the crime and the long-term effects it had on Furuta's family and the community. The case also raised questions about the justice system's handling of juvenile offenders and the need for rehabilitation programs to help them reintegrate into society. In recent years, there have been reports of some of the original perpetrators struggling with mental health issues and living in isolation after their release from prison. In 2024, one of the perpetrators was reported to have died alone at home at the age of 51, highlighting the long-term consequences of his actions and the need for continued support and rehabilitation programs for those who have committed crimes as minors. The case of Junko Furuta has become a notorious example of juvenile violence and the failure of the justice system to prevent such crimes. It continues to be a topic of discussion in Japan today, with many calling for greater investment in mental health services and rehabilitation programs to help young offenders turn their lives around. Junko Furuta, a Japanese high school girl, was murdered in 1989. Her killer was arrested 34 years later for attempted murder. The case has sparked debates about juvenile law reform and the effectiveness of punishment. In 1990, the court's verdict received mixed reactions from legal professionals, with some calling for harsher sentences. The case highlights the challenges of dealing with long-term justice.