

Hideo YAMADA  
Chief Prosecutor  
Shizuoka District Public Prosecutors Office  
Shizuoka Legal General building  
9-45 Otemachi, Aoi Ward  
Shizuoka, 420-0853  
JAPAN

Dear Chief Prosecutor,

As the retrial of Iwao Hakamada is about to begin, I write to ask you to take all steps to preserve the fairness of the proceedings and seek a prompt resolution of this case. Iwao Hakamada is 87 years-old and in poor health, after he has spent close to 60 years facing legal proceedings, and the threat of execution for more than 40, for a crime that he maintains he did not commit.

In its March 2023 decision, the Tokyo High Court ruled that the blood-stained clothes – the evidence that was the decisive factor in his conviction – could have likely been fabricated and planted. I ask you to exclude these pieces from the evidence brought against him. I also request that you seek that the retrial is carried out without undue delay.

I call on you to ensure, on your part, that the protection of human rights and dignity of Iwao Hakamada are put at the center of the forthcoming retrial.

Yours sincerely,