

Kobe killer sends letter to paper

Threatens to kill '3 vegetables' if frustrated

Yomiuri Shimbun

KOBE—A letter from a person claiming to be the killer of 11-year-old Jun Hase was received by The Kobe Shimbun on Wednesday, the daily newspaper announced early Friday.

Police believe the letter, which includes a revised version of a note found in Hase's mouth, is authentic.

In the letter, the killer indicated frustration when hearing his name mispronounced on television, and threatened to kill again. "If my name is misread or anything frustrates me again, I'll destroy three vegetables a week."

The killer also issued another challenge to police: "I cannot help but feel that the police, when judged by their actions, appear lazy...Police should look for me with greater anger and tenacity, although I would not go so far as to say they must do so at the risk of their lives."

The killer explained the inclusion of the revised original letter, saying "Some of the characters on the letter...were apparently blurred by rain or something...so I've enclosed a copy of that letter along with this one."

Like the original letter, the characters appear to have been written with the aid of

remains were found.
Hase disappeared in the ward on May 24. Police believe he was killed soon after. His head was found at the front gate of the Tomogaoka Middle School and his body in a nearby forest on May 27.

According to The Kobe Shimbun, the letter arrived in a plain brown envelope with a ¥100 stamp at the paper's editorial bureau at about 11 a.m. Wednesday.

The envelope contained two plain pieces of paper and two thick pieces of paper.

On one of the thick pages, the killer wrote the six kanji characters he says is his name. The characters are sake, demon, rose (two characters), sacred and fight, and read Sakakibara Seito. The pronunciation was indicated by hiragana characters.

A windmill-like design similar to one in the original note was written along with the characters.

The letter, containing about 1,300 characters, begins, "My television was on when I heard my name mispronounced as 'Oni Bara.' It is extremely ridiculous to mispronounce someone's name."

It also said, "I will never forget that it was the compulsory education system and the society that created that system that rendered me invisible, and I will exact revenge."

In an attempt to justify his acts, the letter went on to say, "I can...feel a sense of peace when I'm killing someone. I can ease my own pain only by seeing others in pain."

The killer also included a new copy of his original letter, which began "Now the game begins."



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Kobe Shimbun officials speak at a news conference on Friday.

KILLER."

media. Also, the pronoun boku (I) was written in katakana instead of kanji as previously reported.

For the phrase "I want nothing more than to see a person die," the character for "I want" is repeated.

Also, the part of the message originally reported as "SHOOLL KILL," was revised, although the word police

A senior Kobe police official who declined to be named said, "We consider this latest note to be the same as the original. I cannot comment about the addition of the letters 'ER.'"

The note's first seven lines were written in red and the last two in black, as was the case in the initial letter