

Tokyo Subway Sarin Gas Attacks(March 20, 1995)

1. History Leading to the Attacks

In 1993, Shoko Asahara instructed cult leaders to research and develop sarin with high killing capabilities (the cult later succeeded in generating sarin).

Since January 1995, the media reported on the possibility of crimes by the cult and the progress of investigations for the cases in which the cult was involved.

As a result of these reports, Asahara and others felt a sense of crisis that "there may be a raid of the cult".

Asahara directed the dispersal of sarin in Tokyo's subway trains to prevent an impending raid against the cult.

2. Carrying Out the Attacks

- Five cult leaders pierced sarin-filled plastic bags with the tips of umbrellas to disperse the gas in five train cars on three train lines (Hibiya Line, Chiyoda Line, Marunouchi Line) that pass through Kasumigaseki Station during the morning commute.
- 13 people were killed by sarin poisoning, and more than 5,800 people (*) were injured.

* The number of victims who received benefit payments based on the Act Relating to the Payment of Benefits for the Relief of Aum Shinrikyo Crime Victims