

Ok, time for another blog post and although I didn't want to do another hard subject, I have wanted to cover this story because like others I have covered, I haven't heard much on it and although it's an older case and the people were caught, I still think that it's important for this story to remain in the light because if anything comes from this story it's that you should always be aware of your surroundings, always watch your back and you have more strength within you than you think. This is another case of torture, of rape and of the murder of an innocent. This is the story of Junko Furuta.

I want you to close your eyes and imagine the being tortured. You're beaten, burned, raped and eventually, your life is taken from you but not before you beg for your captures to end your life countless times beforehand. This is what to 17-year-old Junko Furuta, Japanese girl born in Misato, Saitama, Japan on November 22nd, 1971. She was a high school student attending Yashio-Minami High School and she also worked a part-time job after school. She was said to be a nice young lady; pretty, smart and even popular although she had a "good girl" reputation seeing as she didn't smoke, drink or do any other illegal drugs like most of the other students. Her life would forever change when she met a young man named Hiroshi Miyano who was a bully around the school and often bragged about his connections to the gang Yakuza. When he developed a crush on the young woman and asked her out, she turned him down and it filled him with anger.

Fast forward to November 1988, 8:30 pm, Miyano and a friend; Minato was said to in the park, wanting to find a woman to rope and rape when they noticed Furuta riding through on her bike. While one boy kicked her off of her bike, the other swooped in and helped the young woman up. Not having her guard up after such a nasty spill, Furuta accepted the offer to allow the young man, Miyano, to walk her home. She would never make it home that night or ever again.

From the park the young man took her to a warehouse, where Miyano he explained his connection to the Yakuza and following he raped her, telling her not to make a sound or he would kill her family. Once finished with her he took her back to the park where three friends were waiting. One is the young man who had caused her bike to tumble over, Minato along with two others; Ogura and Watanabe. From there they each raped her as well and they secretly took her to the home of Minato where he lived with his parents. This would become Furuta's prison from that moment on.

After missing for two days, Furuta's worried parents contacted the police. After finding out about this, the boys forced to call her parents; telling them that she had simply run away but was with a friend and safe. Also, she asked her parents to stop the police investigation since she was alive and well. When Minato's parents were around, Furuta was forced to pose as his girlfriend but this act became unnecessary and dropped when it was clear that his parents wouldn't turn them in, probably due to the fear that Miyano instilled in most, if not all about this apparent ties to the gang. Not only were Minato's parents aware of the young girl but so did his brother, who didn't say anything but also no one tried to prevent such acts from happening. It was said that over the course of the timeline, young Furuta had begged them on more than one occasion to help but they idly stood by, doing nothing.

Junki Furuta was held in the basement of the home for 44 days in total where unspeakable acts were committed against her. Although her main captures were the four young men who had been there from

the start, they were said to have encouraged other members of the Yakuza to join in on the torment. Unknown if that really happened, there are details about what the main four did and although the list is hard, I feel that it is necessary to at least run through. Between the four men alone Furuta was said to have endured the following.

Apparently raping her over 400 times, beat her with golf clubs and bamboo sticks, starved her, forced her to eat cockroaches and drink her own urine, hung from the ceiling and used as a punching bag, had barbells dropped on her, forced to masturbate in front of them, inserted foreign objects into both her vagina and anus including a light bulb that was blistering hot from being on at the time of insertion, fireworks inserted into her mouth ears, vagina and anus and then lit. Burnt her vagina and clitoris with cigarettes, burnt her eyes lids with hot wax, tore off one of her nipples but not before piercing her nipples with sewing needles.

Other than begging the family to help, the police were contacted twice about what was happening but they failed both times. The first came from a young man who was invited over to Minato's home where he witnessed the young girl and told his brother who turned around and told his own parents. They contacted the police but when they arrived at the Minato's home, they were told that there was no girl inside. Rather insisting that they have a look around, the police accepted this answer and left. The second time Furuta managed to get to a phone herself and call the police but before she could say anything, the men found her and toss back to where she had crawled from. The police did ring back but were told that they were called by mistake. This time, since Furuta had been the one to reach out, they wanted to make sure she never did it again and taught her a lesson by pouring lighter fluid on the young woman's legs and setting them ablaze.

Over the course of the 44 days she in pain, swollen and belittled and just wanted it to end, begging for the men to "Get it over with and kill her." Due to the severe abuse, Furuta eventually loses control of her bladder and bowel control, to which she was beaten for soiling the floor but even during the trial one of the men explained that it took her an hour to crawl to the bathroom. Her body was starting to reject food and even water, both things that she would throw up and also be beaten for. Over time her body had become broken down, battered and bruised as well as starting to give off a rotting smell. This caused the boys to lose their interest in her sexual and they then kidnapped and gang raped a 19-year-old woman who, like Furuta, was headed home from work. Nothing else is known about the young woman's fate but they return to home to Furuta in the end.

On January 4th, 1989, the boys challenged Furuta to a game of Mahjong; a tile-based game that she apparently one. This would be her final victory in her life. Enraged that she had won over them, the boy beat her with a barbell, kicked and punched her then forced candles into her eyes where it would burn her eyelids. Afterward, they had her stand and allowed them to hit her legs and feet with a stick, that caused her to fall and start to have convulsions. She was covered in infected burns and bleeding profusely, the boys covered their hands with plastic bags that they taped at the wrist so that that they wouldn't have to touch her as they continued to beat her. A heavy exercise ball was dropped on her stomach many times, she set on fire again and although she tried to put herself out it was fruitless. Slowly but surely, Furuta became unresponsive and only lasted another 2 hours before her body

couldn't take the abuse any longer and died. The young life was gone after surviving 44 days of one of the worst accounts of abuse that I can think of. As if her prolonged death wasn't bad enough, they humiliated her still after the life had left her eyes.

Less than a day later, the brother of Minato called and said that it appeared that Furuta seemed to be dead. 44 days after she was taken Junko Furuta was finally released from *her* prison. Fearful of being caught they took their young victim and placed her in a travel bag and then out her body in a 55-gallon oil drum and filled it with concrete. They then disposed of the drum into a cement truck.

Two weeks later both Miyano and Ogura was arrested on another rape charge and while in interrogation, the detective mentioned another open murder case and worried that he was talking about Furuta, Ogura spilled a confession while Miyano explained to the police where they could find her body. All 4 men were arrested but even though they admitted to such horrible crimes against someone, they received light sentences. If the case alone wasn't enough to put your stomach into knots and enrage you, then the sentencing surely will.

The ringleader, Miyano was given 20 years, the hardest punishment next to life in prison. He was released but again arrested in 2013 on fraud charges only to be released due to lack of evidence. At the time of the murder, Miyano was 17-years-old. Minato was given 5-9 years; he was 16-years-old at the time of the murder and once released it is said that he moved in with his mother and nothing else has been known about him since. Ogura, who was also 17-year-old at the time of the murder, served only eight years in juvenile prison and after his release was said to have bragged about the rape/murder of the young girl. He was again arrested in 2004 after assaulting Takatoshi Isono, someone he thought this girlfriend had been involved with. Watanabe, who at first got the lightest sentencing only to have it bumped up to where he was at 5-7 years, was also 17-years-old at the time and once released married a woman but we know nothing more.

The sentences that were carried out were widely thought to have been far too light for such acts that were carried out towards the young woman. The four men were protected by special provisions that were for criminals ages 18 and under, however, if they had been only a few years older Miyano surely would have been sentenced to capital punishment while the others would have gotten life in prison. During the trial, the judge talked about the brutality of the crime and the sorrow from someone who lost their lives at such a young age. After going through the details of the crime, it's said that people in the courtroom fainted and Furuta's mother had a mental breakdown; requiring her to get treatment.

Junko Furuta's funeral was held on April 2nd, 1989 and was met with kind words and sad faces from friends and her family. Her former employer gave her uniform to her family to which they placed it in the coffin with the young woman's body.

They laid their daughter, the light of their lives to rest after knowing everything that she had gone through. Junko Furuta was taken in the night and tortured for days, for hours and for minutes where she started off strong only to be broken down, begging for her life to be taken by the men who held her life in their hands. There is the saying that everything happens for a reason; it's hard to believe that when something like this happens. What was the reason for this beautiful, kind and smart young woman to be

raped and killed after a grueling 44 days? There wasn't any. In the end, the bad guys didn't get away with it and yet it still felt as if justice wasn't served with the light punishments that they each got. For this one, I personally believe that there should have been an exception to the rule and all given harshest degree of punishment possible. If there were any that held any amount of guilt after this, and I hope at least some of them did, that is punishment but for at least two of the four, there seemed to be no love lost, no guilt held for stripping the world of such a bright light.

As always, thank you for reading and there are pictures below so you can what who you've been ready about. Just like the Likens case, this one was difficult but it needed to be covered because it's tragic and it's hard to believe, even though you know so many bad cases out there, as do I, there is one still this sadistic and cruel towards one person alone.

Ali



Junko Furuta; this the most popular and known picture of the young victim



The four men that took the 17-year-old Junko and held her for 44 days of pure hell.



Minato's home where Junko was kept at during her final days