


Ushiku Film: *Press Portal*

 *Recommended Reading*

Schilling, M. “Detained but not silent-Stories from inside Japan’s immigration centers” in *The Japan Times*, June 11, 2021.

Mark Schilling takes a behind-the-scenes foray into the methods used to access Ushiku’s detention center, film detainees, and gather video evidence of abuses.

Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/culture/2021/06/11/films/ushiku-documentary-immigration-centers/?fbclid=IwAR31VIYL6YerJUqXYiU3ayytG7FX4p8u1ResUR4NSES1HiSaMjGXAbI3mY>

PDF: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jc9BzBsM2yDbtBdFUJYdAWdNDwrrbOHw/view?usp=sharing>

 *Recommended Reading*

Yukinao, K. “Horrible ‘hospitality’: Detainees talk about reality of Japan immigration facility in film” in *The Mainichi*, July 2, 2021.

In an interview with the director, Yukinao Kin explores Thomas Ash’s motivations to make the documentary and spread awareness of the workings of Japan’s immigration system.

Source: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210701/p2a/00m/0na/020000c>

PDF: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y1NjjXHfEQFjll6MO40N7HZf10DvyiC/view?usp=sharing>

 *Recommended Reading*

Doi, T. “Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival Review 6 ‘Ushiku,’” on *Facebook*, October 15, 2021.

The documentary film “Ushiku” documents the severe situation of asylum seekers in Japan, which has been neglected by Japanese citizens for a long time. The director’s attitude towards the participants is more than as simply an interviewer, but he treats them as people whose human rights and dignity were taken away. “If political pressure is hindering this film from receiving its deserved recognition here in Japan,” writes journalist and documentary filmmaker Toshikuni Doi in this statement, “then I hope film festivals abroad will see its real worth.”

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/toshikuni.doi/posts/10226341053528550>

PDF: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PEGVxOjOSKmXFeDAQps45XdpXcz_7jmw/view?usp=sharing



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“In the land of humanity, now” in the *Catholic Shimbun*, October 10, 2021.

This article explores violations of the human rights of undocumented foreigners depicted in the documentary film “Ushiku.” Japanese immigration policy allows the immigration detention facility to detain undocumented foreigners for an indefinite period of time and exposes detainees to the neglect of medical care, violence, and verbal abuse. Director Thomas visited the Ushiku immigrant detention facility and felt a mission from God to take more direct means to solve this issue than doing only visitations. Although the media criticised Thomas for breaking the rules and filming with a hidden camera, asylum seekers who appeared in the film defended Thomas and declared that they want people to realise the injustice and violation of human rights happening in Japan through the film.

PDF: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DhxfVZJPwkSnYqXTgWyUJJhJPhYHugpZ/view?usp=sharing>