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## Editing Masumi Hayashi (poisoner)



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{{nihongo|''Masumi Hayashi''|林 真須美|Hayashi Masumi|born [[July 22]], [[1961]]}} is a [[Japanese people|Japanese]] woman convicted of putting [[poison]] in a pot of [[curry]] being served at a 1998 summer [[matsuri|festival]] in the [[Sonobe (Wakayama)|Sonobe]] district of [[Wakayama, Wakayama|Wakayama]], [[Wakayama Prefecture]], [[Japan]].
```

==Summary==

A communal pot of curry being served to residents of **Sonobe district**, Wakayama, was poisoned with at least 1000 grams of arsenic--enough to kill over 100 people, on July 25, 1998.

Two children and two adults quickly sickened and died after consuming the curry, and sixty-three others suffered from acute [[arsenic]] poisoning. The dead included the council president and vice president of Wakayama (64-year old Takatoshi Taninaka and 53-year old Takaaki Tanaka), as well as 10 year-old Hiroataka Hayashi and 16-year old Miyuki Torii.<ref name="JapanTimesLawsuit">{{cite web|url=http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20030312a8.html|title=Curry victims' kin sue convicted poisoner|publisher=[[The Japan Times]]|date=2003-03-12|accessdate=2008-03-23}}</ref>

Attention quickly focused on the then 37 year old Hayashi, as she was seen by a witness at the curry dish, and she had easy access to arsenic because her husband was an exterminator. After her arrest, she and her husband were indicted on a number of insurance fraud charges as well. Her husband has since been convicted and imprisoned for insurance fraud. Prior to the murders, Masumi had been an insurance saleswoman. Masumi was also tried with three other attempted murders via poisoning that had occurred during the past 10 years, with the motive in those cases being life insurance benefits. She is believed to have tried to kill her husband at least once. The motive of the mother of four in this case is said to be anger at her neighbors for shunning her family. The arsenic found in the curry was identical to arsenic she had in her own home from her husband's extermination business.



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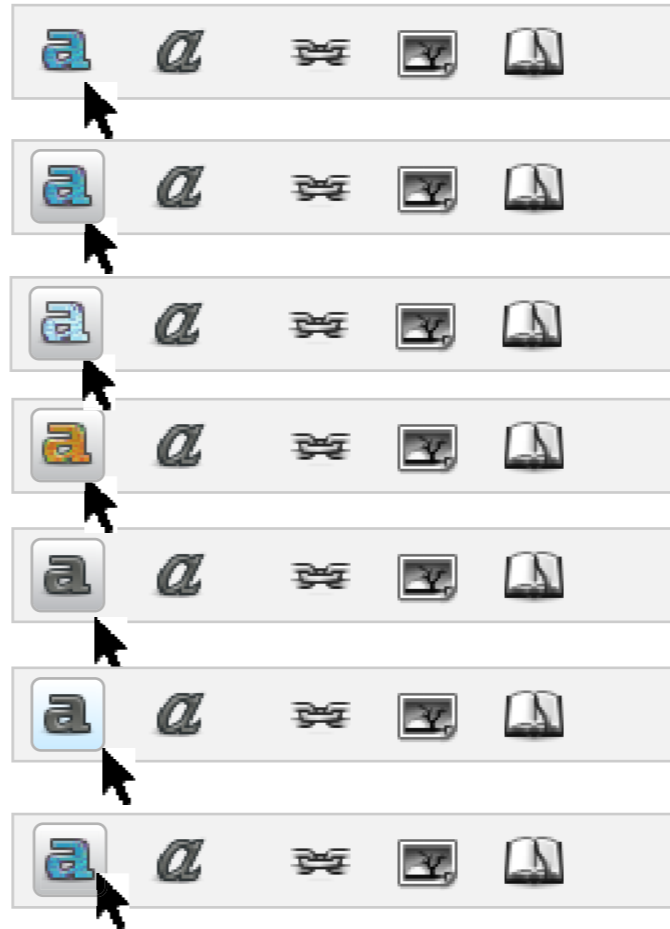
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