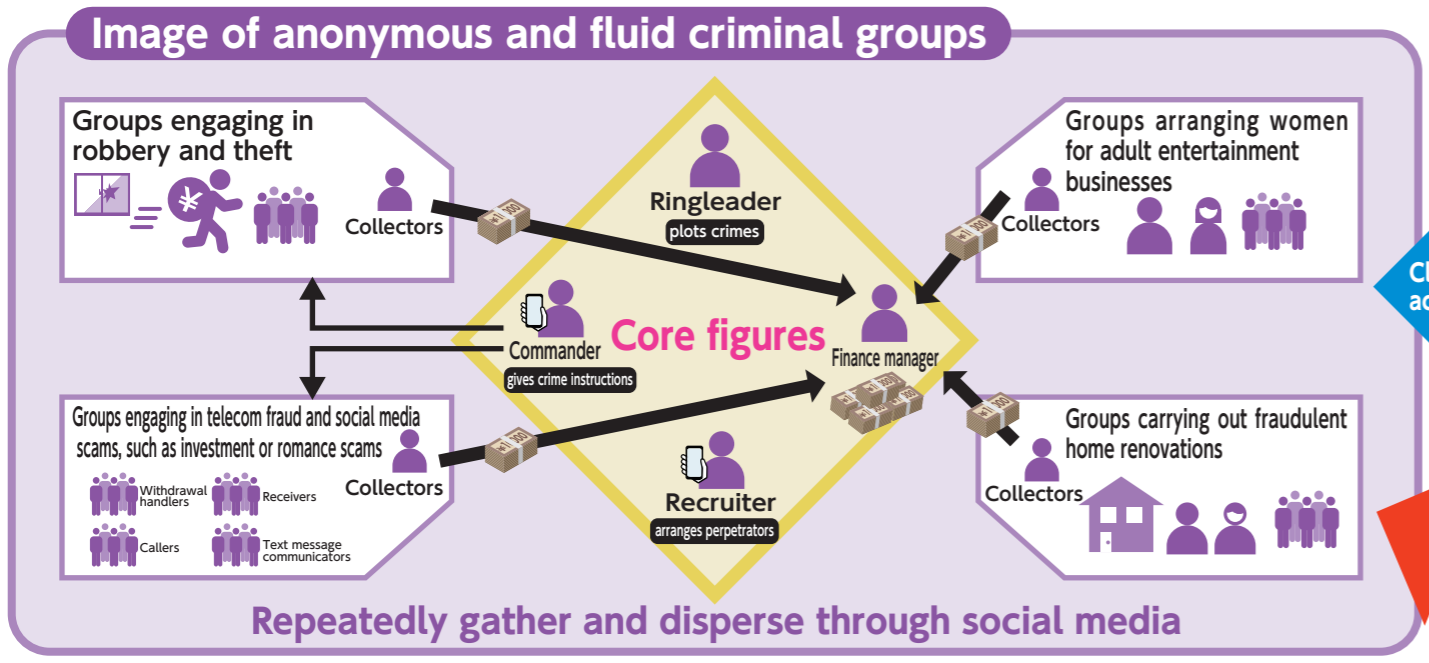


FEATURE ARTICLE: COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST ANONYMOUS AND FLUID CRIMINAL GROUPS

To strengthen countermeasures against anonymous and fluid criminal groups, the TMPD implemented a structural change in October 2025.



Establishment of the Anonymous and Fluid Criminal Group Task Force

- The Telecom Fraud Task Force was restructured, and the Anonymous and Fluid Criminal Group Task Force was newly established. The new task force acts as a central command center to collect and analyze related information, select enforcement targets, and implement various countermeasures.
- If related to these groups, information on dishonest host clubs, cybercrime, and other activities will also be collected and analyzed to build strategies for dismantling illegal business models.

The Criminal Investigation Bureau and the Organized Crime Control Bureau were merged. The new Criminal Investigation Bureau houses the newly-established Special Investigation Division.

- The two bureaus were merged in order to comprehensively exercise investigative capabilities according to the actual state of crimes without being bound by existing crime categories or offender attributes.
- The new Criminal Investigation Bureau established the Special Investigation Division, which broadly handles investigations into cases involving anonymous and fluid criminal groups, with a focus on telecom fraud.

What are anonymous and fluid criminal groups?

These are groups that commit crimes such as telecom fraud, robbery, and theft on a wide scale by recruiting perpetrators through social media or job search sites. Such groups repeatedly gather and disperse through loose connections via social media. They conceal their activities by subdividing roles while taking advantage of highly anonymous communication tools. Using funds accumulated through illegal profit-making activities, they expand into further illegal activities or business operations such as the adult entertainment businesses, thereby anonymizing and concealing their actual operations.

Countermeasures against anonymous and fluid criminal groups

In October 2025, the TMPD established the Anonymous and Fluid Criminal Group Task Force to strengthen its measures. As the command center, it centrally collects and analyzes related information from each division, selects enforcement targets, formulates strategies, and coordinates with divisions to promote countermeasures. After collecting, integrating and analyzing information, the circumstances of each region are taken into account, and groups that should truly be subject to enforcement are selected. At the same time, measures for downtown and entertainment districts are intensified, and all applicable laws are utilized in crackdowns. The Anonymous and Fluid Criminal Group Task Force was established by reorganizing the Telecom Fraud Task Force. Countermeasures against telecom fraud continue to be carried out. Financial losses stemming from telecom fraud, including social media-based investment and romance scams, reached a record high of 34 billion yen in Tokyo last year. We ask for your cooperation in preventing victimization and apprehending offenders, with reference to the Telecom Fraud Eradication Action Program Tokyo.



Arrests in cases involving anonymous and fluid criminal groups

A series of incidents committed by anonymous and fluid criminal groups, such as the robbery-homicide in Komae City, Tokyo, in January 2023, worsened the public's sense of security. The TMPD has treated countermeasures against anonymous and fluid criminal groups as the top public safety issue and has strengthened enforcement. As for wide-area robbery cases, a joint investigation task force was established, and as of June 11, 2025, 51 suspects had been arrested in connection with 18 cases.



In addition, the TMPD made arrests for a range of crimes committed by anonymous and fluid criminal groups, including "scout groups for adult entertainment businesses" and "groups engaging in fraudulent home renovations." The TMPD continues to make full use of its organizational strength in order to eradicate anonymous and fluid criminal groups. The TMPD is dedicated to responding effectively to ever-changing security situation, devoting all efforts in ensuring the safety and security of Tokyo residents.

Scan the 2-D bar code for more information on telecom frauds and how to avoid them (only in Japanese).

Scan the 2-D bar code for more information on Telecom Fraud Eradication Action Program Tokyo (only in Japanese).

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