

Justice and Order: Part 8

New Zealand is blessed with green natural beauty. It is comparative in dimensions to Japan and is an agricultural nation. Recently, there has not been just an increase in the amount of Japanese tourists to the country, there has also been greater numbers of Japanese people migrating to New Zealand. The most valuable exports are dairy products followed by building materials.

New Zealand is also famous for its ski resorts. Many tourists also come from overseas to enjoy inexpensive activities such as bungee jumping and hot air ballooning. Why is it that these activities are considered inexpensive?

Several decades ago, the New Zealand government significantly amended laws relating to injuries and accidents. Previously, like in Australia, if someone was injured in a traffic accident they were able to claim directly against the perpetrator. Now, the New Zealand government, instead of the perpetrator compensates the victim.

This system emerged from a context where perpetrators were made bankrupt (including voluntarily) and were unable to compensate victims adequately. In order to relieve these victims, the New Zealand government became the one-stop point of collection for compensation.

It was as if perpetrators could now escape from the threat of civil litigation. Accordingly, the economic burden was lifted off those who cause accidents. Operating costs were also decreased. Should we consider a country whose government guarantees everything to be a same country for victims? In this case, why is it necessary for travelers from overseas to obtain travel insurance for such a country?

The New Zealand government compensation guarantee applies only in matters domestically. That is to say, if a foreign traveler is injured in a traffic accident, their hospitalization and surgery costs will be covered by the government, however, once departing from New Zealand, subsequent costs are no longer compensated.

Skiing in New Zealand without appropriate insurance coverage could be considered akin to suicide. The New Zealand government greatly amended the law in order to relieve citizens, however, what does this mean for foreigners? Are foreigners being given the message to obtain adequate insurance before they enter the country?

Is New Zealand a safe country for citizens but a dangerous country for foreigners?