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A spokesperson for Japan Tobacco said the issue had been resolved.

"These matters have all been properly addressed and handled within JTI in line with our overall stance towards anti-illicit trade and my understanding is that it has been all solved or addressed already as far as JTI is concerned," said Hideyuki Yamamoto, a spokesperson for Japan Tobacco, in Tokyo.

He said the information contained in the OCCRP report had been circulated for the past two years or so by people believed to have been fired by JTI.

The OCCRP report said JTI officials at its headquarters in Geneva declined to answer specific questions, but said a former employee was spreading false information.

(Additional reporting by James Topham in TOKYO; Editing by Raju Gopalakrishnan and Ed Lane)
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