



BURAKU LIBERATION NEWS NO. 2

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**THE SAYAMA CASE: Why Doesn't the Court Investigate the Truth?
— We Protest the Refusal of Our Demand for Retrial—**

The Court Neglected the National Opinion

On March 25, the Tokyo High Court suddenly announced their decision of turning down our formal objection against the former rejection of retrial of the Sayama Case. This shows that the court ignored violently the requests by many Japanese citizens led by the Buraku Liberation League that the court should reinvestigate the proofs. We wonder why the Tokyo High Court hurried to reject the retrial without doing any reinvestigation of the truth which is a common process for the other cases asking the retrial. Their obstinate attitude to reject the reinvestigation of the truth makes us the public think that they are afraid of revealing the truth that Mr. Ishikawa is innocent.

The Court Pretends Ignorance of the Newly Discovered Proofs

In March, 1979, it turned out that the date on the blackmail letter which had been believed to be April 28 before was not April 28 but April 29. However the court dared not to investigate the truth. Since then the public opinion including the mass media began to doubt such an obstinate attitude of the court. For instance, when the demand of retrial was rejected on February 7, 1980, the Asahi, one of the major newspapers in Japan, criticized the court in its column by stating that the court should have listened to the explanation of the new proof from Mr. Ishikawa himself.

"There Are Questions Yet to Be Answered," The Court Admitted,
But Turned Down Our DemandWhy?

The court decision this time admitted there were some misjudgments concerning the rewritten date on the blackmail letter and acceptance of new evidence, however, it evaded criticism by many people saying "Nothing seems to require reinvestigation of various evidence against the decision by the Tokyo High Court."

Can such a decision be accepted? The attitude of the Tokyo High Court should be criticized as undemocratic, which won't seek the truth while admitting the existence of some problems.

To the Supreme Court

Decisions of starting retrial have been made on the Murder Case of Radio Dealer in Tokushima, Saitagawa Case, Menda Case and Matsuyama Case. And this lets us feel the growing possibility of retrials. But the Sayama Case is not among them. Investigation of facts was turned down by the wicked intention by the rulers.

The defense council for the Sayama Case immediately decided to



make a special request for the retrial to the Supreme Court on Mar.30. We have a lot of evidence to prove innocence of Mr. Kazuo Ishikawa. The defense council is now demanding the Tokyo High Prosecutor's Office to show the 69 pieces of evidence to make clear his innocence.

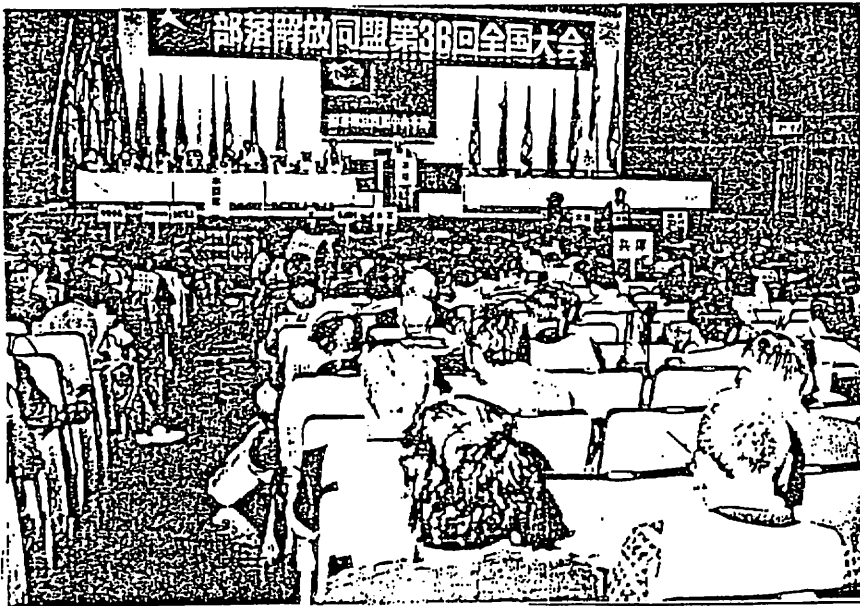
We the Buraku Liberation League are determined to fight till we win with workers and citizens. We heartily call for your support.

BURAKU LIBERATION LEAGUE CONVENED 36th NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 36th National Convention of the BLL was held in Tokyo with nearly 1,000 participants including representatives of its local branches for three days from Mar.2 to 4.

Among the invited guests were, chairman of the Japan Socialist Party, representatives of the Democratic Socialist Party, the Komei Party and the Social Democratic Federation, representatives of many labor unions, Governor of Tokyo, a famous writer, Hiroshi Noma, and other distinguished persons.

Activities in 1980 were reported and the movement policy for 1981 was presented on the first day. On the second day, the new policy was discussed at the three divided meetings. Reports of the divided discussions were given to the whole participants, another discussion was made there, resolutions were adopted and new leaders were elected on the last day.





Outline of the Movement Policy Resolved at the 36th National Convention of the Buraku Liberation League

Firstly concerning the international situation, we must be convinced that the movements are advancing for peace and protection of human rights and against discrimination in solidarity with racial liberation movements and socialist circles, though it is often referred to with such words as "uncertainty" and "opacity." And at the same time we must recognize that the imperialist circles are plotting to prevail over socialist circles even by means of war. So we need the solution of the internal conflicts of socialist circles and solidarity of all the democratic circles against imperialism and for peace.

Secondly the problems concerning the domestic situation since the defeat of reformist parties in the double-election last June. Reactionary trend has been accelerated further more rapidly than ever. Japan seems to be growing as a militaristic big power from an economic big power, strengthening the Japan-U.S. Peace Treaty System and the anti-Soviet strategy claiming the "nothern threat." Military budgets have been given special superiority and reconstruction of finance has been sought at the mercy of the life of citizens in the compilation of the national budget for fiscal 1981. So we call for the strengthening of our movement through the formation of activists claiming for peace, welfare, betterment of life and human rights protection.

Thirdly, we consider 1981, the previous year of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Levelor's Association (Suiheisha), as "the crucial year for the strengthening of our organization and development of our movement." We are seeking the progress of our three major struggles. Especially the struggle for the reenforcement and revision of the Special Law on Dōwa Measures is now facing the open oppression by the ruling party LDP who intends to annul the law. It can be referred to as a form of implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights. And it is jointly advanced with struggles for the retrial of the Sayama Case, against discrimination cases as the distribution of "Buraku Lists" (Chimei Sōkan) and for the reenforcement of our organization.

Struggles are now advancing for the legislation of the Hibakusha (A-bomb victims) Protection Law, revision of the Retrial Law, abolition of the clause concerning nationalities based on the principle of equality of all the nationalities, ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and legislation of the law on equality of both sexes, realization of the action programs for the full participation and equality of the disabled and recapture of the right to strike by official workers.

We are convinced that our struggle will undoubtedly win if we press on the LDP and the government, disclosing the repeated wicked discrimination cases throughout Japan and requiring them to fairly cope with these cases, in solidarity with other such struggles.

We must fight with all our might throughout this year so that we may welcome the 60th anniversary of the Levelor's Association with a clear view for our liberation at last.

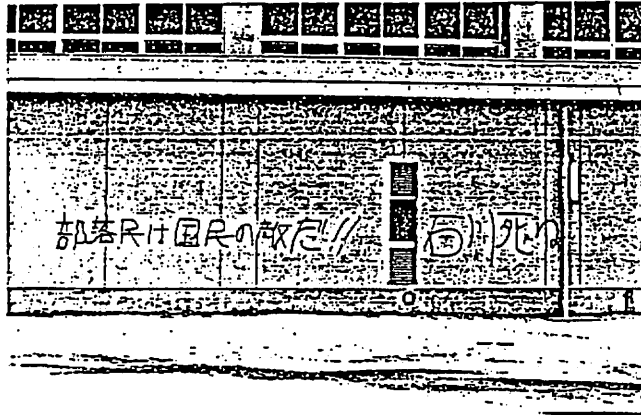


A MEETING CONVENED TO GATHER DISCRIMINATORY REALITIES

Amid the development of the movements for the reenforcement and revision of the Special Law on Dowa Measures inside and outside the Diet, a national meeting to gather discriminatory realities was held at the medium-sized hall of the Japan Youth Center in Tokyo on Feb.26 with the 200 participants concerned with administration, education, religion, management of enterprizes for Buraku liberation and members of the BLL.

The Central Joint Struggle Congress for Buraku Liberation, which organized the national survey groups, reported on undesignated areas, labor, industry, life and discrimination cases. Other reports were; the National Dowa Education Research Council on education, the Buraku Liberation Research Institute on discrimination in employment, marriage, region, working place, administration, religion and scribbling and the Local Official Workers Union on discrimination concerning administration.

This meeting was held by the Central Executive Committee of the National Movement for the Reenforcement and Revision of the Special Law on Dowa Measures. Participants improved their understanding about discrimination against Burakumin and confirmed the urgent necessity of the reenforcement and revision of the Special Law.



Derogatory scribblings were scribbled by a prejudiced person on the walls of the public buildings in some burakus. This one says, "Burakumin is the national enemy! Kill Ishikawa!".



QUESTIONS CENTERED FOR THE REENFORCEMENT AND REVISION OF THE SPECIAL LAW ON DŌWA MEASURES AT THE 94th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE DIET

Questions were given at the Lower House Budget Committee from Jan.28 to Mar.7 this year. 23 representatives of the JSP, two of the Komei Party and one DSP representative, totaling 26, gave 35 questions demanding the immediate reenforcement and revision of the Special Law on Dōwa Measures to cope with the depressed situation of Burakus and increasing discrimination cases.

However, the government did not make clear their view saying "We should like to make our decision concerning the Special Law at the compilation of the rough budget for the fiscal 1982 after fully grasping the realities" (Director General, Taro Nakayama, at the Lower House on Mar.17, 1981) while replying "Considering the fact of repeated discrimination cases, the ideal society without discrimination which is mentioned in the Special Law is far ahead of us." (Director General, Taro Nakayama, at the Upper House on Mar.18, 1981)

But more than half of the representatives of both houses, nearly 400, have signed their names demanding the reenforcement and revision of the Special Law and more than 1,100 local diets have passed resolutions for it.

Reenforcement and revision of the Special Law is the urgent need for the abolition of discrimination against Burakumin and it is a form of implementation of the International Covenants.

Question Ministers on Their Basic Attitude Towards Discrimination Cases

A socialist representative, Toshimi Kawamoto, questioned at the Lower House Budget Committee on Feb.23.

Kawamoto: How did you deal with the Yasuda Trust Bank? (It purchased the Buraku List to reject Burakumin.)

Labor Minister Fujio: We called the responsible persons including the president and ordered them to write letters of apology.

Kawamoto: What do you think of the discrimination in employment by the Fukuoka Social Insurance and Medical Association?

Welfare Minister Sonoda: It is too wicked to imagine. We deeply regret it and never leave it as it is as the responsible ministry in charge.

Kawamoto: What do you think of the fact that many financial agencies are among these who purchased Buraku Lists.

Finance Minister Watanabe: It is undoubtedly against the common sense. We regret that such enterprises do work in the present society of democratic age. We will cope with it sincerely.

Kawamoto: Order them to submit letters of apology.

Fujio: I promised that such cases shall be rooted out. I will take the responsibility and implement effective measures to root them out. I will dare give up my position if I fail.



Kawamoto: Is there any law which controls the Fukuoka Case?

A member of a Justice Ministry: We can only enlighten and reform the consciousness of such discriminated companies.

Kawamoto: In the last Diet session, the chief of the employment security bureau replied that the clauses 3 and 4 of the Special Law prohibit discrimination in employment against people from Dōwa districts, didn't he?

Fujio: Yes, he did. He meant that the Special Law is one of the domestic laws to generalize the stipulations of the constitution.

Kawamoto: Is it really possible to root out such discrimination cases under this situation?

Justice Minister Okuno: Unreasonable cases are happening. I'm very sorry for it. Not only laws but also reforms of consciousness of the people are needed. Justice Ministry will make our special efforts.

Labor Minister, Fujio, Meets Mr.S

After the questions were over, Labor Minister, Fujio, talked with Mr.S, whose employment was nullified as a result of the investigation on his identification as a Burakumin by the Fukuoka Social Insurance and Medical Association. (so-called the Fukuoka Discrimination Case) Labor Minister Fujio expressed as follows: "Politics is to blame concerning the discrimination against Burakumin. This is a typical example of discrimination which all the citizens pay attention to. Inadequate efforts will not bear anything. I would like to tackle with this case to be solved respecting the wish of Mr. S. I will do my utmost. If a similar case occurs again, I will quit my position as Minister."

DISCRIMINATORY REMARKS AT THE WCRP CONFIRMED AND ACCUSED —
 — MACHIDA ATTENDED THE MEETING AND APOLOGIZED FOR HIS REMARKS

The impeachment meeting was held at the Buraku Liberation Center on Jan.19 against the former derector-general of religious affairs of the Sōtō sect, , who made the wicked discriminatory remarks at the third World Conference of Religionists for Peace in Princeton, USA, in the summer before last stating "Buraku problem does not exist in Japan today. Only there are some people who make a fuss about it." The impeachment meeting was full of anger and attended by representatives of prefectural branch offices of the BLL.

himself apologized at the meeting confessing "I'm very sorry for all what I did. When I made the remarks the year before last, I was not aware of the importance of Buraku problem and didn't have a correct understanding of it. Since I was accused by the Buraku Liberation League, I have learnt about it from other people and books for about a year. I know now how wrong I was and I would like to do the utmost as a religionist." But his own concept of Buraku problem is not adequate yet and the discriminatory nature of the Sōtō sect is still to be reformed



DOMESTIC LAWS SHOULD BE REVISED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INT'L COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

A socialist representative, Takumi Ueda, questioned Foreign Minister, Ito, at the second sub-committee of the budget committee on Feb.27.

Mr. Ueda revealed that completely wrong and discriminatory descriptions have been found in various books which introduce Buraku problem abroad and that even the pamphlet in English issued by the Foreign Ministry doesn't admit the existence of minority problems in Japan without any reference to the Ainu problem and the discrimination against Korean residents in Japan. He criticized it and demanded the complete implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the reenforcement and revision of the Special Law on Dōwa Measures.

Foreign Minister, Ito, promised that he would make efforts to promote an international enlightenment campaign and consider the possibility of holding the session of the Commission on Minority Problems of the U.N. in Japan. He also said he would tackle with discrimination problems as long as they exist.



CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA REQUESTED JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER
FOR THE LIBERATION OF BURAKUMIN

Christian Conference of Asia, held at Berastagi in Indonesia from March 6 to 14, 1981, adopted the request for supporting the Buraku liberation movement and advanced it to the Japanese government, Prime Minister Suzuki. They also collected the signatures of 25 participants in the conference who were the delegates from India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan and Hong Kong. The request letter states as follows:

Mr. Suzuki Zenko
Prime Minister, of Japan
Prime Minister's House
Maeda-cho, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo, Japan

March 13, 1981

Dear Prime Minister,

We, who are struggling against discrimination and injustices in respective Asian societies, gathered together at Berastagi, North Sumatra, Indonesia from March 6 to 14, 1981. Among various reports presented at the Forum was the one made by a Japanese delegate on the situation of Buraku discrimination which has continued to exist in Japan over the last 400 years.

The Japanese government published a report in 1965 of the Integration Policy Deliberation Committee, in which it pointed out that the situation of Buraku discrimination is the responsibility of national and local governments as well as the task of the whole nation. In 1969 the "Special Law on Dōwa Measures" was enacted for a period of 10 years, which was subsequently extended another 3 years up till 1982. It was reported, however, today only 40% of the originally planned projects have been implemented. We have also heard that many Japanese corporations purchased "Buraku Lists" (Directories of Buraku Place Names) as a means to segregate Burakumin from the mainstream of work places.

We feel indignant at the ways the Burakumin are discriminated against in the Japanese society and at the same time strongly support the struggle of the Burakumin for their civil and other basic rights.

For the above reasons we earnestly request the Japanese government to strengthen and extend the Special Law on Dōwa Measures which is vital for the liberation of Burakumin. We further request the Japanese government to implement whatever necessary legislations which will guarantee fundamental human rights to the Burakumin suffering discrimination.

Sincerely yours,

Participants, People's Forum on Land
People and Justice, Berastagi, Indonesia

Christian Conference of Asia also offered the similar request to Rev. Niwano Nikkei, Chairman of the Japanese Committee of World Conference on Religion for Peace.