



# BURAKU LIBERATION NEWS NO. 3

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## APPEAL

We pay our deep respects to all the people who have devoted themselves to the realization of world peace and human rights protection. We are asking you to extend your support to our important struggle to reinforce and revise the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects.

Burakus in Japan are in severe conditions still today. When compared to the national average, the unemployment rate of Burakumin is ten fold, the rate of those on relief is eight fold. There are comparatively a larger number of inferior houses and their jobs and life are getting more unstable under the long-lasting depression.

Wicked discrimination cases are increasing recently. The number of purchasers of discriminatory Buraku lists which disclose the location of Burakus for the purpose of rejecting Burakumin from employment and marriage occasions amounts to 219 including big enterprises. Such fascism-oriented scribblings are openly written on walls or notice boards as "Send Burakumin to concentration camps and to gas chambers," and "Burakumin are enemies. Kill them." And we are much worried about the reviving neo-nazism in Europe in recent days.

Considering such a situation, we cannot let the Japanese government and the ruling LDP avoid their responsibility to solve the Dōwa problem by putting an end to the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects which we won with a view to eliminating discrimination after a long struggle. We are now struggling for the reinforcement and revision of the Law jointly with labor unions, religionists, enterprizes, scholars, intellectuals and others. Four hundred and twenty two of all the 757 Diet members, 1244 local governments and more than 90 presidents of universities and colleges have already approved for the reinforcement and revision of the Special Law. However, the government and the LDP have not show us their intention yet, while they are plotting to strengthen the arms build-up to make this country a military big power by limiting human rights and welfare.

Under such a situation of Japan our struggle to reinforce



and revise the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects is facing difficulties. Its realization will greatly contribute not only to elimination of discrimination against Burakumin but also to development of peace and human rights protection in the whole world. And this is a concrete implementation of the stipulations of the United Nations International Covenants on Human Rights. We heartily wish all of you who make much of peace and human rights to support our struggle.

We would appreciate it very much if you could do the following support.

a) To send a request to Prime Minister, Mr. Zenkō Suzuki to demand reinforcement and revision of the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects and legislation of the Basic Law for Dōwa Projects. (Please send a copy of your letter to Prime Minister Suzuki to our institute then.)

b) To write articles on the Buraku problem in Japan referring to the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects in magazines or newspapers which you are affiliated to in order to organize favorable opinions for the solution of the problem. (It would be appreciated if you will let our institute know about your introductory activities of the Buraku problem in your country.)

c) To make people in the world aware of the Buraku problem by introducing it in various international conferences on human rights.

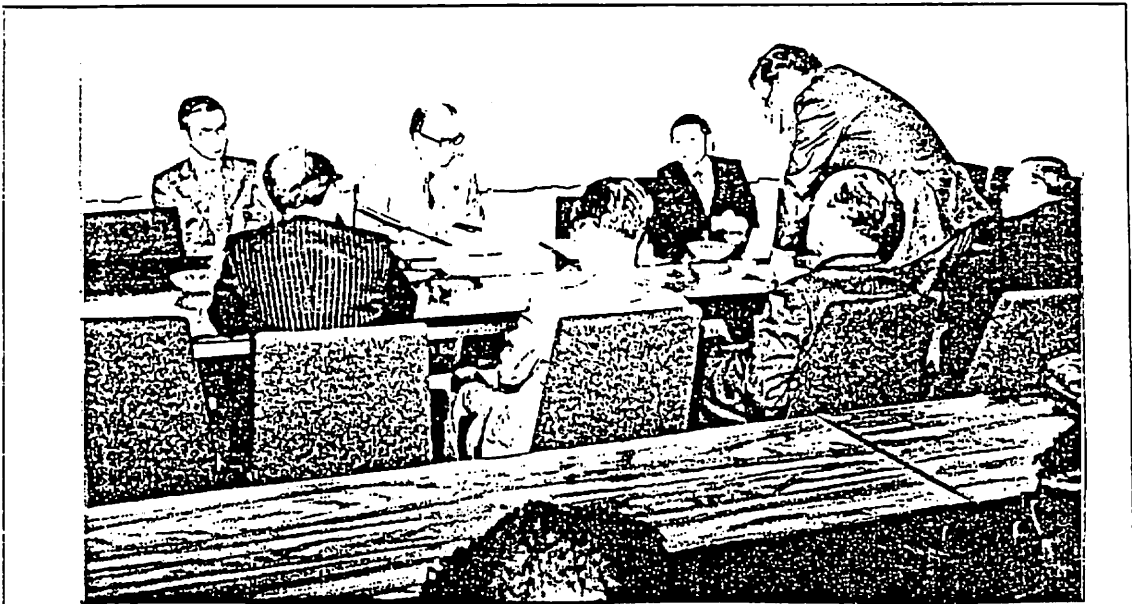
**SCHOLARS AND INTELLECTUALS HELD A NATIONAL MEETING DEMANDING REINFORCEMENT AND REVISION OF THE LAW ON SPECIAL MEASURES FOR DŌWA PROJECTS ON APRIL 16**

The meeting was the first one of this kind held in Tokyo and started by a greeting remark by president Isomura of Toyo University, an organizer of this meeting. He pointed out the fact that the Buraku problem is not nationally tackled with yet and stated that the reinforcement and revision of the Law should be another start towards this aim.

Mr. Shinnen Tagaya, the chief secretary of the Socialist Party, came and demanded us to wake up more public opinions. Mr. Uesugi, chief secretary of the Buraku Liberation League, revealed the immediate plans of their activities and strongly called for the support by intellectuals.



After the key-note speech given by Mr. Tomohiko Harada, Director general of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute, Prof. Kazuo Ueda of Osaka City University reported the situation and problems of discrimination against Buraku. This report was followed by the following speeches; "The present situation of the discriminatory books called 'Buraku lists' and problems caused by them," by Kenzō Tomonaga, vice secretary general of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute, "Repeated discrimination cases in universities," by president Murata of Momoyama Gakuin University and "Discrimination cases in the scope of mass media and culture" by Shingo Takasugi, a member of the Conference for Anti-Discrimination Culture.



The representatives of the Scholars and Intellectuals Conference requested the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Nakayama, to reinforce and revise the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects.

Other speakers were Mr. Teruyoshi Taniuchi, chairman of the National Dōwa Education Research Council, Mr. Tatsuru Kigo-shi, chief of Dōwa Projects Advancement Department of Ōtani Sect, Tokugorō Kitajiri, former president of the Japan Federation of



Bars Association, Mr. Katsumi Sugiyama, an editorial staff of Mainichi Newspaper and president Tetsuo Kageyama of Kinki Univ. Prof. Kakuzō Nakamura of Kinki Univ. read the appeal for this meeting which was welcomed by clapping hands by all the participants. After this meeting, Ms. Ineko Sata, a novelist, Mr. Kōta Kodama, former president of Gakushūin Univ. and Mr. Ichitarō Kokubu, a scholar of juvenile literature, gathered at a press interview, while others went over to Prime Minister's Office and Education Ministry to present demands with 1,800 signatures of 90 university presidents and university scholars.

REINFORCEMENT AND REVISION OF THE LAW ON SPECIAL MEASURES FOR DŌWA PROJECTS WERE DEMANDED AT THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' MEETING ON MAY 23

Thirty two governors attended the All-Japan Governors' Meeting at the request of Prime Minister Suzuki. At the meeting, three governors of Osaka, Fukuoka and Ehime prefectures expressed the demand for reinforcement and revision of the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects. They explained the present condition of the problem as follows: "Discrimination against Buraku still reserves problems in many prefectures. The central government should support the local bodies with the legally requested financial aid in two thirds of the whole budget for Dōwa projects of each prefecture, however, in reality, her failure in the support is making the financial burden of the local bodies too heavy.

Prime Minister Suzuki of LDP avoided the direct answer to this request, saying that he will make a decision on this problem in summer July or August. The same positive attitude was also shown at the ordinary session of the Diet where over 40 members presented the questions and demands on the problem. We fear the possibility of cutting off the Law and we must question such a positive attitude of the Japanese government on human rights.



THE SECOND IMPEACHMENT MEET HELD IN TOKYO AGAINST THE DISCRIMINATORY REMARK BY \_\_\_\_\_, FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE JAPAN BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION, JUNE 1

The second impeachment meeting was held by the Central Office of Buraku Liberation League. Matters pointed out were as follows: a) "Syūkyōkai" (world of religion), a religious paper, referred to the first meet as "It seems the four hours of impeachment was full of hear," with their wrong prejudice. b) Discriminatory Buddhist names are still written on tomb stones in many temples. c) "Zen-mon Sōtō Hōga Zenshū" (teachings of Sōtō sect of Zen Buddhism) is a book full of discrimination against Burakumin or lower-class people.— These were all admitted and further efforts were demanded. However, the deeper we look into the background of the discriminatory remark of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ as an individual monk, the more is revealed the discriminatory nature of Japanese religions itself including the Sōtō sect. Long-lasting efforts and a firm solidarity of good-will religionists in the world are needed.

#### CHALLENGE TO THE LIBERATION EDUCATION?

Since May 30 last year, "Eta" has been scribbled seven times on the front of the \_\_\_\_\_ Office of Takatsuki city in Osaka. In October last year, a scribbling "Burakumin" was found on the wall of the residence of a citizen of the same city. Also in the \_\_\_\_\_ Junior Highschool where Buraku children of \_\_\_\_\_ district learn, such discriminatory scribbles have been found as follows: "Eta, Hinin!" (Jan.26), "Kill Ishikawa! Let's discriminate!" (Mar.3), "Association for Discrimination -- Eta, Hinin!" and others.

The association of Burakumin children and students belonging to the Buraku Problem Study Group called the whole students to hold a rally and appealed saying, "Time does not eliminate discrimination. It is our efforts that eliminate it," and "Without being able to point out discrimination, how can all of us live?"

But another discriminatory writings were found on Mar.12 and 18 as if to counter-attack this call. They were written on both sides of reporting papers which were found on the hallway and at the corner of the playground where anybody can easily notice.

**THE DISCRIMINATORY LETTER FOUND ON MARCH 12 IN TAKATSUKI CITY**

"My view on Buraku people — I am a fair general citizen. There are many Burakumin in my junior highschool and I hate them. I feel mad at them. It is not only an opinion of mine but also of other students. The reason why I hate them is that they are always crying 'Help Ishikawa' or 'Eliminate discrimination'. Burakumin! You (Eta and Hinin) are the most wicked, foolish and meanest in this world. Why should we general citizens be worried about discrimination against you Burakumin? It is your problem not ours. You force us to think about it because you are too fool to think it by yourselves, don't you? Buraku Liberation League ... what? Dissolve it immediately! I will never talk to Burakumin (Eta and Hinin)! Because you are no human beings. Burakumin! You are abandoned by others. Ishikawa is guilty, and never innocent. The police has been fair. You (Eta and Hinin) are always committing crimes and the police knows it very well. Many Burakumin are bad and they should be arrested. That is the way to make our school brighter, nicer and cleaner. So kill Burakumin like Ishikawa! If you don't agree with me, come to meet me. Go to hell! Foolish Burakumin! — from a general citizen, a representative of the Junior High."

**OSAKA CITIZENS CONFERENCE ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE EARLY RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, MAY 9**

In 1979 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with the approval of 130 nations and this made clear the perspective of women's liberation and its way. However, in Japan, women's status is still low and their rights are not well guaranteed. Discrimination in employment is conspicuous, women's wages are less than 60% of men's and the gap is growing. The standards of motherhood protection are very low and traditional discrimination and prejudice against women are still deep seated. The conference was formed by women's organizations, labor unions, scholars, members of the Buraku Liberation League and other citizens with a view to conquering these difficult conditions and to demanding the Japanese government to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.



INTRODUCTION OF A NEW BOOK --- "UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE BURAKU PROBLEM IN JAPAN" compiled and published by the Osaka Citizens Conference on the International Covenants on Human Rights.

The Invisible and Visible Minority compiled by Profs. Sueo Murakoshi and I. Roger Yoshino has been the only book that introduces the Buraku problem in English. This is an introductory book on the Buraku problem.

Another book titled Universal Human Rights and the Buraku Problem in Japan, written about the Buraku problem from the perspective of the International Covenants will soon be published in late June. This will be an intermediate book to learn about the Buraku problem in Japan. Its contents are as follows:

Chapter I "The Present Condition of the Buraku Problem in Japan"

Discrimination against Buraku -- Present Conditions and Problems to be Solved / Protecting World Peace and Human Rights -- To the Forefront against the Reactionary Trend / A. Note on the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects / Ishikawa is Innocent!  
-- The Sayama Case / Buraku Lists / A. General Introduction to the Dōwa Districts in Osaka Area



Chapter II "The Buraku Problem as Viewed from Foreign Countries"

The Buraku Problem as Viewed from U.S.A./ France / India / Austria / U.S.S.R.

Chapter III "Discrimination and Human Rights in Various Countries"

International Society and Human Rights in the Eighties / The Reports from U.S.A. / France / India / Austria / U.K. / Japan

Appendices

Agenda of the International Symposium on Human Rights / Its Appeal / The World Declaration of Human Rights / The International Covenants on Human Rights / The Declaration of the Levelers Association / Preamble of the Buraku Liberation League / A Selection from the Dōwa Policy Council Report / The Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects / Glossary / Chronology of the Buraku Liberation Movement

I will be happy if you are interested in the book and order to the Buraku Liberation Research Institute soon. Its estimated price is US\$ 10 (postal charge not included.)

CENTRAL RALLY HELD DEMANDING THE RETRIAL OF SAYAMA CASE WITH PROTEST AGAINST 18 YEARS' DETENTION OF KAZUO ISHIKAWA, MAY 23

About 30,000 of Buraku Liberation League members, labor unionists and general citizens from all over the country gathered in Tokyo to protest against the Sayama Case and to demand the sooner decision of starting its retrial by the supreme court. And it was reaffirmed that they would further strengthen efforts in their respective areas because a decision by the supreme court is expected to be given within a year at the latest.