



# BURAKU LIBERATION NEWS No. 4

BURAKU LIBERATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND THE REVISION AND REINFORCEMENT OF THE "LAW ON SPECIAL MEASURES FOR DŌWA PROJECTS"

The 94th ordinary session of the Diet was closed on June 6. During this session we carried out various activities to win the revision and reinforcement of the Special Law, however, the final decision was not given by the end of this session due to the strong resistance by the LDP members who decided not to extend the effect of the Special Law for more than 3 years.

Compared to the situation of 3 years ago when difficulty was posed by the LDP, the present situation is even worse, because even the re-extension of the Law was not discussed nor the reinforcement of the Law. The "necessity of certain measures" was confirmed by Prime Minister, Suzuki, and in the report of inspection of Burakus issued by the Sub-Committee on Dōwa Measures, which was newly established in the Lower House on April 28.

Although 32 members of the Lower House and 12 members of the Upper House severely criticized the government, nothing new was stated more than the reply of Prime Minister on March 9. He said, "I would like to give a conclusion to the debate on how future Dōwa measures should be carried out considering the discussions and resolutions at the Diet by the start of the compilation of fiscal 1982 budget."

The director general, Nakayama, promised to resume the Dōwa Measures Council during this session of the Diet, however, council members were appointed on June 5 and its first meeting was held on June 12, both after the end of the session.

Considering such a development, we may easily get aware of the severe oppression against our Buraku Liberation movement by the LDP as well as by the monopolistic capital circles and their government. We resisted to such a reactionary trend by organizing four massive movements in the metropolitan area with the resolute participation of the public. It must be reaffirmed that the reply by the Prime Minister and the opening of the Dōwa Measures Council could only be gained by our struggles.

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The LDP and the government won a land-slide victory in the double-election last year and have driven to make a military big power of Japan with their major representation in the Diet, but we really fought much better than we did three years ago.



Resolutions were adopted at 33 prefectural diets and 1,216 municipal diets; At the national governor's conference on May 23 sponsored by the government with a view to calling for their cooperation, Governor Kishi of Osaka prefecture firmly criticized the termination of the Law representing 32 related governors, Signatures were gained from 426 national Diet members (56.3 percent of the whole). Especially it was our struggle itself that made 137 LDP Diet members (32.4 percent) to approve to this signature while the party leaders ordered them not to sign.

Also the wide range of participants in the movement covering not only labor unions and democratic organizations but also enterprizes, religious groups, scholars, local administrations showed the unprecedented development of the movement. The growing participation in the Buraku Liberation movement reflects the advancement of human rights struggles in the world seen in the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights and in such events as the International Year of Women and the International Year of Disabled Persons. The national anger and dissatisfaction against the government and the LDP have been accumulated in this movement.

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We understand that we half won and half lost in the ordinary session of the Diet and we have to be ready for the next battle. That is to make the Prime Minister, Suzuki, to give a conclusion at the start of the budget compilation in July and August and to prepare for the extra ordinary session in the fall.

For that purpose we have to review thoroughly our movements at each level of our organization, What kind of efforts have we done? What are the achievements and faults? Has every member done the utmost? We must reorganize ourselves and further strengthen our movement.

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We would like you to support our struggle by collecting signatures for the revision and reinforcement of the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects, which will be presented to Prime Minister, Suzuki.

Please send back the signed petitions to the Buraku Liberation Research Institute. We wish you will give us your help.



NATIONAL RALLY HELD REQUIRING THE REVISION OF THE RETRIAL LAW ON JULY 18, TOKYO

Quite a few people have been made guilty under the "law" due to the misunderstanding of the police, the prosecution and the court although they are innocent. These people are demanding the retrial of their cases in order to prove their innocence. The Sayama case is among such cases.

Recently even those who once were sentenced to death won retrials as the result of several decades of their protest. However, the court still keeps rejecting the claims for retrial in some cases like the Sayama case, although the claims appear very reasonable. The present Retrial Law supports such an attitude of the court by making much of a judicial stability while paying little concern to human rights.

Demanding the revision of this law the following people have gathered in this meeting. Mr. Syuhei Ato, once sentenced to death as an accused of the Yakai case and proved his innocence at the Supreme Court after 20 years of struggle, participated in this meeting.

- the Marumasa case (life imprisonment and 15 years' imprisonment)
- the Shimada case (death sentence)
- the Sayama case (life imprisonment)
- the Namisaki case (death sentence)
- the Hakamada case (death sentence)
- the Mure case (death sentence)

THE SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS FOR THE SOLUTION OF DOWA PROBLEM ORGANIZED ON JUNE 29, BASED ON THE BELIEF IN RELIGIOUS MISSION

The formation meeting of the Solidarity Conference of Religious Groups for the Solution of Dōwa Problem was held in Kyoto city.

More than 100 religionists from 55 sects and 3 religious federations attended there and confirmed their will to tackle with the Buraku problem and admitted the necessity to plan measures by them.

At the general meeting the East Honganji Temple stated the importance of quitting the attitude of seeking private profit and of returning to religious principal representing 14 preparatory groups.

Among guests were Mr. Yasuo Murata, president of Momoyama



Gakuin University and Mr. Onishi, the central chief of human rights department of the Buraku Liberation League. He stated the necessity to tackle with the problems of Soto sect and called for the cooperation with the struggle for the revision of the Special Law. And also he said that small temples away from major temples do little concerning the Buraku problem and that struggles be promoted even in local small temples.

After the introduction of congratulatory telegrams, Mr. Ichiro Ono, from Japan Christian Association reported the process. And the rule was approved and new committee was elected and the meeting was successfully over.

This was followed by the commemorative lecture titled "Discrimination, Human Rights and Religion" by Mr. Sueo Murakoshi, the secretary general of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute.

Some examples of tackling with Dōwa problem were disclosed by Omoto, the Association of Justice and Peace of Japanese Catholics, Tenri-kyo, West Honganji and East Honganji.

(Chairman - Honganji sect of Shinshu,  
Sub-chairman - Otani sect of Shinshu,  
Sub-chairman - Japan Christian Association,  
Sub-chairman - Tenri-kyo)

#### MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE TRIED TO USE THE BURAKU LIST

The confirmation meeting of the fact was held on May 19 by the Nara prefectural Association of the BLL and Sakurai city Council. It was about the discrimination case caused by one of the municipal executives of Sakurai city, Nara prefecture.

This was quite a wicked case happened last September. Mr. , the head of welfare office (a chief of a section of the Waterworks Bureau at that time) telephoned to his old colleague, the director of Daifuku community hall. Mr. called him to get the Buraku list and said as follows. "Is there any book concerning all the names of the Buraku in Japan? I need it because my son is dating with a woman in Tokyo and I would like to know her family."

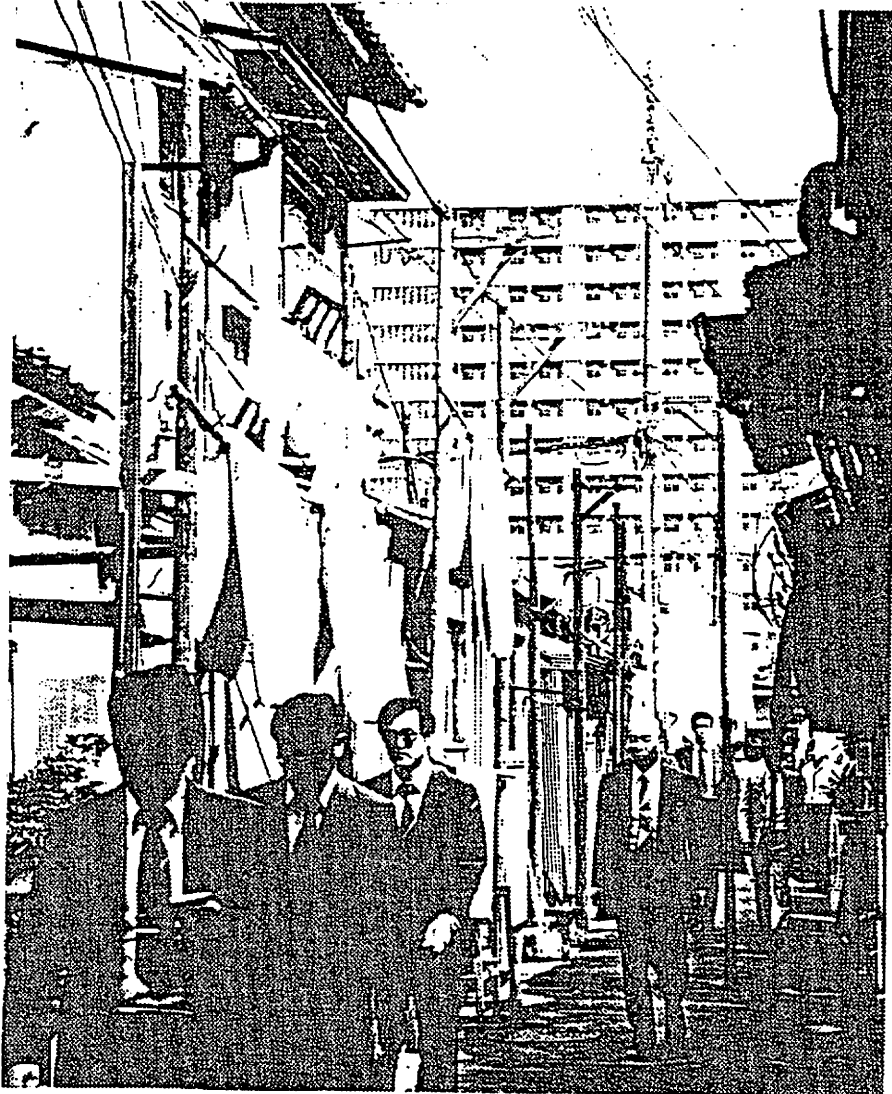
At the confirmation meeting, Mr. admitted the fact that he said discriminatory remarks, and even revealed his derogatory characteristics adding he did care whether she was a Burakumin or not when his son would marry her.

The administration of Sakurai city promised firmly to eradicate discriminatory characteristics at a Kyūdan kai five



years ago when a company in that city purchased a Buraku list and the city administration was criticized for their idleness in educating their citizen. Soon after the former case, the similar discrimination case was caused by a staff of the administrative body. Burakumin arose their anger at this fact of insincere attitude of the municipal government. What is more, this executive was one of the staff of the municipal Dōwa education lecturer group. We find here in this case that how difficult the achievement of the real Dōwa education is. We confirmed to organize the further impeachment struggle by the general public and disclose the works by Sakurai municipal administration.

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Fourteen Diet members belonging to the Cabinet Committee inspected area, a Buraku in Kobe city, in order to learn the present realities in the area, June 3, 1981.

**JAPAN'S BURAKU PROBLEM WILL BE INTRODUCED IN EUROPE**

The Übersee-Museum, Bremen, West Germany -- a large museum combining ethnological and natural history collections -- has, in connection with its thorough renovation during the years 1976 to 1978, worked out an entirely new concept. Its specific characteristics are the integrated mode of presentation for which the various disciplines in the house join forces, and the inclusion in its exhibitions of the current state of affairs and current developments. As one of this project, by the end of 1981 the new permanent exhibition on Japan will be ready to be re-opened.

The new Japan section has been finally designed, and the plans have been accepted. The intention is to present not only the traditional Japan -- in the first place the times of Edo -- but to deal in the exhibitions also with themes such as "the ecological crisis," "industrialization," etc. In this connection they plan to elucidate i.a. the function and the role in Japan of citizens' initiatives. By presenting this complex of themes they intend to point to worldwide ecological problems and the social problems and conflicts closely connected with them. Their idea is to explain to the visitor how such crises come about, to make him think about possible solutions and about the share he might have in finding an answer and in realizing such solutions.

The Buraku Liberation movement in Japan was chosen among them and our Buraku Liberation Research Institute was asked by the museum to send several materials such as photographs of B.L.L. activities, a slide film of "Father of Liberation," a book of Special Law on Dōwa Measures, a pamphlet of "The Present Condition of Discrimination against Buraku," and other objects.

They will exhibit these things at the corner of the "Buraku problem in Japan" at the end of this year. As other examples included in the theme than the Buraku problem, they will exhibit some reference data on the problem of Minamata, of the nuclear generators, of the protection of Hibakusha (A-bomb victims), of various forms of public hazards and of destruction of nature.

We support their trial for it will be a good chance for Europeans to know about the real feature of Japan today. We earnestly hope that this kind of planning will be promoted in many other places in the world, so that everyone will fully understand the Buraku problem and also other problems and spread the affirmative actions to solve them.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BURAKU SEEN IN SHOGUN BY JAMES CLAVELL

Shogun is a best-selling novel published by Dell Publishing Co. in 1976. More than 7 million copies of this book have been sold since it was first published. In this novel, however, some parts are misleading or wrong concerning the Buraku in Japan. We are criticizing the following parts as full of prejudice against Burakumin and we request the publisher to correct them in the revised edition soon.

Let me quote an example from Shogun.

\* \* \*

Blackthorne said, "A slaughterhouse! A slaughterhouse and tanning! That's ... " He stopped and blanched.

"What's up? What is it?"

"This is an eta village? Jesus Christ, these people're eta?"

"What's wrong with eters?" van Nekk asked. "Of course they're eters."

Blackthorne waved at the mosquitoes that infested the air, his skin crawling. "Damn bugs — they're rotten, aren't they? There's a tannery here, isn't there?"

"Yew, A few streets up, why?"

"Nothing. I didn't recognize the smell, that's all."

"What about eters?"

"I ... I didn't realize, stupid of me. If I'd seen one of the men I'd've known from their short hairstyle. With the women you'd never know. Sorry. So on with the story, Vinck."

"Well, then they said —"

Jan Roper interrupted, "Wait a minute, Vinck! What's wrong, Pilot? What about eters?"

"It's just that Japanese think of them as different. They're the executioners, and work the hides and handle corpses." He felt their eyes, Jan Roper's particularly. "Eta work hides," he said, trying to keep his voice careless, "and kill all the old horses and oxen and handle dead bodies."

"But what's wrong with that, Pilot? You've buried a dozen yourself put 'em in shrouds, washed 'em — we all have, eh? We butcher our own meat, always have. Ginsel here's been hangman... What's wrong with all that?"

"Nothing," Blackthorne said, knowing it to be true yet feeling befouled even so.

(ibid., pp. 869-870)

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1. In the above part or through the whole story, too, the word "eta" appears without any explanation. The word "eta" is



a historical term, however, it is a derogatory term for the Buraku and its usage without adequate introduction only results in the expansion of discrimination and prejudice against Burakumin. Further, in the above or other parts of this story only such descriptions as "He blanched," or "feeling befouled ... " (when the hero heard of "eta", pp. 869-870 ) are found which let readers understand that the Buraku is something dirty and disgusting.

2. The description that "eta" slaughtered is historically wrong and the profession of "eta" seems to have been confined only to tanning, which is wrong. Actually, in a few Burakus they did tanning, but many of the other Buraku residents were engaged in agriculture and other jobs, even though they were small-sized.

For the above reasons the descriptions on "eta" here do not convey a true picture of the Buraku in Japan but aggravate discrimination against Burakumin in a society full of discriminatory consciousness.

\* In the second volume of the Japanese translation of this novel, similar description full of prejudice was found, and TBS Britanica Publishing Co. recollect the copies and exchange with the revised ones where the derogatory parts concerning the Buraku were erased. The original English book has not been revised yet, however, and is introducing the wrong concepts of Buraku throughout the world.

THE SECOND ENGLISH BOOK ON THE BURAKU PROBLEM PUBLISHED

The book in English to introduce more people in the world about the Buraku problem in Japan and minority problems in other countries from the international viewpoint, LONG SUFFERING BROTHERS AND SISTERS, UNITE! was published by Buraku Liberation Research Institute (Buraku Kaiho Kenkyusho) in July. We will be glad if many people read it and deepen their understanding about the Buraku problem and human dignity. Please order to the Buraku Liberation Research Institute. Fixed price is 2000 yen.