

BURAKU LIBERATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

1-6-12, Kuboyoshi, Naniwa-ku, Osaka city, 556 Japan.

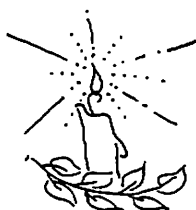
SPECIAL: INT'L CONFERENCE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

DEC 82/83 JAN

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION HELD DURING HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

The cities of Osaka, Fukuoka and Tokyo hosted the three symposia of the International Conference against Discrimination, which was held from December fourth through eighth. The conference marked the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Zenkoku Suiheisha (National Levelers Association), and heralded the arrival of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1983. The conference was sponsored by an executive committee comprised of members of the Buraku Liberation League (BLL), officials from the national administration and local autonomies, leaders of labor unions, women's groups and other citizen action organizations.

The conference was held to enhance understanding of the various forms of discrimination faced by peoples throughout the world, and foster stronger international solidarity in the movements to overcome discrimination. Towards this goal, six guest speakers, representing various movements throughout the world, were invited to participate in the conference. Mr. Albert Levy, Secretary-General of MRAP (Mouvement contre le racismisme et pour l'amite entre les peuples), came from France; Ms. Althea T.L. Simmons, Director of the Washington Bureau and Chief Lobbyist of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), from the U.S.A.; Mr. Romani Rose, Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, from West Germany; Mr. Ravi Jain, Secretary-General of the NAAY (National Association for Asian Youth), from Great Britain; Mr. Kanshi Ram, President of the BAMCEF (All-India Backward and Minorities Communities Employees Federation), from India; Mr. Jose Ingles, of the Philippines, came in his position as Chairman of the United



MAY 1983 FIND WARMTH IN THE HEARTS OF  
MEN, AND LIGHT UPON ALL MANKIND.  
WITH OUR BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.



Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. All the guest speakers are working for the eradication of discrimination in their home countries, Mr. Ingles through his UN capacity, and the others through their various NGO's (non-government organizations).

Participants in the conference followed an active schedule. On 3 December, they inspected the Buraku district in Izumi, Osaka, to get a first-hand look at the problems faced by Burakumin. On 4 December, they spoke at the first symposium of the conference -- The Buraku Problem from a Foreign Perspective -- addressing an audience of 1,200 at an Osaka municipal liberation hall.

The speakers' addresses included not only their views on the Buraku problem, but their recommendations on how to proceed in overcoming the discrimination. "I would like to appeal to the Japanese government, which has not yet ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to do so immediately," said Mr. Ingles. "In France, a law against racial discrimination was unanimously adopted in 1972, and discrimination is now punished as a crime. Japan should also move forward in this direction," asserted Mr. Levy. Ms. Simmons argued, "In Japan, a law which gives concrete shape to the equality and respect for human rights set forth in the Constitution has not yet appeared. You must strongly promote the enactment of such a law on the elimination of discrimination." "I did not know the Buraku problem until I came to Japan. To try and hide one's birthplace does not lead to the solution of the problem. It is the same as in India," put forth Mr. Ram. Mr. Rose observed, "I've heard that Japan is a rich country. I've seen beautiful cities in Japan. And I've also seen decrepit housing just outside such cities. I feel that I've seen Japanese apartheid." "Discriminated against groups must promote liberation movements on their own," spoke Mr. Jain. Although all the guests put forth varying opinions as to the best way to overcome discrimination against the Buraku, they all were unanimous in insisting that the root nature of discrimination, whatever manifestation or form it may take, is the same. In order to eliminate all discrimination, they asserted, international unity and understanding are indispensable.

On the sixth of December, the general meeting of the conference -- International Unity against Discrimination -- was held in Fukuoka City, Kita-Kyushu. At this meeting, a general appeal calling for the elimination of discrimination, the protection of peace and security of human rights both within Japan and internationally was issued.



On the seventh of December, the second symposium of the conference, Action against Discrimination in Various Countries, was held in Tokyo. Mr. Ingles delivered the keynote speech, outlining both UN policy on discrimination and its actions currently being undertaken to overcome the problem throughout the world. Each of the other guest speakers spoke on the often-unknown faces of discrimination suffered by minority groups in their respective countries, and told about the actions their organizations are proceeding with to end these problems.

In both Fukuoka and Tokyo, special appeals were issued. The appeal of the General Meeting, issued in Fukuoka, calls for international unity in the struggle to secure peace and protect human rights. Both the Declaration and the Resolution of the Tokyo symposium are reproduced in this issue of the Buraku Liberation News, following the brief biographies of the guest speakers.

The International Conference succeeded in many of its major goals: activists from many countries were united to work for the elimination of discrimination on an international level; active reportage by the mass media -- newspapers, television and radio -- helped to stimulate the anti-discrimination mood among a broad segment of society. Plans are currently underway for a second conference to be held, for, in the words of Romani Rose, this "must not be allowed to become a one-time effort."

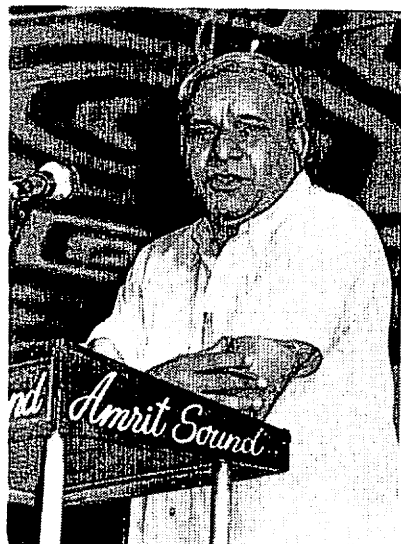
## PROFILES OF THE CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKERS



ROMANI ROSE, speaking on behalf of the Roma, is from West Germany. He was born in Heidelberg in 1946. After his father's death in 1968, he took charge of a substantial part of the German Sinti Union's work, and was elected a staff member in 1972. In 1979, as newly-elected chairman of the Union, Rose registered the International Romani Union as a NGO with the UN, and there drafted a bill of Sinti/Roma rights. He was elected vice-chairman of the International Romani Union in 1981; when the ten Sinti/Roma Unions in Germany united into the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma in February 1982, Rose was elected chairman.

The movement to liberate Roma is fairly young. Its activities have steadily grown stronger. The first memorial service for Roma who were massacred during the Second World War under Fascist policies was held in 1979, and served as a great reinforcement for the purposes and ideals of the movement. In order to unify the Sinti and Roma, who are spread throughout the country, into a community, and secure their civil rights, culture and traditions, the organization has established schools and occupational training centers for the Sinti and Roma.

KANSHI RAM, speaking on behalf of India's Scheduled Caste and other discriminated against Indians, was born in Punjab in 1934. While he was employed at a munitions factory, he initiated action against the unreserved discrimination practiced by the ruling caste classes. In 1973, he and about thirty other colleagues began to work on organizing the discriminated against castes. In 1978, he established BAMCEF (the All-India Backward and Minority Communities Employees' Federation - Delhi), and has served as its chairman since.



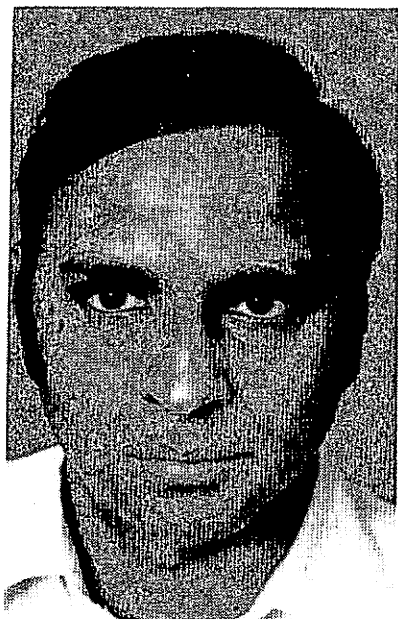
As BAMCEF is non-religious, non-secular and non-agitational, he also founded the Buddhist Research Center, for religious activity on the issue, and D-S4, for agitational activity. Ram is currently working on establishing a national political party for oppressed and exploited Indians.

BAMCEF is an organization for members of discriminated against castes who gain public employment through a legally-mandated reservation system. Currently, BAMCEF has about 1,200,000 members and runs cooperative associations at two hundred locations, with eighty branch associations nationwide. BAMCEF publishes two journals and twelve periodicals, and holds different exhibitions at six thousand locations throughout the year. BAMCEF is working for the rapid improvement of the conditions of not only the Scheduled Caste classes, but all other minorities and discriminated against peoples.

ALTHEA T.L. SIMMONS, speaking on behalf of the Black civil rights movement in the United States, was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1924. She hold advanced degrees in both business and jurisprudence, and has actively pursued further studies at such institutions as the New School for Social Research. Her affiliation with the NAACP (the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) as executive secretary of the Texas State Conference of Branches, an unpaid position she held while also working in a law firm and as a weekly newspaper editor. Since 1979, she has been director of the Washington, D.C., NAACP Bureau, and is now also chief lobbyist for the NAACP. A seasoned civil rights professional, Simmons has served as director of many of the NAACP's important projects, such as education programs, voter registration projects and training programs. She is a former vice-president of the National Organization of Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., and also a member of the Editorial Advisory Boards of Integrated Education and the Journal of Afro-American Issues.



The NAACP is a seventy-three year old national civil rights association, with 1,800 branches, 600 college and youth chapters, 50 state and 38 area conferences, working for the elimination of discrimination against Black Americans in all facets of life.



RAVI JAIN, speaking on behalf of immigrant workers in the U.K., was born in Delhi, India, in 1942. In 1964, he moved to England and worked his way through the National College for the Training of Youth Leaders. From 1974 to 1980, he worked as a member of the Ealing Community Relations Council. In 1976, he was appointed secretary-general of the NAAAY (National Association for Asian Youth). He holds additional posts as a Founding Director of the Minority Arts Advisory Service and a member of the National Committee against Racial Bias in Children's Books and treasurer of its publication, Dragon's Teeth.

There are some two million immigrant workers, mainly Asian races, settled mainly around England's large cities and holding low-income, unstable jobs. They are also victims of many racial discrimination cases initiated by extreme rightist organizations. The NAAAY grapples with the racial discrimination and plans for long-range improvements for England's Asian society. The NAAAY office of Jain is in Southall, London, which is one of the largest communities of Asian immigrants in England.

ALBERT LEVY, speaking on behalf of the movement against anti-Semitism in France, was born in Aurillac, France, in 1923. During WWII, he participated in the underground resistance against Nazism under the National Movement against Racism. After the war, he received a degree in Modern English Literature from Sorbonne University and became a journalist. In 1949, he participated in the founding of MRAP (Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour L'Amitie entre les Peuples) and the creation of its publication, Rights and Liberty in 1981. He then became the journal's chief editor, and later, director. He is the Secretary-General of MRAP, which now has some six thousand members.





JOSE INGLES, speaking as a representative from the United Nations, was born in the Philippines seventy-two years ago. He majored in laws at the University of the Philippines, and in 1936 became a private secretary to Jose P. Laurel, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1956, he began to work on foreign affairs and UN activities. In the UN, he took part in the Security Council and the Commission on Human Rights, and currently is chairman of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. A prolific author, he has also served, from 1966-1981, as Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

### OCTOBER 24 RALLY DRAWS HALF A MILLION IN OSAKA

Under the rallying cries, "Nuclear weapons and wars off the face of the earth!" and "An absolute ban on nuclear weapons! Disarmament and peace all over the world!", half a million people gathered in Osaka. This rally was the culmination of the initiation of a grassroots anti-nuclear movement. Previous rallies had been held in Hiroshima (21 March) and Tokyo (23 May).

Some forty thousand people from the Buraku Liberation League participated in the rally, and held a special exhibition on invasion and discrimination. The BLL leaders explained and appealed for support for the three main struggles: the enactment of a basic law on Buraku liberation; the retrial of the Sayama case; measures against the Buraku lsits. They clearly pointed out that war, invasion and discrimination are related to each other, and called for a strengthened struggle against nuclear armaments and war.

### THE 10'31 CENTRAL GENERAL MEETING FOR RETRIAL AND PEACE

On October 30, the defense council in the Sayama case gave the needed supplementary documents to the court. At the 10-31 rally for the retrial of the Sayama case, against nuclear arms and for peace, the lawyers explained to the 30,000 participants the present measures of the retrial campaign as follows: use citizen pressure to force the supreme court to hold a retrial; urge the prosecutor to examine all the evidence; get Ishikawa on parole now.



### Declaration

In Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Suiheisha, the first International Conference Against Discrimination has been held in Osaka, Fukuoka and Tokyo with many participants representing minority groups and organizations of several countries of the world.

At this conference, it has been made clear that despite the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights 34 years ago, and despite the fact that the Bill of Rights is embodied in almost all national constitutions, some governments have not yet effectively provided for the protection of human rights.

In the present worldwide recession, the condition of various discriminated minorities has become aggravated.

As long as the rights of discriminated groups are ignored, economic, social, cultural, religious, ethnic and other forms of discrimination will continue.

The International Conference Against Discrimination heard with great interest the following:

- A) The situation of the Burakumin in Japan, victims of prejudice in their work and home life;
- B) The problems encountered by Roma, particularly their registration with police, in Europe;
- C) The rise of violence against Jewish and other communities;
- D) Violence and discrimination against immigrant/migrant workers;
- E) The problems of untouchables and other deprived people in the Indian sub-continent;





F) The problems of blacks and other minorities  
in the Americas.

We understand that the fundamental documents adopted by the international community, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention for the Suppression and Punishment of Apartheid, the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, and the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as national legislation, have not yet fully eliminated discrimination. Therefore we urge all governments to employ effective measures for the realization of the objectives of the above listed documents.

The participants strongly appeal to all governments to allocate more funds for the realization of human rights and full equality.

In the countries of the world, all possible methods of action must be employed to remedy discriminatory conditions. Therefore, legal, legislative and administrative methods must be employed. Likewise, educational programs should be aimed to eradicate prejudice, hatred and intolerance which breed discrimination.

At the successful conclusion of the conference we extend our sincere thanks to the Buraku Liberation League and the many national and local institutions, individuals and organizations whose support, planning and cooperation have made this conference possible.



Signatories:

*I agree*  
*Althea T. L. Simmons*

*OK*

*OK as consented*  
*J.D. o.k.*

*Roman Rose*

Althea T. L. Simmons  
Albert Levy  
Jose D. Ingles  
Ravinder K. Jain  
Romani Rose  
Kanshi Ram

*Kanshi Ram*

December 7, 1982

Tokyo, Japan



TOKYO RESOLUTION

The International Conference Against Discrimination, assembled in Tokyo on the 7th of December 1982:

I.

Considering that the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination has become a peremptory norm of international law recognized as such in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Considering that the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination has not yet been ratified by one-fourth of the countries of the world, including some major powers;

Considering that most of the countries which have ratified the International Convention have not yet subscribed to the Optional Protocol which would allow private individuals to have access to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Resolves:

1. To appeal to all countries which have not yet done so,  
(a) to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, and/or (b) to make the declaration under Article 14 of the International Convention so as to enable the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to hear private individuals claiming to be victims of racial discrimination; and
2. To call on all governments to take adequate and effective legislative, judicial and administrative measures to implement the International Declaration on the Elimination of all forms



of Racial Discrimination and the UNESCO Declaration on Racism and Racial Prejudice, in particular to protect and develop disadvantaged minorities so that they may be integrated into the mainstream of national life.

## II.

Considering the highly important role of non-governmental organizations in promoting the universal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind such as sex, race, language or religion;

Considering that these non-governmental organizations could contribute to the realization of the objectives of the Second World Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination Resolves:

1. To request non-governmental organizations, including those in consultative status with the United Nations, to hold a preparatory conference and submit appropriate recommendations to the Second World Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held in Manila on 2-12 August 1983;
2. To suggest that a central secretariat of non-governmental organizations or at least a liaison office be formed to coordinate and consolidate their efforts to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination; and
3. To summon the peoples of all nations, faiths and creeds to effectively assist and support non-governmental organizations in their valiant efforts to eradicate the scourge of racial discrimination which is an affront to human dignity and a crime against humanity.



III.

Resolves, further, to transmit a copy of these resolutions  
to:

- 1). The Secretary General of the United Nations,  
the President of the United Nations General Assembly,  
the United Nations Commission on Human Rights,  
the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of  
Racial Discrimination,  
and all other United Nations bodies concerned with  
human rights;
- 2). All specialized agencies of the United Nations, in  
particular, UNESCO and ILO;
- 3). International regional organizations, in particular,  
the Council of Europe,  
Organizations of American States, and  
Organization of African Unity;
- 4). Each state government;  
and lastly,
- 5). All international and national non-governmental orga-  
nizations concerned with human rights and the elimina-  
tion of all forms of racial discrimination.

December 7, 1982  
Tokyo, Japan

Romani Rose  
Ravinder K. Jain  
Kanshi Ram  
Althea T. L. Simmons  
Albert Levy  
Jose D. Ingles



## THIRTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL BURAKU LIBERATION LEAGUE MEETING

From the fourth through sixth of October, Hiroshima hosted the annual three-day convention, attended by the central committees of the BLL and some 1,561 representative delegates. One of the main purposes of the meeting was to develop a unified concept of the basic path of today's Buraku liberation movement. At the meeting, the three main areas for action were outlined as follows:

1. Reinforcement of campaigns against the government's policies on the expansion of armaments, and strengthening of efforts for the protection of peace and human rights;
2. Repulsion of oppression and other various pressures working against the Buraku liberation movement, and strengthening measures enacted under the new [March 1982] Law on Special Measures for Regional Improvement Projects;
3. Firm election of a new executive committee of the BLL, and the drastic strengthening of the entire BLL organization.

Heated discussions were held throughout the meeting's three-day period on the above three issues. On the last day of the session, the validity of all three planks was recognized, and the platform adopted.

One of the central items of business at the meeting was the election of a new central executive committee. Several positions were filled by new faces. Uesugi Saichiro, of Fukuoka prefecture, was voted in as the new chairman, and Ueda Takumi, of Osaka prefecture, as the vice-chairman; Komori Tatsukuni, of Hiroshima prefecture, is the new secretary-general. Five other new leaders were selected for vital posts.

Under the leadership of the new executive committee, the meeting adopted a resolution calling for: greatly reinforced campaigns against nuclear arms, and promoting peace; wins in the coming 1983 elections to the Diet, local autonomous bodies and governorships; a stronger Buraku Liberation League organization.

The third of the annual Matsumoto Jiichiro Prizes was given to Wajima Iwakichi, former president of the Japan Lawyers' Federation.

The successful meeting concluded with addresses by outgoing chairman Matsui Hisakichi and the new chairman Uesugi Saichiro, and was closed with an address by the new secretary-general, Komori Tatsukuni.