



*Further progress of international solidarity !*

## **Buraku Liberation League Participated in the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination!**

(1)

The Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was held at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva from 1 to 12 August, 1983 marks the last year of the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

At the Palais des Nations on 1 August, in an opening ceremony, Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, gave an opening address, followed by a speech by James Jonah, Secretary-General of this second world conference. Each representative emphasized that world peace is based on the elimination of racial discrimination and also pointed out the significance of the Conference, indicating that although some progress can be seen when we look back at the last

ten years, a dangerous trend has been also gaining force these days.

Representatives of 126 nations – but not from the USA, Israel, and South Africa – participated, as well as representatives of the related organizations to the UN and many non-governmental organizations.

(2)

Discussions were focused on the problem of Apartheid, which has yet to be corrected, and the massacre of Palestinian refugees by Israel. Also dealt with was the current situation of migrant workers in Europe, the aborigines of both North and South Americas, such as American Indians, and so on. And it was proposed that active initiatives to work on and to solve these discrimination problems are necessary.

## CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 1983

<i>Buraku Liberation League Participated in the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination!</i> . . . . .	1
<i>Plans for Celebration of 35th Anniversary of UDHR Takes Practical Shape!</i>	
– <i>Central Executive Committee Established on 1 September</i> – . . . . .	3
<i>27th National Youth Meeting for Buraku Liberation Opened</i> . . . . .	5
<i>Towards Extension of Dowa Education to Universities!</i>	
– <i>National University Dowa Education Research Council Established</i> – . . . . .	5
<i>Defiant Discriminatory Postcards Sent to Aichi Prefectural Association of the Buraku Liberation League</i> . . . . .	6
<i>English Report on the International Conference Against Discrimination Held Published</i>	
<i>“The Road to a Discrimination-Free Future”</i> . . . . .	6
<b>[SPECIAL ARTICLE]</b>	
<i>BLL’s Appeal to the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination</i> . . . . .	8



General meeting of the second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Through such earnest discussions, a declaration and programme of action were adopted on the last day of this conference. The United Nations together with all the representatives of every nation promised to continue to make further efforts for the elimination of discrimination with the newly adopted declaration and programmes of action for the next decade.

(3)

The Buraku Liberation League sent four delegates to the Conference for the first time. Leader of the delegates was Tatsukuni Komori, Secretary-General of the BLL, and Director was Kenzo Tomonaga, director of the BLRI.

The BLL issued its own appeal to the Conference and provided it to the participants and made active contact with many people. They further made about ten minutes' speech to appeal to the world concerning the Buraku problem, in the regular assembly of the Working Group on Slavery of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, held in parallel with the Conference.

These actions of ours came true with great help and support of the Minority Rights Group whose head office is in London. And that was the very first opportunity for us, the BLL, to make an

appeal in the United Nations formally. And later, Myriam Schreiber, who had once visited Japan, made an appeal about the Buraku problem in the assembly.

With such efforts and actions with the help of many people, the discrimination problem of Buraku has come to draw attention from among the United Nations members.

(4)

The future actions of our movement include the translation of the declaration as well as the programme of action adopted in the Conference, making them publicly known throughout Japan, and to work for their implementation. Particularly, we shall conduct more decisive and earnest action for the early ratification of the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by the Japanese national government, as called for by the Conference.

During the period of the Conference, we provided our English publication, entitled *The Road to a Discrimination-Free Future*, which is an English report of the International Conference against Discrimination held in Japan last year, to the related people and tried to introduce the reality of discrimination over the world and the



liberation movements against it.

We now eye complete liberation of Burakumin through forming substantial solidarity for human rights with the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations of each nation that are struggling against discrimination, and cooperating with one another to eradicate all forms of dis-

crimination.

Here in this newsletter, we would like to thank the persons concerned with the human rights sections of the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations for their enthusiastic help and cooperation.



James O.C. Jonah (right), Secretary-General of the Conference, and Tatsu-kuni Komori (left), Secretary-General of BLL, at the general meeting of the Conference.

## ***Central Executive Committee established on 1 September*** **Plans for Celebration of 35TH Anniversary of Udhr Takes Practical Shape!**

Activities on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are being planned in Osaka City and many other places and circles of Japan. The following three activities have been decided so far.

Firstly, the Central Executive Committee for the 35th Anniversary of the UDHR was established in Tokyo on 1 September. Members of the Committee are Kimihide Mushanokoji, vice-President of the UN university, Hiroshi Noma, author, Rentaro Mikuni, actor, the four national labour union confederations, including the General Council of Labour Unions of Japan, working groups for women, Korean residents in Japan, Ainus, and disabled persons, as well as religious

circles, corporations and many other groups and people of various fields, including the Buraku Liberation League.

Secondly, the Osaka Executive Committee will hold an assembly of 3,000 people on 10 December, Race Day, inviting three guests such as A.S. Chowdhury, the former president of Bangladesh and the present chairman of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Georg Mautner-Markhof, from the UN Human Rights Commission and Yo Kubota, Human Rights Officer of the United Nations Organization, thereby intending to strengthen international cooperation.

Thirdly, as part of the campaign for the ratifi-



cation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, signature-collecting campaign has been decided upon.

In addition, the Ministry of Postal Service will design and issue commemorative stamps for

human rights, and also a gathering for human rights in planned to be held with the participation of both Osaka prefectural and municipal administrations and several other local administrative bodies.



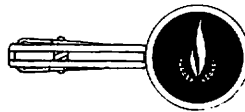
1st session of the Central Executive Committee for the 35th Anniversary of the UDHR, 1 September 1983



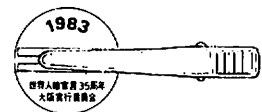
<the surface>



<the back side>



<the surface>



<the back side>



A tie-pin and a pendant designed by Osaka Executive Committee for the 35th Anniversary of the UDHR



## 27TH National Youth Meeting for Buraku Liberation Opened

Having "Combat the national trend towards militarization with administrative reform, and unite the youth under the purpose of further progress of the Buraku liberation movement on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" as its main slogan, the 27th National Youth Meeting for Buraku Liberation was held in Tottori City from the 23rd to the 25th of July. Over 2,300 young people participated.

Tottori Prefectural Association of the Buraku Liberation League made a huge effort to achieve success in the meeting. The youth department of the Association took a leading part in the efforts. All the participants, including those who came from other prefectures of Japan, promised to work hard toward the next national youth meeting for Buraku liberation, to take place in Fukuoka Prefecture, and the meeting ended in success.



### *Towards Extension of Dowa Education to Universities!*

## National university Dowa Education Research Council established

On 1 July the first National University Dōwa Education Research Council was held in Osaka, with about 80 people from academia attending. In order to liberate Burakumin and to realize true democracy, this council was established for the purpose of extending education about Buraku liberation to universities, and research of university education about liberation of Buraku.

Tetsuo Kageyama, President of Kinki University, gave the opening speech as representative of those who initiated the action. The Choki Tokuyama, member of Nikkyoso, Japanese Teacher's Union, Hideo Monden, Chairman of the National Dōwa Education Research Council, Saichiro Uesugi, Chairman of the Buraku Liberation League Headquarters, Eiichi Isomura, Chairman of the Council of Measures for Area Improvement Projects and the former President of Toyo University, each made short speeches as special visitors, to congratulate the Council on its inauguration.

The actions of the Council will be conducted under the following three principles;

1) Extend and arrange educational system and research departments to promote Dōwa education (education for Buraku liberation); 2) make deeper contact with the problem of human rights as seen in discrimination against Korean residents in Japan, disabled persons, women and so on, as well as the problem of peace; 3) present more detailed and concrete Dōwa education promotion measures to the Ministry of Education, local administrative bodies, universities, and all other related bodies, and also ask them for implementation of the measures.

Wako Okiura, President of Momoyama Gakuin University, presented the Council with a special report, entitled "The current situation and the future direction of Dōwa education at universities."



## Defiant Discriminatory Postcards Sent to Aichi Prefectural Association of the Buraku Liberation League

“You, Eta\*, hallo! Please vote the DSP (Democratic Socialist Party) – Mr. Hashimoto – on the voting day of the 26th. We shall wink at your vote, which are stinking though, on this special occasion. If he wins the election, anti-Shin Heimin\* discrimination in employment and marriage against will be well studied. And the improvement of the situation of the dog-killers and night-soil collectors is promised!” “Hallo, stinking folk! We ask for your vote for DSP candidate Koichiro Hashimoto! We’ll give you money and give you a special discount on the Buraku lists. A vote from you four-leggeds\* is still a vote. It is counted, anyway.”

Discriminatory postcards of this kind were also found sent in November 1982 to the Associations of the Buraku Liberation League in different

prefectures like Wakayama Prefecture, Nara, Shiga, Kagawa, Osaka, Tottori, Tokyo, Okayama, Mie and so on, postmarked by a post office in Fukui Prefecture. Those cards seem to be written by the same hand, with the correct address of the Association of the BLL of each prefecture. And still more, offers of the sale of Buraku lists can be found among them. Judging from these facts, the sender should be a person who knows the Buraku liberation movement well.

The Buraku Liberation League will pursue these cases further in an effort to discover the perpetrator and appeal to the other related organizations against such wicked harassment.

\* The discriminatory terms for Burakumin

## English Report on the International Conference Against Discrimination Held Published “The Road to a Discrimination-free Future”

An English book has been published reporting the International Conference against Discrimination which took place in Japan during Human Rights Week last December, with five representatives of overseas working groups for liberation of Roma and Sinti (the gypsies) in West Germany, the black people in USA, the migrant workers in U.K., the

untouchables in India and the Jews in France as well as the chairman of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination attending.

It is a most suitable course not only for understanding of the Buraku problem in Japan but also for the study of discrimination problems and liberation movements in various countries.

### [CONTENT]

#### Preface

Part I: Current Discrimination in Japan and the Future Direction of Liberation Action

Part II: The Japanese Buraku Problem from a Foreign Perspective

Part III: Discrimination and Liberation Action in Various Countries

Appendixes Special Action for the 35th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Declaration of the Levelers Association

A Brief Chronology of the Buraku Liberation Movement



[CONTRIBUTORS (in order of the contents)]



**Takumi Ueda (Japan)**  
Vice-President of the Central Headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League



**Kanshi Ram (India)**  
Chairman of the All-India Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation (BAMCEF), and Chairman of D-S4 (An Organization for Agitation)



**Saichirō Uesugi (Japan)**  
President of the Central Headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League



**Althea T. L. Simmons (U.S.A.)**  
Chief Lobbyist for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Director of the Washington Bureau.



**Tatsukuni Komori (Japan)**  
Secretary-General of the Central Headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League



**Albert Levy (France)**  
Secretary-General of the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples (MRAP—Movement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples)



**Romani Rose (West Germany)**  
Principal Director and Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma)



**Jose Inges (Philippines)**  
Chairman of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Philippines



**Ravi Jain (U.K.)**  
General-Secretary of the National Association for Asian Youth (NANY), and Member of National Committee against Racial Bias in Children's books and Treasurer of its publication DRAGON'S TEETH





[SPECIAL ARTICIE]

## **BLL's Appeal to the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination**

### **I**

The Buraku Liberation League and the Buraku Liberation Research Institute have made our first debut at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination this year, 1983.

The Buraku liberation movement has a sixty-one year history from the time the Buraku Liberation League was first established in 1922 with the name of National Levelers Association or Zenkoku Suiheisha. The organization has been struggling for the protection of the Burakumin's human rights, which have been rudely violated until this day. The League has been working, with over 2,200 branches and over 200,000 members throughout the country, to improve substandard living conditions, to assure equal opportunity in employment as well as school education, and to denounce discriminatory incidents occurring in our daily social life, including discrimination in marriage, for example.

The origin of the present discrimination against Burakumin can be traced back to the late 16th century or early 17th century when the modern feudal system was formally established. Even after the Meiji Restoration (1868), which ended the feudal period and brought about the birth of the modern era, discrimination against Burakumin was not abolished in reality and they have been used to feed the growth of the capitalist society.

Japan has about 6,000 Buraku, discriminated against communities, and 3,000,000 Burakumin suffering severe discrimination even today. Compared to the past, the situation of Burakumin and the condition of their communities, have improved little by little; however, a great number of Buraku are still unfavorably situated and the miserable housing conditions remain. Many Burakumin are jobless or employed at very low wages without any of the social guarantees and when they are engaged in agriculture, they have very little land to cultivate. Such being the case, Burakumin's standard of living is very low, leading deteriorated health conditions and Buraku children are deprived of equal opportunity in education because of their

inferior economic status. Hatred for Buraku, aroused from these terrible circumstances, and prejudice against Buraku, built up through history, interact together and exert harmful influences upon marriage, employment and other aspects of the social lives of Burakumin.

This discrimination is, however, not only a problem of Burakumin themselves, but also one for the whole of society, namely discrimination against Buraku has been politically devised as means to govern society through division and it serves as a foundation stone for Japan's economy in the form of continued low wages and poor labour conditions.

### **II**

Under these circumstances, the Buraku liberation movement carries the following major tasks.

First, we struggle to improve the conditions of Buraku communities, appealing to the central and local or regional governments to upgrade their living environments as well as to assure equal opportunity of jobs and school education. In 1969, the government adopted the Law on Special Measures for Dōwa Projects to upgrade basic conditions in Buraku, and the law was enforced for three years until March 1982. In April 1982, a new special law, called the Law on Special Measures for Area Improvement Projects, was adopted to be enforced for five years until March 1987. Along with improvement supported by this law, we are struggling for the enactment of the Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation to improve not only the living environments of Buraku but also educational and occupational opportunities for, and to eradicate prejudice against, Burakumin.

Secondly, we are struggling against discrimination. Cases of discrimination investigated by the central and local or regional governments in 1979 number no less than 1,700, but this number is only part of all such incidents occurring every day. Discrimination in Japan is not yet punishable by law. We are conducting denunciation campaigns with the purposes of protest against discriminators and persons guilty of discrimination as well as to





educate them. Further, in order to eliminate discriminatory prejudice among the general population, Buraku liberation campaigns are conducted through the mass media and school education programs, which are, however, still insufficient. These campaigns can only provide partial resolution to the problem. Today's largest denunciation campaigns are the struggle against the so-called Buraku lists, and the movement calling for a retrial of the Sayama Case.

The book, "Buraku Chimei Sōkan", gives names and locations of all Buraku communities throughout Japan and includes the number of households and occupations in each Buraku. Its publication came to light in late 1975 and was being sold to corporations. To date, nine different forms of these lists have been sold to 219 companies, among which are many representative Japanese firms such as Motor Corporation and Kogyo Co., Ltd, bought for the purpose of practicing discrimination in hiring. This discriminatory problem has yet to be corrected.

The Sayama Case concerns a kidnapping and murder of a female highschool student in May 1963. Kazuo Ishikawa, then 23 years old, of Buraku origin was arrested arbitrarily as a result of discrimination and prejudice and sentenced to life imprisonment. Despite over two million signatures collected across the nation and the outcry by a number of well-known people for Ishikawa's innocence, a retrial has not yet been granted.

Thirdly, we are struggling jointly with other discriminated against minorities in Japan who are living under similarly severe circumstances as Burakumin. North and South Korean residents in Japan total 700,000. AINU population of Japan has been estimated by the government to be about 25,000. Other minorities suffering from severe discrimination in Japan include persons from Okinawa and those irradiated by the atomic bombs as are also disabled persons and women. These joint struggles are to help eradicate discrimination against all such groups. The Buraku Liberation League has been involved in actively promoting the International Women's Year and the UN Decade for Women and the International Year for Disabled Persons. It has also been active in the struggle to eliminate discrimination against North and South Korean residents in Japan. In addition, we are working to help raise the wages of the lowest paid workers and help improve their poor working conditions.

### III

Expansion of arms is worldwide today. This militaristic trend leads us to the fear of nuclear war. Japan is no exception. The Buraku liberation movement stands against nuclear war and arms expansion, actively participating in peace campaigns. Along with the increase of serious critical circumstances, such as arms expansion, inflation, increase in unemployment and more, discrimination against Burakumin has become aggravated today, as can be seen in the retrenchment in the national budget for Buraku liberation projects and in the increasing number of anti-Buraku graffiti in recent years. "Burakumin are the enemy of the people!" "Kill Burakumin!"

Under these severe circumstances, we would like to enhance solidarity on the international level in order to dispel such dangerous trends.

Before World War II, the Buraku liberation movement held protest campaigns against the Nazi genocide of the Jews, and after the war, it has kept contact with the untouchables in India. In 1977 we invited the former director of the UN Human Rights Section, Marc Shreiber, to Japan for Human Rights Week in December and he gave lectures on the situation of human rights and their protection throughout the world. With such efforts, in 1979 we led the national government to ratify the UN International Covenants on Human Rights. In 1980 we held an international symposium on human rights inviting four guests from France, the USA, Austria and India who were familiar with the Buraku problem. In December 1982, we held the first International Conference against Discrimination inviting six activists from abroad: Romani Rose from West Germany, Principal Director and Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma; Ravi Jain from U.K., General Secretary of the National Association for Asian Youth (NAAY), member of the National Committee against Racial Bias in Children's books, and treasurer of its publication "Dragon's Teeth"; Kanshi Ram from India, Chairman of the All-India Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation (BAMCEF) and Chairman of D-S4; Althea T.L. Simmons from the USA, Chief Lobbyist for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Director of the Washington Bureau; Albert Levy from France, Secretary General of the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples (MRAP); and Jose Ingles from the



Philippines, Chairman of the UN Committees on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. In this conference a declaration and a resolution were adopted. In this way, we have been and will continue to work not only for the elimination of discrimination against Burakumin but for the elimination of ALL forms of discrimination through close cooperation with people from various circles in the drive for international unity.

IV

Therefore we appeal for the following six items to the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. (1) In order to solve discrimination problems and to secure human rights for those who suffer severe discrimination all over the world today, further and more effective conventions as well as liberation projects be adopted by the UN. (2) Discriminatory problems originating in the historically established class systems, such as the Buraku problem in Japan, the problem of the untouchables in India, etc., shall be solved through international cooperation. (3) In order that the International Covenants on Human Rights be ratified by all the nations in the world, this World Conference and the UN shall make further and more effective efforts. (4) The UN shall newly establish a ten year plan as a result of this World Conference and each national government be made to translate the plan into that nation's own language to make it widely and publicly known. (5) This World Conference and the UN shall urge every nation to diminish military arms to eradicate the threat of nuclear war, and to transfer military expenditures to projects to eliminate discrimination in that society. (6) The UN shall take active initiative to make contact with non-governmental bodies (NGOs) struggling

against discrimination problems throughout the world.

V

The year 1983 marks the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With the Observance of the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in the General Assembly of the UN in 1981, we, the Buraku Liberation League, and various other groups have established our own executive committees throughout Japan on the occasion of this anniversary, and we are variously working on several activities: designing commemorative posters, tie-pins and pendants, publishing booklets and so on. We shall invite a speaker from the UN for a commemorative assembly held during Human Rights Week from 4 to 10 December this year.

We shall continue to make further efforts to encourage the national government of Japan to ratify the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as early as possible.

While we, the Buraku Liberation League, promise to struggle in Japan for the complete elimination of all forms of discrimination worldwide, we ask for help and support of the United Nations, its related organizations and all the non-governmental organizations that are struggling for human rights all over the world to eliminate Buraku and all other forms of discrimination in Japan.

August 1, 1983

Saichiro Uesugi  
President  
Buraku Liberation League

INFORMATION

BURAKU LIBERATION NEWS is published every two months by the Buraku Liberation Research Institute. The editorial staff will be very happy to receive any information concerning human rights, discrimination problems, liberation movement etc. If you have any, could you kindly send it to the following address?

**Buraku Liberation Research Institute**  
1-6-12 Kuboyoshi  
Naniwa-ku Osaka  
556 JAPAN