



May 1984

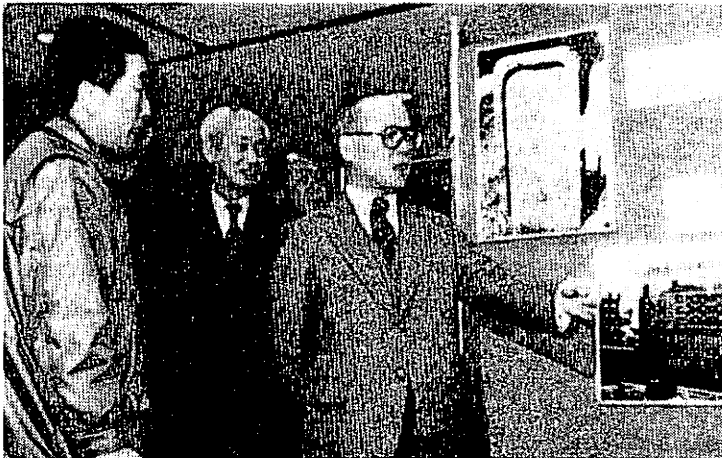
## Human Rights Exhibition Attended by 50,000

A Human Rights Exhibition was held in Osaka from March 13-20 under the theme "reality of discrimination against the Buraku which can deprive even life". Those who attended rose to fifty thousand during the week's exhibit.

The display exhibited 360 items; testimonial letters written by women who committed suicide because of discrimination in marriage, discriminative posthumous names engraved on gravestones, discriminative graffiti, and so forth. In one section called "experiences of discrimination handed down from generation to generation",

live appeals were made to the visitors on discrimination in employment, marriage, education, etc. This exhibition left vivid impressions of how harsh discrimination is and how important it is to overcome such problems. Television and the press provided broad coverage.

This Human Rights Exhibition was sponsored by the Buraku Liberation League Osaka Headquarters, Buraku Liberation Research Institute and others with the support of 70 organizations including the Osaka Prefectural and Municipal Offices.



Governor of Osaka Prefecture, Mr. Sakae Kishi, observes the exhibition (13th of March)

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## 40th General Meeting

Approximately 1200 representatives from all over Japan attended the 40th General Meeting of the Buraku Liberation League held in Hiroshima last March.

The following points were confirmed at the meeting:

1 Be cautious of Prime Minister Nakasone's basic posture. Although he suffered a reverse in public judgement in the last general election, he still directs his administration towards military

strengthening.

2 Strengthen the movement to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and establish wide-ranging actions to protect human rights.

3 Build up and improve the structure of the League.

4 Win the Sayama Case, now facing an important point, and prove the innocence of Mr. Ishikawa.



## **Maintenance and development of the Central Executive Committee for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Confirmed**

The Central Executive Committee to Commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights met on April 2 and confirmed to strengthen activities.

The contents of the agreements include; 1) to realize early and total ratification of both the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; 2) to hold study

sessions every other month and to publish news worthy information; 3) to create a slide film of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; 4) to prepare for the international conference to be held during Human Rights week in December. There are executive committees in 15 prefectures at this point but the need for more committees in other prefectures was discussed.

## **Movements concerning the Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**

The Japanese Government, in 1980, signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and made clear that it would ratify the Convention around 1985.

The situation in Japan is, however, that the female workers' average wage is 50% of that of males', a clear indication that discrimination against women exists. Moreover, there are still some laws which allow discriminative treatment against women.

Because of this, progress in modifying domestic laws has been minimal. In particular, for the enactment of laws to ensure equality in jobs for men and women, labor and management have been in direct confrontation.

The management exclaims that; 1 as a premise of the equality law, protection for women should be demolished—women should work overtime and do midnight work like men; and 2 because prohibitive regulations which accompany punishment are too strict, it should be made more generously such as "efforts or obligations of the

management".

To this, women's groups and labor organizations are declaiming the long working hours imposed on Japanese men, a factor often criticized from around the world. It is necessary to implement shorter working hours and not remove the protection that exists for women workers. Furthermore, an appeal is being made to legislate strict laws including punishment, intensifying the confrontation.

It is likely that any changes in the domestic laws necessary for ratifying the Convention will be most actively debated this autumn, and there are some who say that there is no need to ratify it hastily. Ratification now depends on the public opinion.

Buraku women are firm in their belief to continue to work for the ratification of the Convention and changes in domestic laws which aim toward the abolishment of discrimination against women.



***Result of a fact-finding investigation of  
anti-Buraku discrimination in Osaka, Part IV***

**The Reality of Discrimination Against Buraku  
in Osaka (4)**

**Employment**

**(3) Employment categories**

The comparison between the recent (1982) investigation and the national investigation (1979) shows that a decline among Burakumin workers can be seen in the categories of (1) specialist work,

(2) office work, (3) sales related work and (7) skilled factory work. The decline is especially great in categories (2) and (7), however, there has been an improvement in category (1).

**Chart (3): Occupations formed by Burakumin workers and peoples of Japan**

Occupation	Items	Buraku (1982. 10)		Japan (1979)	
		%	people	%	people (x1000)
1.	Special, technical, administrative work technicians, instructors, kindergarten teachers, company directors, nurses, etc.	13.3	3,514	15.6	6,149
2.	office work general office workers, bill collectors, financial workers, insurance workers, etc.	13.7	3,623	22.4	8,818
3.	sales related work sellers in stores, salesmen, insurance canvassers, etc.	7.5	1,975	11.8	4,658
4.	agriculture, forestry and fishery gardeners, landscape gardeners, livestock breeders, farmers, etc.	0.6	156	1.1	424
5.	ore mining work ore miners, extractors of sand and rocks, etc.	0.2	44	0.1	51
6.	transportation and communication drivers of buses, taxis, trucks, crane operators, telephone operators, postmen, etc.	7.0	1,847	5.9	2,308
7.	skilled factory and production work pressmen, leather manufacturers, manufacturers of foodstuffs, refinery workers, carpenters, plasterers, construction workers, etc.	20.1	5,301	30.7	12,116
8.	simple labor collectors of waste articles, janitors, public workers, garbage men, etc.	16.1	4,243	3.9	1,530
9.	security work guards, watchers, etc.	1.4	372	1.5	605
10.	service industry helpers, hairdressers, caddies, providers of food for schools, waiters, waitresses, etc.	11.9	3,138	6.9	2,734
11.	others	7.2	1,902	0.0	49
12.	unknown	1.1	294	--	--
Totals		100.0	26,409	100.0	39,442



What should be noticed is that in category (8) simple labor, the percentage of Burakumin is five times that of the national rate which indicates there has been no improvement here.

The reason for a high percentage of Burakumin in category (10) the service industry is because of

training and employment on commission (such as hairdressers, beauticians, cooks), area related conditions (such as caddies at golf courses, etc.) and a high rate of employment among tea and coffee shops.

**(4) Annual income**

In comparing Buraku income with Osaka income, most Burakumin earn between ¥1,000,000 and ¥1,490,000 (16.4%) to Osaka's ¥2,000,000 and ¥2,490,000 (15.5%) (See chart).

The lower levels of income are concentrated among Burakumin compared to Osaka's higher levels. These results clearly reveal the existence of

discrimination.

Among Burakumin, 52.4% earn less than ¥2,000,000 annually, the same level designated as the annual welfare income (¥2,000,000 or less). The average income of Burakumin workers is ¥1,925,000, approximately 58% of Osaka's ¥3,300,000.

**Chart (4): Comparison of annual incomes**

Annual Incomes (Yen)		Buraku (1982. 10)		Osaka (1979)	
		%	people	%	people (x1000)
1	under 500,000	9.8	3,538	5.6	193
2	500,000 ~ 990,000	11.2	4,035	9.3	319
3	1,000,000 ~ 1,490,000	16.4	5,883	13.6	467
4	1,500,000 ~ 1,990,000	15.0	5,385	15.0	514
5	2,000,000 ~ 2,490,000	14.9	5,302	15.5	532
6	2,500,000 ~ 2,990,000	9.2	3,293	12.8	441
7 ~ 8	3,000,000 ~ 3,990,000	10.2	3,677	13.9	476
9 ~ 10	4,000,000 ~ 4,990,000	2.5	888	7.2	247
11 ~ 14	5,000,000 ~ 6,990,000	1.4	512	4.3	149
15 ~ 17	above 7,000,000	0.7	246	2.6	91
18	incomes unknown	8.7	3,124	0.2	6
Total		100.0	35,953	100.0	3,435

Notice: (1) The numbers indicate net profit for Burakumin and tax included for Osaka's research. Therefore, it is necessary to subtract 10% when comparing with Burakumin.

**(5) Rate of unemployment**

Among the 43,355 Buraku working population, 7402 people are unemployed (17.1%). The rate of unemployment in Osaka in 1980 was 3.3%; thus,

Buraku unemployment is 5.5 times that of Osaka overall rate.



## ***Ishikawa of the Sayama Case Should Also Be Proven Innocent Without A Moment's Delay***

### **The Condemned Taniguchi Proven Innocent by trial after 34 Years in Prison**

“The accused is proven innocent.”

The moment the Takamatsu District Court handed down the decision at the open retrial, Shigeyoshi Taniguchi, the accused in the Saitagawa Case, was free 34 years after he was sentenced to death.

This is the second time innocence was proven in a retrial. The first being the Menda Case.

There are two others present seeking retrials

after being condemned and more than ten people throughout the country seeking retrials in various case.

Kazuo Ishikawa is among those people.

Like the Menda and Saitagawa cases, there are many points sufficiently dubious to prove guilt. Ishikawa should be proven innocent as soon as possible.

***Handing out many discriminative handbills saying  
“I was not notified that the house I bought was  
located in Dowa district”***

### **Discriminative Case occurs with Co.**

### **Housings**

A discriminative case occurred in Fukuoka in June 1983 affecting the Housings. A man, residing in Tokyo, bought a house from Housings. Few months later, he started handing out bills in his neighbourhood criticizing the housing corps. “I was cheating by Housings in buying a house which locates in the Dowa district.”

This is a rare case in recent discrimination. The buyer, when purchasing the house, did not know at all that the house he bought was located in the district of discriminated Burakumin. But after living in the house for a few months, he realized that this area was such a district.

The handbills written by him says: “I was very much in shock . . . . If I had known the truth, I wouldn't have bought it . . . . If the seller seeks smooth business deal, naturally they should notify the buyer or take another step.”

Still more he writes, “I do not yet possess the courage to live in the discriminated area under the present Japanese society. Ignoring the fact that

there still remains discriminatory consciousness among the general public, and with no guarantee that I will be able to live in this land without suffering Buraku discrimination visibly nor invisibly, I am at a loss when blamed for the discriminatory acts.”

As can be seen from his handbills, he knows very well of the actual conditions of the discrimination against Buraku, and therefore thought that he will be mistaken for a Burakumin and be discriminated if he lived in the area. Also, he blames

Housings for fraud because they concealed the fact that the place was located in Dowa district. The seriousness of this case lies in the buyer not realizing his own discriminatory acts.

Six months have passed since then but even now, he still keeps saying that he will hand out 100,000 more sheets of handbills.

In Japan today, there isn't a law to prohibit such discriminatory acts, which is one of the reason why solutions to this cases have not been found.



# The present dimension of the problem of religious intolerance (2)

Dougan Beacà, J.D.\*

## II. A short history of the Declaration

Three resolutions draw one's attention in the preparation of the Declaration: resolution 1781 (XVIII) of 7 December 1962, in that resolution the General Assembly decided to prepare (1) a draft declaration on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and (2) a draft international convention on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance 4/.

After several years of work by the Commission on Human Rights in preparing both the draft international convention and the draft declaration, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3027 (XXVII) of 7 December 1972 5/. In this resolution the General Assembly decided inter alia, to give priority to the completion of the Declaration before resuming consideration of the draft international convention. The following year the General Assembly adopted resolution 3069 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973 6/ and invited the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to consider with priority the elaboration of the draft declaration 7/.

With this specific request of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights devoted its efforts to the preparation of the draft declaration within an open-ended Working Group which the Commission has set up since 1974 at each of its sessions 8/ and by its resolution 20 (XXXVII) of 10 March 1981, the Commission adopted the draft Declaration and the Economic and Social Council transmitted it to the General Assembly "with a view to adopting and solemnly proclaiming it" 9/.

4/. See General Assembly official records, sup. 17 (A/5217).

5/. See General Assembly official records, sup. 30 (A/8730).

6/. See General Assembly official records, sup. 30 (A/9030).

7/. For a more concise history of the elaboration of the Declaration, see Document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/29, paras. 29-37.

8/. See document E/CN.4/1475, para. 343-345.

9/ It might be interesting to see how the General Assembly came to adopt this resolution, but such and exercise is somehow out of the immediate scope of this article.

## III. The new resolution and decisions

From the proclamation of the Declaration by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/55, other resolutions and decisions have been adopted with regard to religious intolerance and it is interesting to see how the problem is approached.

The Economic and Social Council has adopted in 1982 decision 1982/138 in which the Council endorsing Commission on Human Rights resolution 1982/41 submitted to it, requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations "... to disseminate widely, as a matter of priority and in as many languages as possible, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief". The Council also endorsed the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to issue, as soon as possible, a pamphlet containing the text of the Declaration, together with relevant articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in the six official languages of the United Nations, and to give the widest dissemination to the pamphlet 10/.

On 6 December 1982, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/187 in which it endorsed the Economic and Social Council decision 1982/138, requested the Secretary-General to bring the Declaration to the attention of the appropriate specialized agencies for the consideration of measures to implement the Declaration and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-ninth session on the views expressed, and requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider what measures might be necessary to implement the Declaration and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief.

During its thirty-fifth session, in 1982, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted resolution 1982/28 in which it requested the Secretary-General to



submit to it the following year all relevant and available information regarding the current dimensions of the problems of discrimination on grounds of religion or belief. The Sub-Commission also decided in the same resolution to consider at its thirty-sixth session, in 1983, on the basis of the information which the Secretary-General would have submitted to it the updating of the Study on Discrimination in Matters of Religious Rights and Practices conducted by its Special Rapporteur, Mr. A. Krishnaswami.

At its thirty-ninth session the Commission on Human Rights had before it on the one hand, a request from the General Assembly to consider what measures might be necessary for the implementation of the Declaration as mentioned above and, a proceeding started by the Sub-Commission tending to assess the current dimension of the problem of discrimination on grounds of religion or belief with a possibility of updating the study already existing and mentioned above.

The Commission on Human Rights, nevertheless, adopted resolution 1983/40 and "requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a comprehensive and thorough study of the current dimension of the problem of intolerance and of discrimination on grounds of religion or belief, using as terms or reference the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;" and in the same resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General, "to hold within the framework of the advisory services programme in the period 1984-1985 a seminar on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief". Thus it was clear that the Commission intended to initiate a proceeding which goes faster than that of the Sub-Commission which has only envisaged the possibility of updating a study already existing.

In the Economic and Social Council decision and in the General Assembly resolution, one can see that two aspects were clearly pointed out: the necessity of disseminating the Declaration and the search of implementing measures. These two aspects are in the normal proceeding following the adoption of a text such as the Declaration, and the implementation could end with the elaboration and adoption of an international convention <sup>11/</sup>.

It is in this context that the request to the Sub-Commission formulated by the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 1983/40 may raise some questions. The relevant paragraph reads as

follows:

"Requests the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a comprehensive and thorough study of the current dimensions of the problems of intolerance and of discrimination on grounds of religion or belief, using as terms of reference the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief".

There is in all these new resolutions, an element which should give assurance to those discriminated minorities (intolerance has been in many cases a result of ignorance): understanding and respect of others in religious matters is emphasized in the above resolution in relation to the measures to implement the Declaration. But one may wonder if the preparation of such a new study would not delay further the completion of the draft international convention on the matter suspended in 1972 by General Assembly resolution 3027 (XXVII) quoted above. Further the Declaration is based on a consensus reached by the international community after twenty years of work. It might be legitimate to worry about the effect of such a study which should be conducted on a new basis, on that consensus, taking into account the present international situation. A particular reference to that consensus was made during the debated in the Commission on Human Rights session of February-March 1983, and it was also clear from the debates that they were different conceptions on how the Declaration should be implemented as well as on how it should be interpreted concretely <sup>12/</sup>.

<sup>10/</sup>. See E/1982/28.

<sup>11/</sup>. During the debate at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, a delegate had expressed his readiness to cooperate in the drafting of an international convention. See E/CN.4/1983/SR.50, para. 37.

<sup>12/</sup>. See E/CN.4/1983/SR.49 and 50.

#### IV. Conclusion

Intolerance and discrimination in religious matters as well as in other fields has always resulted when other fundamental rights were violated. Hence, the great positive contribution represented by the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief will be restricted if the implementation of the Declaration were not inserted specially at the national level, in a whole programme of promotion



and encouragement of fundamental human rights.

At the international level, as it was pointed out during the debate in the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its thirty-sixth session 13/, the elaboration of the international convention suspended in 1972 should be stressed.

13/. See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/43, para. 47 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/SR.14, para. 42.

\* Dougan Beacà, J.D. is a graduate in Law and Philosophy and a staff member of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and in no way reflect official United Nations position.

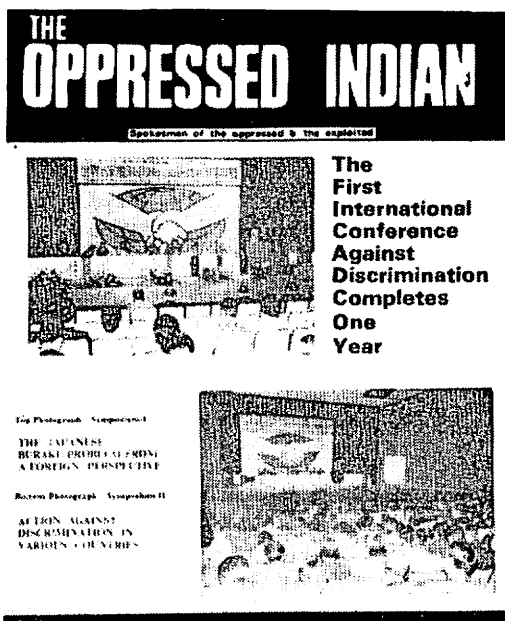
## BAMCEF Reports in the Oppressed Indian on the International Conference Held in Japan in 1982

The Oppressed Indian, a monthly journal published by BAMCEF (The All India Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation), made a special report on the International Conference Against Discrimination held in Japan in December 1982.

In this December 1983's issue, Mr. Kanshi Ram, the editor of the journal and also the president of BAMCEF, gives us an inside look of the International Conference, the oppressed Indian and their struggles, and the Buraku Liberation Movement.

It is a great honour for us to have an introduction about our movement on a journal or a newspaper circulated all over the world and, while we introduce others, we are looking forward to other introductions in other areas.

December 1983's issue of  
the Oppressed Indian



### 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?

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