



June 1984

150,000 People Rise Up for Sayama Case Retrial

Approximately 150,000 participated in various activities to protest and seek a retrial against the illegal arrest of Kazuo Ishikawa 21 years ago on May 23.

One such activity was a lecture in Tokyo by the writer Jakucho Setouchi. Her lecture titled "Retrial & Human Rights" drew people from various fields.

Ms. Setouchi, now at the peak of her activity, impressed the audience as she spoke from her experience of nearly 20 years concerning the retrial of the Tokushima Radio Shop case in which

the proprietor was murdered. Her speech covered how 1) one is forced by the police to confess, even though one has not committed a crime; 2) the court too easily allows such and does not carry out its role in fully protecting human rights; 3) she would like to continue her efforts as best she can to solve the numerous falsely accused cases, including the Sayama Case, which have been falsely.

In addition to this lecture, appeals were made by labor unions and the Liberation League to grant an immediate retrial of the Sayama Case.



Writer Ms. Jakucho Setouchi giving a lecture on "Retrial and Human Rights."

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Discussion on Human Rights for Mass Media Reporters

Because of inaccurate treatment of Buraku issues in the mass media, incidents of discrimination have been occurring all the more. In order to alter this situation and heighten the awareness of human rights, a gathering to institute discussion meetings for members of the mass media was held on April 24 in Tokyo at the Jiichiro Matsumoto

Memorial Hall. Twenty-four representatives from the press and broadcasting companies in Tokyo attended this ceremonial gathering and promised to hold meetings regularly to work together toward the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and in publishing articles about



Buraku issuers.

Chairman Uesugi, Chief Secretary Komori and six others from the Liberation League attended the ceremony, along with the city news editors and chief staff personnel from the Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, Sankei, Nikkei, Tokyo and Nishinihon

newspapers, the Kyodo News Service and Jiji Press, and from NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), Fuji Telecasting, Asahi National Broadcasting, TV Tokyo Channel 12, Nippon Television and TBS Broadcasting.

Results of fact-finding investigation of anti-Buraku discrimination in Osaka, Part V

The Reality of Discrimination Against Buraku in Osaka (5)

Social Security

(1) Pension Subscription chart 1

The most distinctive feature here is those not receiving pensions. Of the people in need of pensions (all pensioners and those in need of pensions) 22.5% have not yet applied. Under the system, non-recipients of public pensions are mostly eligible for the national pension which is just below 40%. After more than twenty years

since the slogan "pensions for everybody," we are still faced with this grave condition. Among the 40% eligible for national pension, those above age 35 will be regarded as non-pensioners under the present system, which will cause serious problems for them in their old age. (see chart 1)

Chart 1: Pension Subscription

item		people	percentage
total		82,765	/
Subscribed	total subscribers	35,705	45.6
	national pension program	17,365	22.2
	(total: employer's annuity)	(18,329)	(23.4)
	welfare annuity	12,968	16.6
	seamen's insurance	26	0
	(total: mutual aid association annuity)	(5,335)	(6.8)
	government workers	225	0.3
	public corporation workers	213	0.3
	local public service workers	4,772	6.1
	private school teachers and employees	64	0.1
	agriculture, forestry and fisheries institutions	31	0
non-subscribed	total non-subscribers	42,573	54.4
	ignorance of programs	10,373	13.3
	age below 20	32,158	41.1
unknown		4,487	

Those under age 20 and pension recipients are included among the subscribers. Unknown are not counted in the percentages.



(2) Pension Benefits chart 2

The percentages of the various types of pension recipients for Buraku are: national welfare pension (43%), national contributory pension (33%), welfare annuity (22%) and mutual aid association annuity (2%). These figures show that the majority subscribe to the system which is low on benefit request indicating the reality of low pension payments for Buraku.

Comparing this with Osaka's old-age pension, there is an enormous difference: Osaka's numbers are national contributory pension (30.6%), welfare annuity (30.4%), national welfare pension (27.4%) and mutual aid association annuity (11.6%). In comparing the mutual aid association annuities, the Buraku figures are one-fifth those of Osaka, a very great difference. This brings about very debilitating situations for the elderly, fartherless families and the handicapped.

(3) Annuity Rates chart 3

As indicated from the benefits mentioned, the low level payments of the national pension programme (of which the greatest are the low welfare pension rates) are the greatest reason for the small payments. Note that those receiving ¥300,000 and below (42.8%) and between ¥300,000 and ¥390,000 (19.9%) total more than 60%.

The sum paid in the present pension system for old-age welfare pension is ¥269,000 (the handicapped received ¥440,000 and fatherless families ¥441,000) which indicates how serious the situation is.

Average benefits amount to ¥442,000. This is half the standardized social aid (¥70,000 per month; ¥840,000 per year) for an elderly person (female, age 70) living alone. Virtually no one can live on pension alone.

(4) Public Assistance charts 4 & 5

Discriminated-against communities or the Buraku population receiving public assistance is 7,159 (10.5%). Compared to that of 3 the population of Osaka Prefecture, the percentage of those under welfare is 1.55% and it has increased by 6.8 times.

The tendency to be on welfare for many years is strong. The percentage of receiving welfare for more than ten years is 12.9 and over twenty years is (2.6%). (See chart) The percentage rises to

Chart 2: Recipients of old-age pension

	Buraku	Osaka	
national pension	welfare pension	2,700 42.6	198,680 27.4
	contributory pension	2,091 33.0	221,585 30.6
welfare annuity	1,395 22.0	220,101 30.4	
mutual aid association annuity	150 2.4	83,825 11.6	

Osaka's data as of 1979.

Chart 3: Amounts received and their ranking

amount	people/percentage	
below ¥300,000	3,234	42.8
¥300,000 ~ ¥390,000	1,503	19.9
¥400,000 ~ ¥490,000	587	7.8
¥500,000 ~ ¥590,000	403	5.3
¥ 0,000 ~ ¥690,000	337	4.4
¥700,000 ~ ¥790,000	304	4.0
¥800,000 ~ ¥890,000	232	3.1
¥900,000 ~ ¥1,090,000	329	4.3
¥110,000 ~ ¥1,290,000	265	3.4
¥1,300,000 ~ ¥1,490,000	166	2.2
above ¥1,500,000	203	2.7
total	7,571	100

34.1% including those who have received welfare for over five years. From these facts, we can see that what should be assured under the social security system, such as pensions, has not been accomplished and because of this, welfare or public assistance has become a last resort for Burakumin. It can also be assumed that employment which provides the means for independence has not yet been guaranteed.



Chart 4: Public Assistance (Welfare)

receiving welfare	total of those receiving	100.0	8.6	7,159
	1. from before 1954	1.4	0.1	100
	2. from 1955 ~ 59	1.2	0.1	89
	3. from 1960 ~ 64	2.5	0.2	177
	4. from 1965 ~ 69	7.8	0.7	562
	5. from 1970 ~ 74	21.2	1.8	1,518
	6. from 1975 ~ 79	33.9	2.9	2,425
	7. from 1980 ~ 82	28.4	2.5	2,030
	8. starting point unknown	3.6	0.3	258
	9. not receiving welfare		73.7	60,970
10. unknown		17.7	14,636	
total		100.0	82,765	

Chart 5: Percentages of years under welfare

	total	less than 3 years		more than 3 years		
		less than a year	1 ~ 3 years	3 ~ 5 years	5 ~ 10 years	more than 10 years
National	100	16.8	21.9	15.5	23.6	22.2
		38.7		61.3		
Buraku	100	26.3		73.7		

national data as of July 1981.

Executive Staff Member makes Discriminatory Remarks

An executive staff person (age 51) in the management of a certain municipal administration made discriminatory remarks. She is in charge of a department in the city administration which is calling for reform through "the participation of our citizens."

The incident occurred as follows. In the morning of April 10, as workers were chatting, the subject turned to a certain part-time employee in their department who owned an expensive automobile. The chief said, "Mr. A is this," holding up four fingers (a discriminatory gesture). She also said, "These people receive compensation under the Dowa Project, making it possible for them to buy deluxe cars." She continued, "Made penniless after the air raids in World War II, we'd also like to receive compensation."

This person had been especially selected by the mayor in April 1982 as a "pioneer" for the im-

provement of women's status, working with the Law on Equal Employment and activities surrounding the International Women's Year; she is the only woman in the management of this city administration.

City Administration imposes Gag Order

The municipal administration, however, has prohibited any mention of this matter, preferring to hide it. The Liberation League has been protesting this matter for it occurred in Kochi City where Dowa policies are given great emphasis. Because the municipal administration has shown no sincerity in this matter, a strong call has been urged upon them to reflect upon and change such attitudes.



“Death to Etta!” Malicious Postcard Received

The Kaiho Shnppan (Buraku Liberation Publishing Co.) office, located within the Buraku Liberation Center and headed by Chairman Sueo Murakoshi, was sent a malicious postcard.

The card, postmarked Shinjuku, Tokyo, March 31, had the words “Hooray for Buraku discrimination” written beside the address.

The message began “To all in the Liberation League,” followed by “Burakumin should be terminated!” Then “You are domesticated animals with just the surface skin of Japanese . . . 4 only By conspiring with the Socialist Party and the Communist Party, pursuing the fantasy toward equality, you are committing treason against democracy to place the Japanese people under the power of leftist communism”. The writer regards awareness of discrimination to be the same as anticommunism.

The writer also states, “You are Etta and Hinin. Classified beneath the four classes of warrior-farmer-artisans-merchants means you are not human.” The sender of this postcard goes to the limit, closing with, “You deserve to be discriminated against. . . . Death to Etta!”

解同のみなさんへ 土農工商とて、
 (部落民は抹殺されるべきだ) エタ・ヒニン

おまえたちを人間と呼びたいが、そうじゃない。
 貴様らは日本人の皮をかぶった家畜だ。
 家畜には家畜に対する礼儀で対するのが筋と
 いうものである。貴様らは国家への大罪を犯
 すものだ。反祖國的分子・売国奴たる社
 会党・共産党と結託して“平等”の幻想を塗り
 日本国民を共産左翼全体主義の压制下ににお
 うという民主政治への重大な反逆である。
 解放同盟は、その日本暗黒化への一里塚たる
 役目を果たす牙が肉だ。(毒舌!!) (本殺多
 非人)

くりかえし言う。えいいにん!! (毒舌!!)

貴様らは所詮家畜だ。オレは士族の末えい
 である。格が違うのだよ。
 貴様らは、エタ・ヒニン、土農工商以下というほ
 つまり人非人、人間じゃないのだ。

貴様らは差別されて当りまえ。差別撤廃など
 と、エラそうなことぬかすな。では、また送る。

日本民族の純血を保つための同志会 (毒舌)
 部落民 死ね!! エッタ死ね!! 石川 死ね

Liberation League participates in activities against the “Tomahawk” Rid Nuclear Weapons from Our Earth

In opposition to the nuclear cruise missile Tomahawk scheduled to be deployed in the U.S. Pacific Fleet, demonstrations were held June 6 at Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture. Along with the sit-in demonstrators, twenty thousand laborers, citizens and members of the Liberation League assembled to appeal the ridding of nuclear weapons, not only from Japan, but from the world.

30,000 Assemble

In Osaka, on June 9, thirty thousand people

assembled in Nakanoshima Park for the “Day Before” movement. Various groups organized their own sections: “workers’ square”, “section for panels”, “bazaar square”, “women’s square”, “students’ square”, etc. At one-thirty meetings, such as the die-in, highlighted the day’s purpose.

One thousand members of the Liberation League participated to create a panel exhibition called “The One-Day Peace Museum”.



Protest Against the Discrimination Found in the Writings of Kukai, the Founder of the Shingon Sect

Kūkai, founder of the Shingon Sect of Buddhism, has been found to have written in the “Shōryōshū” that “The so-called sendara (base people) are wicked and traitors to the state and to the way of the Buddha. These people have no use in this world and will upon death fall into the worst of hells.”

The BLL headquarters have sent a query to the various branches of the Shingon sect. We feel very strongly about this discriminatory statement written by the founder of the Buddhist sect which represents our country.

Sendara comes from the Sanskrit word Candāla. It is a term imposed upon discriminated against

peoples and “Translates into Chinese ideographs as atrocious, slaughterer and murderer. In India they were lowly people who worked as hunters, butchers and executioners and were placed entirely outside of the caste system. They were regarded as dogs and pigs, not human, abhorred and treated with contempt and derision.” (Quoted from a major source on Buddhist terms, Bukkyōgo Daijiten, edited by Nakamura Hajime.)

This is not simply an ancient Indian word. It has been transmitted to Japan along with many sacred Buddhist texts. At the time of the structuring of society in the Edo period, it came to be used to identify the discriminated against minority, spreading into use as a synonym of eta in the religious world as well and so continues to this day.

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications Abolishes the Nationality Restriction in Employment

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications made clear on May 24 that the nationality clause restricting applicants to Japanese citizens will be removed. This clause has especially excluded Koreans residing in Japan.

“Koreans cannot work in the post office. This

is discriminatory and violates the International Covenant on Human Rights.” This complaint was lodged by _____ and _____. Both are from Osaka’s Buraku district and were brought up in the Tokkabi Children’s Association. Supporting their protests were the



District of the BLL, the Postal Liberation Research Association, Japan Postal Worker's Union and the Buraku Liberation League which assisted in the campaign to collect signatures. These activities helped to obtain the removal of the nationality restriction.

There are, however, many tasks remaining to be tackled. Within the Ministry discrimination still exists and, on a national scale, the nationality restriction remains for employment in local government offices. The struggle has just begun.



Activities Begin in Osaka

Youth Department of the Liberation League Takes the Lead

1985: International Youth Year

The year 1985 has been established by the United Nations as International Youth Year. The IYY Programme of Action adopted at the 36th UN General Assembly emphasizes the following: (1) to place emphasis on activities at the domestic level, (2) to attach importance to those at the base of society, the youth; (3) to grasp the real conditions of youth; through which (4) to review the current policy programmes; especially (5) to guarantee the right of employment, education, health and living quarters; (6) to strengthen activities to eliminate discrimination; (7) to intensify disarmament and peace education; and in relation to the above activities, (8) to promote grass-roots level participation of youth; and (9) through these, strengthen the ties with youth throughout the world, and seek to establish the New International Economic Order.

The UN decided on this International Youth Year under three broad themes: Participation, Development and Peace.

In Osaka, the Youth Section of the Buraku Liberation League, the trade unions and young peoples' associations from various fields have started to organize and establish study classes to promote the IYY.



Symbol Mark of International Youth Year
1985



Two International Magazines Cover Japan's Minorities

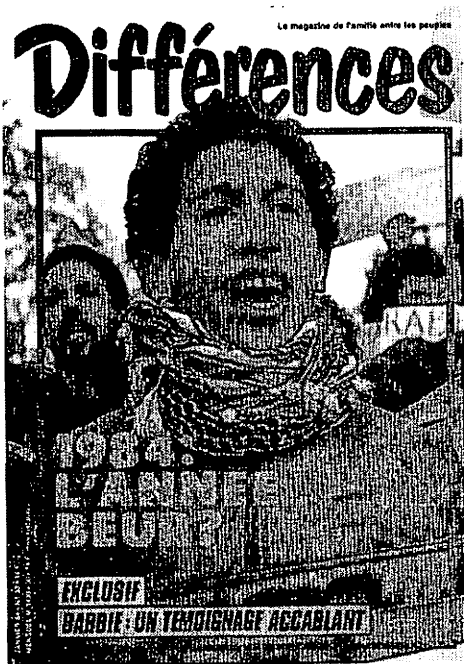
Japan's minorities were recently written up in magazines by two international organizations, Minority Rights Group and Movement Against Racism and For Friendship Between Peoples. Both of these organizations are NGOs in Consultative status with ECOSOC.


The Minority Rights Group, based in London, published "Report No. 3: Burakumin, Koreans, Ainu, Okinawans". This report is an 18-page booklet which describes the situation of the mentioned minorities. This 1983 edition on Japan's minorities is the third of 59 reports MRG

has written.

MRAP (Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples) issued an article in their monthly magazine "Différences". Albert Lévy, secretary general of MRAP and editor of this magazine, personally wrote the article; Mr. Levy was in Japan as a participant in the Int'l Conference Against Discrimination.

As we express our appreciation to these two organizations which contribute greatly to the protection of human rights, we want to continue our efforts in the struggle.



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MINORITY
RIGHTS
GROUP

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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