



An Appeal to Our Readers for the New Year

The year 1984 was, to the Buraku Liberation Movement, a year in which international solidarity made further progress such like in the previous year.

At the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities held in Geneva in August, and at the W.C.R.P. held in Nairobi immediately after, Saichiro Uesugi, chairperson to the Central Executive Committee for the Buraku Liberation League, made for the first time an appeal for the international solidarity to eliminate Buraku discrimination and to protect human rights. There, meeting with a great public response, we learned of the importance of the international cooperation.

Also, in October, symposiums and lecture meetings were held in Tokyo and Osaka under the theme of "Employment, Equality and Human Rights". For this occasion, Mr. Claude Rossillion, chief of the Equality of Right Branch in I.L.O., and Ms. Michiko Hasegawa, specialist in Equal Rights at Equality of Rights Branch in I.L.O. accepted our invitation to speak to us on this matter, enabling a better understanding of the I.L.O. Convention No. 111 and the roles that I.L.O. plays for the protection of human rights.

Furthermore, we invited two guests from the UN - Ms. Rosario G. Manalo, chairperson to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and Mr. José L. Gomez del Prado, secretary to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - during the Human Rights Week in December and held gatherings in Sapporo, Tokyo and Osaka.

It can be said without doubt that this program raised public interests in ratifying the two conventions: on Racial Discrimination and on Women.

Now, 1985 is the 40th year since the end of World War II. But for Japan, it is the 40th year of defeat, and more important of being bombed by

A-bombs. I believe it is more important than ever to realize the significance of peace and human rights stronger than any other countries.

Starting off from the cutting down of nuclear weapon and onto its elimination, struggling to reduce war funds. And at the same time establishing human rights and abolishing discrimination as if riding on a two wheeled vehicle.

Among these actions, "Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation", "Law on Ainus" and "Protection Law for the victims of the atomic raid" are being discussed as the most important tasks.

Therefore it is needed to establish stronger and broader ties with various people seeking human rights.

We, as for the Buraku Liberation Movement, will make efforts in the best possible ways.

To these engaged in the protection of human rights in various regions of the world, we wish you in a further cooperation to seek the common goal.



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Human Rights Week Brings Two U.N. Guests; for the Early Ratification of the Two Conventions on Discrimination

December 5th at Sapporo, 7th at Tokyo, and 10th at Osaka – meetings were held with invited guests from the U.N.: Ms. Rosario G. Manalo, chairperson for the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, and Mr. José L. Gomez del Prado, secretary for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Participants numbering over 6000 from various fields showed their strong will that, though activities to abolish discrimination within the country are important, there is a greater need to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This is Japan's responsibility as a member of the international society of nations. (The schedule of events is indicated in the chart.)

Schedule of Events

- Dec. 2 (Sun.)**
Ms. Rosalio G. Manalo and Mr. José L. Gomez del Prado arrive at Tokyo
- Dec. 4 (Tues.)**
Visit Shiraoi Ainu Museum, Hokkaido
- Dec. 5 (Wed.)**
Sapporo Meeting
Hokkaido Executive Committee for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Dec. 7 (Fri.)**
Tokyo Meeting
Central Executive Committee for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Dec. 8 (Sat.)**
Ms. Manalo attends the Osaka Women's Gathering for the Success of Nairobi Conference
by Osaka Executive Committee for International Women's Conference
Mr. Gomez del Prado attends discussion meeting at Buraku Liberation Center
- Dec. 9 (Sun.)**
Visit Buraku

Dec. 10 (Mon.)

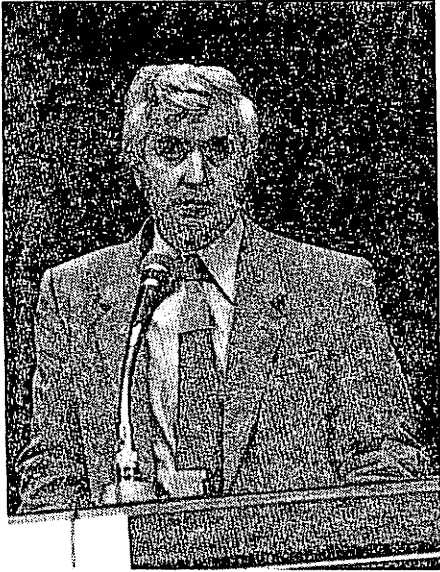
- Osaka Meeting
- Osaka Liaison Conference for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The meetings were organized by 1) the Central Executive Committee for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (chief representative Eiichi Isomura, honorary professor, Tokyo Prefectural University's) composed of corporations, religious bodies, scholars, representatives from cultural organizations, 2) the executive committee from last year's successful project to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the U.D.H.R. and 3) three newly established committees in Hokkaido, Shiga and Gunma Prefectures.

Ms. Rosario G. Manalo presented the following topics in her talks: (1) the achievements of the U.N. Decade for Women (1975 ~ 84) – especially on the adoption of the Convention and on the permanent improvement in education, employment, etc.; (2) the significance of the Convention ratified by more than 60 nations; (3) the amendment of the Japanese Nationality Act by the government in order to ratify the Convention; evaluation of the measures to improve conditions in the fields of employment, education, etc.; the importance of ratifying the Convention soon;



Osaka Gathering.



Mr. José L. Gomez del Prado, Secretary to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, at the Tokyo Gathering.



Ms. Rosario G. Manalo, Chairperson to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, at the Osaka Gathering.

(4) the importance of constant effort in addition to the establishment of a law in Japan; (5) the significance of the "World Conference to discuss and evaluate the achievements of the U.N. Decade for Women" – especially on the adoption of two main documents: "The Report on the Discussion and Valuation of the Achievements of the U.N. Decade for Women" and "Future Strategy and Concrete Policy"; (6) the importance of the roles played by NGOs.

Mr. José L. Gomez del Prado spoke on (1) the principle of antidiscrimination being the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, one of the most important standards under the law of nations, (2) there being no end to discrimination by color, origin, with Apartheid and Genocide – the most extreme cases, (3) the International Convention with 124 ratifying nations being the most effective way towards eliminating discrimination, (see Chart 1), (4) the principle aim in the International

Convention providing three important aims: first, special policies for improving the status of politically weak groups; second, legislation to punish those who instigate discrimination; third, overall policies on education and enlightenment to eliminate prejudice; (5) the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

At the Sapporo Gathering an appeal was made by the Society of Utari, Hokkaido. A representative from the society talked on the establishment of the Law on the Ainu Race (see B.L. News No. 22) and the abolishment of discrimination against the Ainu race. Also there was a traditional Ainu dance performance by the society for the preservation of the Ainu racial culture.

At the Tokyo Gathering, the Japanese Confederation of Labour talked on action taken towards eliminating discrimination; Takamichi Nagai, managing director of the Soto Sect, spoke from a religious perspective.

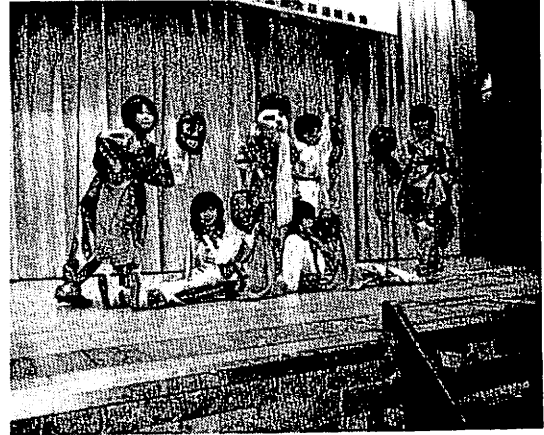
The Osaka meeting included a performance of Okinawa dance, Korean dance by children, and a Bon Festival dance by Burakumin.

Chart. 1

	Africa	Asia	East Europe	Latin America	West Europe, Others	Total
Total Number of Nations	51	46	11	33	30	171
Member Nations	38	28	10	26	22	124
Percentage (%)	74	60	91	79	73	72



As the keynote address at all the meetings, Saichiro Uesugi, vice chairman of the Central Executive Committee, spoke as follows: "Next year is the 40th anniversary of the Japanese defeat in W.W.II. and also the best opportunity to reconfirm the importance of peace It is necessary to enforce a continual struggle to eliminate discrimination and protect human rights And it is important to ratify now the two conventions discussed today."



Traditional folk dance by the children of Koreans in Japan (at Osaka Gathering)



Traditional folk dance of the Ainus (at Sapporo Gathering)

“White Paper on Human Rights: From the Viewpoint of the Discriminated” Published for the First Time in Japan

“White Paper on Human Rights: From the Viewpoint of the Discriminated,” which was being prepared for this year’s Human Rights Week (Dec. 4 – 10), was recently published by the Central Executive Committee for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This book is considered the first such publication made in Japan. It includes personal experiences and thoughts about the serious problems of the

discriminated in Japan.

We are now preparing preparations to publish an English version sometime in August next year.

(in B6 size; 300 pages; list price ¥1200.-)



Buraku Reported on French Broadcast

The Télévision Français 1 visited the Buraku Liberation League last October to make a documentary report of Buraku. During their month's stay, the T.F.1 gathered various materials in three major Japanese cities. In Hiroshima, "Victims of the Atomic Bomb and Discrimination Against Buraku" and "Marriage Discrimination" were reported along with an interview with Chief Secretary Komori.

In Osaka, "the Case of the Discriminatory Graffiti" and "the Reality of Buraku" were taken up.

Finally, in Tokyo, the T.F.1 rolled their film unreservedly on the Daito Branch of the B.L.L., Vice Chairman Ueda's actions within the Diet and the Sayama Case demonstration of Oct. 31.

This program is expected to be released in mid-December in France.

Toward Establishing "The Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation"

In October of this year, the Law on Special Measures for Regional Improvement Projects cleared the halfway milestone of its five year term. Also, it was 15 years ago that the Law on Special Measures for Dowa Projects was established.

The conditions concerning the discrimination against Buraku have improved steadily through these 15 years. However, as far as the objectives of complete Buraku liberation are concerned, I am forced to admit that there are still some problems left.

As a matter of fact, I believe that it is becoming more and more critical for us considering our country's political situation: cutting off of welfare, reinforcement of armaments, strengthening of the swing to the right, etc.

In March this year, the Central Headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League consigned the Buraku Liberation Research Institute to research the "Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation" (tentative name) which will be established three years later.

At the Research Institute, an inquiry committee has been formed, calling in specialists from various fields of studies — the Buraku problem, the Constitution, international law, the Criminal Procedure Law, etc. — to thoroughly study these issues. This December, we are to submit our final report to the Central Headquarters.

Among the items written in the Fundamental Law are (1) the importance of solving the Buraku problem (2) the need to complete the tasks still left to us (not only on regional improvement but also on employment and education) (3) the need to systematically further education and enlightenment programs (4) the need to legally regulate vicious discriminative acts.

Among the points discussed in this new law was

the relation between this law and the Fundamental Law on Human Rights, which is aimed at all forms of discrimination. It would have been desirable to establish the Fundamental Law on Human Rights. However, in order to do that, the contents of the law would have to be agreed upon not only by those who are discriminated against but also by the whole Japanese population, taking a great deal of time and effort. Keeping this in mind it is better for the time being to seek the establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation, aiming in the future for the Fundamental Law on Human Rights.

Another problem that arose was on regulating discrimination by law. In the inquiry committee it was concluded that truly malicious acts be regulated, not all. It is best to leave those which can be dealt with in the usual way, such as by identifying and denouncing the offenders. However, when it comes to people whose aims lie in making a profit by means of discriminating in employment, instigating discrimination or investigating a person's background, legal regulation must be made to terminate such acts.

After the committee's report is received in December, the Central Headquarters of the B.L.L. will hold a major discussion meeting before writing up a draft of this law to be presented in time for the 42nd National Assembly to be held in March next year. From April, the B.L.L. will approach the Socialist Party of Japan and other political parties, as stated by chairman Saichiro Uesugi of the B.L.L. at a press conference on October 7.

In all events, the establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation becomes possible through strong public support and through the solidarity of international groups seeking human rights.



“I will Commence Attacks on You!” Discriminative Threatening Letter Sent.

A discriminative letter, with threats such as “I will commence attacks on you!” arrived at Buraku Liberation Conference, B.L.L.

Since April of this year, 58 discriminative scribbles and 144 hand-written bulletins were found in this district.

Distinctive features of this letter are: (1) the letters are all written straight by a ruler which can be estimated to hide his or her signature, (2) at the back of the envelope where the letter is glued, he or she placed the star of David (meaning the hunting down of Jews by Hitler = indicating the hunting down of Burakumin), (3) the letters

are all in *katakana*, a square form of *kana*, (4) he or she writes that the scribbles and bulletins will continue to increase (Is he/she the same person?), (5) at the end of the letter, it is written “I will commence attacks on you!” This way of addressing the public resembles with the “Let’s slaughter Eta people!” written on 32 bulletins which were found last April.

The sender calls himself/herself Osaka Union. Black Scorpion. Branch is now continuing to find the culprit along with strengthening enlightenment within the district.

Mr. Choabi of the African Liberation Visits B.L.L. Headquarters

On October 30, a distinguished leader of the South African Liberation Struggle Mr. M.S. Choabi (ANC = African National Congress) visited the Buraku Liberation League’s Central Headquarters and met with Chief Secretary Komori.

Mr. Choabi, acting as a trustee at a liberation school in Tanzania (SOMAFCO) for exiled children from South Africa, is in a position for the ANC as an educator to lead the people to liberty.

To quote from his conversation with Komori: “I came to know that discrimination exists against Buraku during this first trip to Japan. The reason I came to visit your headquarters is because I heard that you are fighting against the same kind of pain we have. I am pleased to have been able to meet you.” Mr. Choabi continued his conversation by appealing on the conditions of South Africa and asked for our cooperation.

Chief Secretary Komori replied, “We have only begun an international project. We are now moving towards ratifying the International Convention on Racial Discrimination. I, too, have attended UN Conferences and witnessed the scale of the problems in South Africa and your activities. In a sense, you are our precursors. We would first like to understand your predicament better and would like to cooperate in every possible way.”

In these talks, Mr. Choabi also met Director of

the Buraku Liberation Research Institute, Kenzo Tomonaga, and exchanged information and ideas with him.



Mr. M.S. Choabi (second from right) and Secretary T. Komori confirm solidarity at Jiichiro Matsumoto Memorial Hall, Tokyo



“At That Time, I was”

Relating My Experiences of Discrimination, Part (III)

When I was serving in the army, a superior officer said

I was born and raised in a family of nine children in a rural part of Nara Prefecture. My father worked repairing umbrellas but he was actually unemployed. We lived in dire poverty. When I graduated from elementary school, I served as an apprentice in a Buraku in (now

called or district). Since then I have lived in the Buraku with no contact with people outside the Buraku. Therefore, I personally was not directly discriminated against very much. Yet, there is an experience of discrimination still strongly engraved in my mind.

“Isn’t he on fours?”

In 1942 (Showa 17) I was a new recruit in the interception forces in Osaka. There was one soldier, a little dull at moving. One day, a superior by the name of scolded him furiously. The dull man left disconsolately and immediately afterwards said to me suddenly, “Isn’t he on fours?” I was furious at this comment and replied demandingly, “What do you mean fours?” , possibly feeling embarrassed by my expression, could not say a word. In the military, when one disobeys the superior in charge,

punishment is unavoidable. In this case, nothing happened.

No double did not know that I was from Buraku, or he could not have said what he said so easily. He was from Okayama Prefecture. I remember his face and could recognize him even today after 42 years.

I would be lying if I said I plunged into the liberation movement because of this experience. Even after the war, I was still of the opinion “let sleeping dogs lie”.

A school strike against discrimination

It was when I was in the second or third grade that I vaguely come to know about the existence of discrimination against Buraku. One day, a public employee of our village came knocking at our door, saying, “There’s no need to go to school tomorrow. But there will be an assembly at the temple.” I went to the assembly not knowing its purpose when our teacher arrived to take us to school. “Why should we go to a school that calls us Etta,” shouted the man who had come knocking at our door. Looking back on this episode, I now think it was a one day strike against some incident of discrimination that had just occurred. I began to understand about Buraku discrimination from my mother as I asked her about this incident. Even after this, however, I was still naive. It was the people in the Buraku Liberation Movement that awakened my consciousness. As I rose to fight, somewhere deep inside of me was the memory of military life.

Vice Chairperson for the Osaka Headquarters, Buraku Liberation League, Deputy Manager for the Branch of the B.L.L.



Graffiti Found at Kansai University

On November 6, graffiti of a vicious nature were posted on the campus of Kansai University (student population twenty thousand). The poster (see photograph) is 1.5 m by 3.4 m.

The protest written by the university follows.

= NOTICE =

The worst type of racial discrimination has occurred.

A poster, put up yesterday evening (Nov. 6) on the second floor of the old building at the Tenroku branch school, went beyond the bounds of sheer scribbling.

The contents were of a criminally challenging nature against Kansai University and against Koreans residing in Japan. Sadly enough, this means that the curricular education programs on liberation and activities on the problems of discrimination has been for naught.

The culprit, with various ideas of prejudice against Koreans living in Japan — such as “fingerprinting is a good system” or “low base Korean ghetto” or “theory of natural discrimination” — is armed with a good command of discriminative vocabulary, bringing disgrace upon himself. We hope that this person, signing himself “84 Sho-liberal” using the name of a club, will come to realize that what he did was truly criminal.

November 7, 1984

Kansai University

The above, dated Nov. 7, was followed by an additional notice.

The discriminative act made the day before yesterday is outrageous and hardly excusable, the writer must be denounced.

There have been discriminative graffiti in the past. However, this is not just a scribbling, it is well-prepared. The written used the back of three sheets of a JNR calendar.

The writer of this bulletin calls Koreans living in Japan criminals. Ignoring human rights, he writes “they should be supervised under the security police,” or “the low Koreans do not need human rights.”

“When you see a pachinko store or a money lending firm, it’s the low-Koreans”. We can see that this person has deep-rooted prejudices and a discriminative consciousness against Koreans. Who was it that closed the gate employment against Koreans? Who was it that deprived them of their life foundation? And who was it that brought them here forcibly, denying them their language, stripping them of their names, making them Japanese and leaving them after the war without full guarantees for their lives?

The writer discriminating against and rejecting the Koreans can only be called a criminal. This action undermines our educational program towards the human rights problem.

We have held meetings concerning human rights problems to help foster a strong consciousness towards human rights. We must not overlook these discriminative acts. We must not tolerate discriminative graffiti or posters.

Every member of the university must continue all effort to abolish discriminative acts.

November 8, 1984

Kansai University



Correction and Apology

On the page 2 of Buraku Liberation News No. 22 (November, 1984), we reported Mr. Claude Rossillion stating: “Japan should ratify this convention No. 111 as soon as possible.” This, however, is not true to the fact.

This statement actually was of participating organizations.

The editor of the News would like to correct the error and sincerely apologize for this error to Mr. Rossillion and all others concerned.