



March 1985

Begin Full-Scale Struggle Towards Establishing Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation

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The new year 1985 will be a historical turning point, 20 years since the presentation of the report by the Integration Policy Deliberation Council and 10 years since the detection of the Buraku List, a discriminative book circulated in the black-market. Also the New Law on Special Measures for Area Improvement Projects which expires in two years means that we must make full use of the time remaining to improve the environment and at the same time begin the full-scale struggle to establish the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation.

In March last year, the Burake Liberation League Central Headquarters commissioned the Burake Liberation Research Institute to study the Fundamental Law. Late last year, the results of the study, main principle and interpretation were presented.

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According to the report, the Fundamental Law consists of the following four parts:

- ① a declaration that the solution to the Buraku problem is the most important task, as an embodiment of the Constitution of Japan, and that it is the duty of the country;
- ② a section enabling enforcement of measures con-

cerning the surroundings of Buraku as well as occupation, education and environmental improvement.

- ③ an educational section part urges the promotion of enlightenment activities in response to the report made in June last year by the Council on Environmental Improvement.
- ④ a regulatory section including legal controls against increasing vicious discriminatory incidents.

The Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation is an answer to a report made by the Deliberation Council of the Integration Policy, the International Covenant on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and other international human rights conventions.

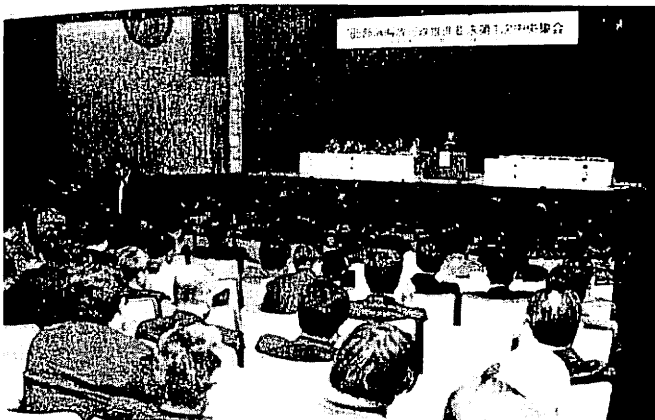
Among the four parts, the enforcement and regulatory sections require separate laws in relation to this Fundamental Law. In this report, however, the main principle of the regulation law on discrimination is introduced.

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As a whole, majority approval was gained at the discussion meetings; but the regulatory section

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At the Central Gathering to Request Administrative Promotion on Buraku Liberation



raised many questions for this will influence the Buraku Liberation Movement's very lifeline, the "denunciation struggle." However, the main principle of the regulation law on discrimination shows full consideration of this point.

For instance, legal regulation is intended only for instigating fascistic discrimination such as saying "Slaughter every Burakumin," investigating family background with a profit motive as private agencies do, and discriminating in employment as prejudiced enterprises do.

The last two are acts to be supervised by local self-governing bodies. Therefore, the main principle of the regulation law on discrimination aims only to deal with discriminative influences, and will provide further grounding in "denunciation struggles,"

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It is also important to unite strongly and spread

the root of Buraku, and organize a wide range of supporter from local self-governing bodies, trade unions, enterprises and religious groups.

We are determined to start the struggle to establish the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation and also to ratify the International Convention on Racial Discrimination.

Finally, these various measures to solve the Buraku problem function to raise standards of Japan's welfare, education and human rights. The task to establish the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation thus also means the task to realized the spirit of the Constitution. This year marks the 40th year from Japan's defeat in the Second World War. Starting with the Buraku problem, abolishing discrimination and establishing human rights will pave the way to peace.

First Government Negotiation Starts on Administrative Promotions on Buraku Liberation.

The first negotiation between the government ministries and about one thousand persons including members of the Buraku Liberation League was held in Tokyo in January, the main topic being the 1985 Dowa budget (budget for the promotion of projects in the integration policy).

Made clear through these negotiations was that, in spite of the law's two year limitation, the Dowa budget is approximately ¥210.6 billion, two percent lower (¥4.19 billion) than last year's. Moreover, it has been dropping since 1982 (see chart).

Although adequate progress has been made in environmental improvement projects, there are still many problems; discriminatory cases are becoming more vicious, unemployment and families on welfare are increasing, the need for full guarantee of educational right, etc.

The continuous reduction in the Dowa Budget is a

clear indication that the government's desire toward solving the Buraku problem is falling behind.

Furthermore, from the total national budget (approx. ¥52.5 trillion) with the government benton budgets have been cut in social security (2.7%), public works (2.3%) and subsidies to the local self-governing bodies (10%). At the same time defense expenses rose by 6.9% to ¥3.1 trillion. If we add the share of the latter half of the year, the sum exceeds ¥5 trillion.

We believe that wars are the greatest violation of human rights. Our stand is "Reduce defence expenses for welfare and human right," and we will strongly oppose the budget and strengthen plans to secure a greater Dowa budget and establish the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation.

Fiscal year	Budget (yen)	Compared to previous year
1981	279,200,000,000	
1982	274,500,000,000	1.7 % reduction
1983	238,400,000,000	13.2 % reduction
1984	214,800,000,000	9.9 % reduction
1985	210,600,000,000	2 % reduction



Ten Years Since the Case of the Buraku List

Draft Law to Prohibit Background Surveys is Arranged

The Osaka Prefectural Government, now aiming to establish Japan's first regulation to prohibit inquiring into people's antecedents, made clear of the main principle concerning the regulation. Included in it is a penal regulations clause that will suspend business to those who violate them. If approved at the Prefectural Assembly, this regulation will be in effect from October 1.

The formal name will be "the Law on the regulation of surveys concerning events of Buraku discrimination." It will contain eleven clauses. ① Whereas the aim of this law is to regulate investigation and reports that will lead to discriminative acts in employment on marriage, and to protect fundamental human rights and prevent discrimination against Buraku; ② Calling to the prefectural government to enforce enlightenment so as to achieve this aim; ③ Calling to the inquiry offices to endeavor not to violate this law; ④ Calling to the people not to make an illegal investigation or to

request such acts.

Especially under the clause on inquiry offices and detective agencies, it quotes that all dealers must submit a notice to the governor and turn in the account book and the list of employees. If ignored, there will be a minor fine. Furthermore, there are two items for the dealers to obey: ① Prohibits investigations or reports on whether one lives or had lived in the Dowa district; ② Prohibits selling the lists of the whereabouts of the Dowa district or to offer information on such whereabouts. To those who violate these items, there are "necessary instruction" or suspension of business up to three months or a fine up to ¥50,000.

Says a member concerned throughout this project; "It has been ten years since the Buraku List was first found in 1975. This is a result of the movements and wide supports from the people of Osaka. Let's watch intently for the result of the Prefectural Assembly."

Oppose Custody Law , Seek New Retrial Law

Yukio Saitoh one-time suspect of Matsuyama Case (case condemned to death) and his mother came to Osaka.

Osaka citizens opposing the two laws concerning custody of suspects held a meeting in Osaka on February 7 organized by the B.L.L. , lawyers , and labor unions to seek a modification of the retrial clause in criminal suits.

The two laws concerning the custody of suspects legally permit "substitute imprisonment" , making forced confessions easier because the suspect is placed under 24 hour police custody , and limited visitation for the suspect and lawyers or family members. This contravenes the International Covenants on Human Rights (Covenant B). Opposed by many including the Japan Federation of Bar Associations , the Ministry of Justice has introduced a bill to the Diet.

Hide Saitoh and her son , Yukio Saitoh , who won a retrial last year and was granted innocence after 24 years of struggle , came from Sendai City to appeal at the February 7 meeting. They spoke of their experiences of having been arrested on separate charges and forced to confess. They

related the problems of the retrial system , unless innocence is absolutely proven , retrial cannot be granted in court.

齊藤幸夫・ヒデさんを迎えて
拘禁二法反対・再審法改正大阪府民集会



Yukio Saitoh(right)Hide(center)prepare to appeal on the dreadfulness of a false charge and death penalty.



Postcard sent to B.L.R.I. Publication Office

The Liberation Publication Corporation received early in January a postcard with a discriminative contents.

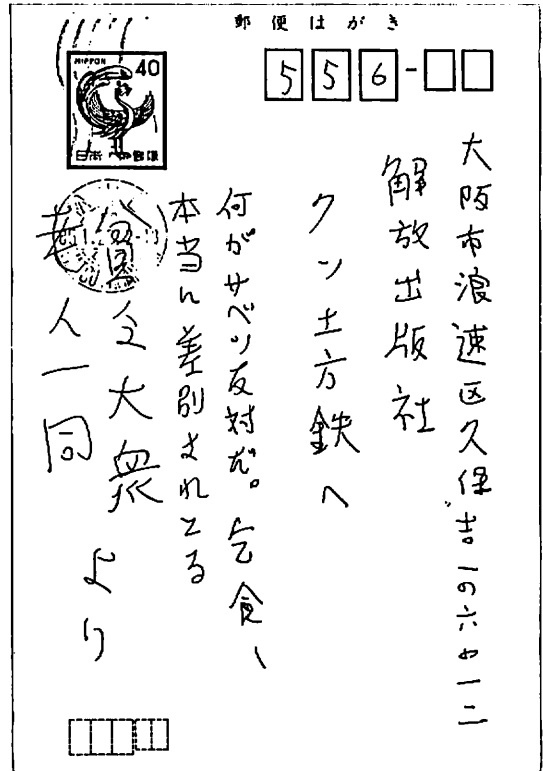
The anonymous writer says that ① the poor and the elderly are suffering from heavy taxes , ② compared to those people , Burakumin do not work and do not pay taxes ; all they do is shout discrimination , and spend tax money like water , ③ "we are the ones that are discriminated ; wait till I set fires to your house."

He sets a false rumor afloat that Buraku and Dowa Administration are to blame for heavy taxes and poverty. This conceals the true cause of poverty and discrimination to the nation and divides the people.

At the end , he states that Buraku is evil ; the post card thus reinforces discriminative consciousness. This is very pernicious because it brings back to mind Hitler's methods against the Jews.

The same postcard was sent to the Yamaguchi Prefectural Federation B.L.L.

The discriminative postcard which was sent to the Liberation Corp



From Overseas, Visit to Buraku Liberation Research Institute

During the first two month of this year , three people from abroad interested in the Buraku problem have visited our Buraku Liberation Research Institute.

They were a French reporter for Le Point , an American reporter for the Baltimore Sun and a professor from the University of Hawaii, College of Education.

They each showed great interests in the institute outline , educational activities in the liberation of Burakumin , visiting Buraku towns and their way of life , and other problem of the Buraku. Each promised to maintain contact and correspond frequently.



Inspecting District



A visit to B.L.R. Institute and Osaka Municipal Government

International Anti-torture Network to be Established in Summer

Mr. Denis von der Weid , an executive member of the Swiss Committee Against Torture (headquarters in Geneva) which plans to establish an international network to work against torture made to suspects of a criminal case , patients in a mental institution , or even to individuals , visited Japan in order to invite Japanese Human Rights and Civil Liberty groups to participate. He made visits to the Japan Federation of Bar Associations in Tokyo on Feb.8 and then to the Buraku Liberation Research Institute and the Osaka Municipal Government on Feb.14 inviting to participate and requesting to make contributions towards it.

The International Anti-torture Network will have its headquarters in Geneva. It is now calling out to various international groups promoting human rights protection, and is plans to start in summer this year. At this moment it is estimated that there are two hundred bodies from 25 countries seeking participation.



Mr. Denis von der Weid (second from right) visiting Japan

Liberation Education Movement in Osaka

Interim Report by the Program Investigation Committee

The second Program Investigation Committee on Liberation Education , established last April with the slogan "Let's clarify future tasks as we summarize the Program for the Decade of Liberation Movement for Education " submitted to the B.L.L. Education Dept. Osaka Headquarters , an interim report summarizing the six months of deliberations.

Established soon after the movement was started in 1974 , the first investigation committee submitted a report after two years Referring to the struggle to establish the 'Liberation Movement for Education Program,' the committee promoted various actions ; in order to overcome problems such as 'low achievement' and "misconduct," it is necessary to integrate the "image" of children and standardize the liberation education program among schools , there by establishing a regionally united educational body among schools (preschools) , region (Buraku Liberation Juvenile

Association) and home (parents association). In the ten years since then , promotional activities have accomplished a great deal : the establishment of the children's association , the expansion of the parents' association , the movement to promote centralization in taking exams at each regional high school (so as to make each highschool adhere closely to its own region) , the education of handicapped children , and progress in ethnic education. In order to confront reactionism in education , it is necessary to bring together review of the movement's decade , especially as the extraordinary educational council is trying to bring in exclusiveness in competition and "commercialization"of education under the name of "the liberalization of education" or the deterioration of educational conditions.

The second investigation committee plans to continue research and discussion and will submit a final report in March.



To approx. 700 members including Chairman Ishibashi

Support asked to Diet Members in Sayama Case

In February, eight hundred people attended the Symposium to Relate the Sayama Case, False Charges and Human Rights held in Tokyo. The participants then called upon all 713 Diet members to cooperate and support for the Sayama Case.

Chairman Ishibashi of the Socialist Party of Japan (J.S.P.) was visited by two members of the Central Executive Committee of the B.L.L. Central Headquarters and was asked for a further support and cooperation.



Chairman Ishibashi of the Socialist Party of Japan (left) is requested to support the Sayama Case

Third National Cultural Festival: "The Festival of the Fight"

During the last two days of January, 500 people gathered from all over Japan at Amagasaki City, Hyogo Prefecture to participate in the Buraku Liberation; "the Festival of the Fight-Theatrical Festival."

The number of performers reached 160 people, whereas ten presentations, which are handed down traditionally in each Buraku district, were made from various fields such as drama, traditional art and dramatic or musical entertainment.

On January 30, the festival started off with the drums (by Hyogo Itami Burach of the B.L.L.) performing the horiike folk song. After this,

Yamaguchi Suou Association of Monkey Shows presented an entertainment, followed by "the world of harukoma" by Wakayama Branch, Osaka Branch, Hiroshima Branch and others.

There were also three dramas such as "Succession," naniwa-bushi-"the mother who lives in the memory of my childhood," a lullaby, a puppet show and other interesting presentations. The audience was fascinated at the wonders of the art that was built up by their ancestors through harsh discrimination.

On January 31, interchange among the branches were held after lunch.



"At that time , I was"

Relating my experiences of discrimination , Part IV

When I was a junior high student , a classmate showing four fingers said.....

I was a student at Junior High (prewar system) but had to leave school partway through. Before doing so , when I was in the second grade , I experienced discrimination.

One day , I was hurrying to the station on my way back from school. There I saw a classmate pointing at me and saying to his friends , "Did you know that he is this ? "as he held up four fingers.

Realizing what he was doing , I charged at him and shouted , "What do you think you're doing ? " and we got into a fight.

Now I am 54, and I can still recall that event 37 years ago.

I think this was one of the things that made me feel the need to stand against discrimination.

Today , many youths of the Buraku come to me for advice or ask me to be the middle man at their weddings. And whenever I'm consulted , whether it be a man or a woman, I witness the hard barrier of the reality of Buraku discrimination. A young man

once came for advice , asking how to deal with his girlfriend's parents.

I decided to visit the parents. We talked from 5:30 p.m until midnight. Her father , being a teacher , up holds the principle of "human dignity , "but it is not real practice. He is in effect too concerned about his relatives and neighbors which prevents him from crossing that barrier. I cited the constitution on "Freedom of Marriage" and "Mutual Consent" , and urged him to respect the young couple's wishes. It made me think how strongly embedded discrimination is.

During the nine years since my son started school , I acted as a P.T.A. official. Many problems arose during that period and here is one.

A pupil outside of the Buraku is told by his mother not to play with Buraku children. "Buraku babies are different from us They have horns and tails.'Why ?' They own a place where they kill cows. They are cursed for doing such acts."

Do my best until complete liberation

I will keep on fighting against such harsh discrimination. I will deepen the bond with educators. Once I stood up against discrimination and I believe I must fight on until complete liberation. From the time we were a "minority" – when people backbit us saying "Burakumin are discriminated against because they're always talking about discrimination,"or "They humiliate themselves" – we struggled; now ,the liberation movement has gained strength.

Not long ago , the municipal government ended funding aid for the children's society.

But each branch of the B.L.L. has fought to become self-supporting. It is important that every member of the branch be aware of his/her duties and should unite fast to fight against such discrimination.

Vice Chairperson of the B.L.L. Osaka Headquarters,

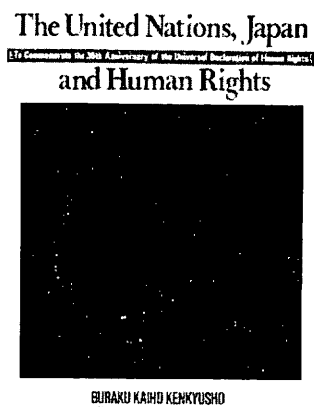
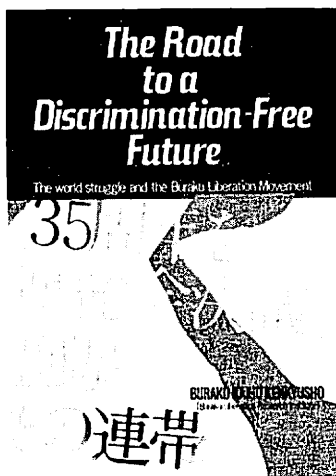
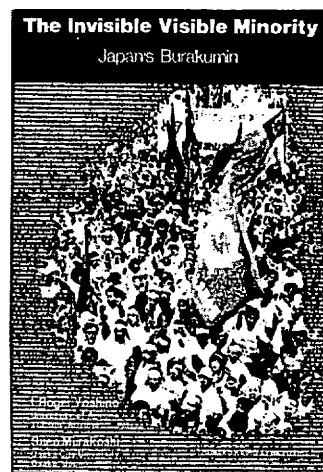
Branch Manager



English publication on Buraku Problem

In our activities to ratify the International Covenants on Human Rights, we have learned that an international coalition is important. To be sure, there are cases of discrimination against Buraku and mistaken knowledge concerning Buraku problem abroad. Therefore, we have started publishing books in English on Buraku problems as indicated below.

We hope you will find them useful in your field of work or interest. (The price includes postage from Japan)



Prices of English Publications (US\$)

Area Zone	Airmail			Seamail
	Zone No. 1	Zone No. 2	Zone No. 3	
Book Title	Asian countries (not including U.S.S.R.), Australia, New Zealand, and other Oceanian islands	Canada, U.S.A., (including Alaska and Hawaii), Central America, the West Indies	Europe, Africa, South America, Middle East, U.S.S.R.	
Long Suffering Brothers and Sisters, Unite!	13.90	14.90	15.90	10.70
The Invisible Visible Minority	10.00	11.00	11.50	8.50
The Road to a Discrimination-Free Future	11.00	12.80	13.00	9.00
The United Nations, Japan and Human Rights	11.00	12.80	13.00	9.00