



September 1985

## *20th Anniversary of Report made by the Council for Dowa Projects*

# 23,000 Gather in Osaka to Demand Fundamental Buraku Liberation Act

"To solve the Dowa problem without a day's delay is the government's responsibility, the nation's task."

Today, twenty years since the report made by the Council for Dowa Projects went into effect, citizens of Osaka gathered on August 8 to commemorate the years and "to demand peace, human rights and the Fundamental Buraku Liberation Act."

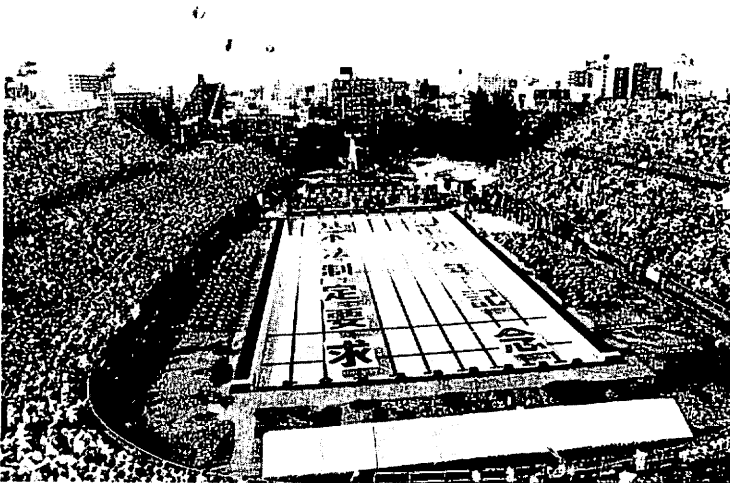
Under the promotion of the executive committee (Chairperson Iwakichi Wajima, former Chairperson of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations), people from the Socialist Party of Japan, *Komeito* (or Clean Government Party), the four major labour unions, the Buraku Liberation

League, governmental bureaus and religious groups also attended numbering approximately 23,000.

Chairperson Wajima emphasized that "not only does this law aim to completely liberate Burakumin, but is also has the significance of being a bastion of protection for welfare and human rights in Japan." Also, he made clear the importance of various grass-roots movements.

Governor Kishi, of Osaka, called for the "re-acknowledgement of the historic report," and Chairperson Saichiro Uesugi of the B.L.L. affirmed that "resolutions by self-governing bodies will exceed one thousand by September, thus we would like to unfold a forceful national movement to per

At the Twenty-Thousand-Scale Gathering to seek for the Establishment of the Fundamental of Buraku Liberation Act and to Commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Report by the Council of Dowa Projects



### Contents

- 23,000 Gather at Osaka to seek for Act (1)
- 7th Researchers' Assembly Focuses on the Survey Report on Reality of Buraku (3)
- Government Policy on South Africa (5)
- Atomic Air Raid Victims and Bereaved Families Join in a Discussion (6)
- Discriminative Experience Part VII (7)
- Refusers of Finger-Print Mark Two Thousand and Climbing (8)



suade the government.”

Following this was given the keynote report that “cases of discrimination are increasing and are becoming graver than ever.” The appeal for the Act by Osaka citizens was then adopted.

Similar gatherings were held in twenty other prefectures. As of the end of July, assembly resolutions to seek for the establishment of the Act had risen to number 6 prefectures and 355 cities, towns and villages. In October, a national parade is planned.

**A Request for Cooperation <sup>n</sup>**

We would like to ask for your cooperation and support in seeking the establishment of the Fundamental of Buraku Liberation Act.

- ①Your participation is asked in the signature campaign. The form was enclosed in the Buraku Liberation News No26. Sign your name and send the form back to B.L.R.I. in Osaka. We will collect all the forms and present them.
- ②Please send a message or a letter of appeal for the establishment of the Act. It can be personal or written under the name of your professional affiliation. We will publish your message in Japan.

**Cooperation Needed from the Entire Nation**

This year marks the twentieth year since the Council for Dowa Projects first submitted a report to the cabinet.

Needless to say, the Dowa problem concerns the issues of mankind’s universal principles, liberty and equality. At issue is the fact that the fundamental human rights guaranteed in the Japanese Constitution are being violated.

The government and the local self-governing bodies must actively tackle this issue and at the same time the public must become fully aware of the problem and helps.

As we face the present-day reality of Buraku, we find that there are problems and many tasks yet to be solved. Cases of discrimination still continue and they tend to be of an increasingly malicious nature.

With a year and a half remaining until the expiration of the Law on Special Measures for Regional Improvement Projects, we must make full use of the time that remains and work for the establishment of the Fundamental of Buraku Liberation Act which will contribute to the development of democracy through strengthening the guarantee of true solution to the Buraku problem.

Towards this end, the executive committee will make matters public that this Act is a rightfully-sought law based on the contents of the council report and the report by the Conference on Dowa projects.

We would like to fight for the establishment of the Act hand in hand with local self-governing bodies, labor unions, democratic bodies, corpora

tions, academic and cultural groups and many other groups of wide-ranging interests.

As for religious organisations, members of which look into their own souls in search of sacredness, this is a matter of reacknowledging our way of life, one’s true value of religious order.

As for me, I want to firmly understand facts and undertake my responsibility as chairperson assisted by other religious bodies and people who are promoting our movement.

To those who are present here today to attend the Central Gathering to Commemorate the Twentieth Anniversary of the Report by the Council for Dowa Projects, I would like to ask for your cooperation and support.

(August 19, 1985)



Kohshin Ohtani

Chairperson for the Central Executive Committee of the National Movement to Seek for the Establishment of the Fundamental of Buraku Liberation Act

Chief Representative of the Jodo-shinshu Sect, Hongan-ji



## 7th National Assembly of Buraku Liberation Researchers Focuses on the Report of Investigation on Buraku Actualities

The 7th National Assembly of Buraku Liberation Researchers was held July 13-14.

After a report by lawyer Takeo Matsumoto on "the rejection of claims for Sayama retrial," a symposium was held under the theme of "Grasping Today's Reality in Buraku: Clarifications from the Investigations of Various Locales."

"Put forth the grave reality that has been made clear from the investigations and use it as a weapon to establish the Fundamental of Buraku Liberation Act." After these opening remarks from the chair Kazuo Ueda (Hiroshima Shudo College), four people — Yoshio Miwa (Osaka City University), Kiyoko Nakagawa (Nara College of Education), Masaomi Kunitoshi (Tottori University) and Suetaka Murakoshi (Osaka City University) — reported on the results of the investigation in Osaka, focusing on the urban Buraku, on school admission in Nara prefecture, on rural Buraku in Tottori prefecture and on the results of the investigation in Kagoshima.

Three main characteristics common throughout the four reports were: ① that, despite progress in environmental improvements, there are still areas that are untouched (small scattered Buraku and large Buraku), and the improved houses are gradually superannuating; ② that so-called invisible discrimination is still rampant compared to the national average; and ③ that the experience of being discriminated is not decreasing.

After this four separate section meetings were held.

At the "Enlightenment & Movement" there were presentations made on ① "the Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms" adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its eighteenth session in 1974 and "the Declaration on Race and Racial prejudice" adopted at its twentieth session in 1978 and ② the trend of U.S. research on human rights education. The former topic was related to the important roles played by school education and mass media and the latter on the advanced activities of foreign countries.



At the 7th National Assembly of Buraku Liberation Researchers: Symposium "Concerning the Reality of Today's Buraku"

At "Human Rights & Administration," supplementary reports were made concerning the previous symposium. Then, reports were made on ① the recent discussions on the Act and ② on the significance of the Law on the Regulation of surveys concerning events of Buraku Discrimination established in March in Osaka (speaker Takeo Matsumoto, lawyer).

At "Education & Area," reports were made on ① "the work of the Special Council on Education and the subject of educational reform," and ②, based upon the on-going current investigation into scholastic ability on "the topic of the reality of scholarship and liberation education."

Lastly, at "History & Theory," first "the History of Buraku: current situation and the tasks of research on Buraku theory" was introduced, followed by "Buraku under Japanese Capitalism," in which a report was made on the relationship between Buraku and production of matches, cotton spinning and coal mining. Then followed a discussion on "the criticism of the National Reconciliation Theory and the theory on Buraku liberation."



## *Promoted by Museum of Historical Materials on Human Rights* **5000 to Minamata Exhibition**

— Eugene Smith —

W. Eugene Smith's "Minamata Exhibition" promoted by the Osaka Museum of Historical Materials on Human Rights ended its display on September 7. This exhibition was held at the Gallery Miyazaki located near the Osaka Station from Sept. 2 for six days bringing in approximately 5000 enthusiastic on-goers.

On the display were 40 photographs owned by the promoting museum which were taken during the Struggling Movement Against the Minamata Disease and Pollution.

Eugene's "Minamata" being regarded highly famous attracted interests among activists of the pollution issues and amateur and professional photographers to the scene.

Especially, there were large numbers of youths in their twenties not to mention junior high students who came in class units to study the Minamata struggle.

"I can feel that the human rights consciousness is spreading strongly among the younger generations. Also, this museum had a poor familiarity, but through this occasion, many people came to understand what kind of a museum, where it's located and when it opens," said a person concerned with the promotion.

Through cooperation from people concerned, this museum is planning to open during the Human Rights Week in December.



A photo on display; here, environmentalists arrive to the scene at last after a long ignorance, early 70s



People visiting the Minamata Exhibition, Osaka



## Japanese economy yet negetative attltude

# Government Pollycy: Encorcing Sanctions on South Africa

The Japanese cabinet made firm pollyc measures on September 12 to impose econmic sanctions on South Africa's Botha Government, Which has been refusing to alter the conditions of apartheid, and therefora held meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Interna-tional Trade and Industry to adjust pollyces: 1 to prohibit the exporting of computers to S.A. military and boodies of public order, 2 to ban the importing of Krugerrand Gold Coins.

Japan has already imposed sanctions on S.A. apartheid by 1 stationing only concul general, 2 restricting direct investments, 3 prohibiting ex- portation of military weapons, 4 limitting sports, education and culture exchange. At first it was retgarded that "there is no more cards to play" because government officials regarded these sanc- tions as "advancccd sanctions, few steps leading the U.S.-European Cuntrles." However, seeing that foolowing Japan, U.S. and E.C. had moved against S.A., the Japanese Government realized that they

cannot stand still but to impose and additional sanc- tion.

From the statistics of cutoms clearance, \$45 million worth of computer is being exported to South Africa and \$50 million worth of Krugerrand Gold Coins imported to Japan.

The government plans to impose this sanction as a government measures by invoking a trade con- trol act, etc.

However, as can be seen with examples of Krugerrand Coins, advertisements are still being made public in TV and newspapers. Considering this, it can be said that in reality efforts to eliminate apartheid are being lacked and that the Japnaese people have poor intersts on such mat- ters.

Taking such matters into consideratio, as weel as anticipating that, depending upon future U.S- European movements, Japan might soften its at- titudes against sanctions, the very important thing is for the national people to oppose against apar- theld.

## Introduction of New Publication

### White Paper on Human Rights in Japan

#### — From the Viewpoint of the Discriminated —

#### CONTENTS

#### Part I : Seeking Peace and Human Rights

For the Establishment of Peace and Human Rights  
...the Secretariat of the Central Executive Committee for the  
*Universal Declaration of Human Rights* 3

The UN Challenges of the Women's Decade and Post-Decade  
to the Advancement of Women  
.....Rosario G. Manalo 16

The Role and Scope of the Convention on the Elimination of All  
Forms of Racial Discrimination  
.....José L. Gomez del Prado 27

#### Part II : Discrimination and Human Rights in Japan

Discriminated-against Buraku and Civil Rights Protec-  
tion.....Tatsukuni Komori 49

Discrimination against Women and Protect of Human  
Rights .....Machiko Ohno 63

Discrimination against Koreans in Japan and Struggles for  
Liberation.....Kim Ton Fun 75

Human Rights for the Minorities in Japan : Seeking for the  
Establishment of the Law on Ainu Race.  
.....Giichi Nomura 84

The History of Okinawa and the Reality of Discrimination  
.....Hisashi Kamiesu 96

Discrimination against the A-Bomb Victims  
.....Susumu Shinkai 110

Discrimination against the Handicapped and Basic Human  
Rights.....Tomiyasu Umazume 120

As the Son of a Leprous Patient .....Chikara Hayashi 131

Discrimination: the Case of the Japanese American  
.....Harry H. Kitano 146

#### White Paper on Human Rights in Japan



1984

BURAKU KARIO KENYUUSHO

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(not including postal  
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## ***400 Participate in 40th Anniversary of WW II Defeat and Atomic Bombings***

### **Bomb Victims and Bereaved Families Talk Together**

Victims of the atomic bombings (*hibakusha*) and bereaved families were brought together in Hiroshima on August 5 by the Japanese Conference of Victims of the Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. This is the first time that the conference organized a meeting for *hibakusha* and bereaved families from all over Japan to relate their experiences.

First, the conference representative, Sakae Itoh, greeted the gathering "Today as there is a danger of nuclear expansion into space, we—the living victims and bereaved families—must willfully unite together and lead movements for peace." Prefectural representatives related their experiences also.

One woman who lost her mother and sister and who has been hiding the fact that she herself is a *hibakusha* related feelingly: "I have kept quiet for

fear of people avoiding me because I was told radiation is contagious. Today, I brought my two children here to Hiroshima for the first time, but I didn't even want them to feel what I felt." Another woman who lost her 12-year-old son the day after the bombing, spoke with tears in her eyes: "I have few remaining years. I just wanted to tell you about my son who uttered 'war is wrong' before he died."

Most participants at this 40th anniversary meeting were older people in their 60's and 70's. There were also about 20 representatives from four other countries.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nakasone and the Minister of Health and Welfare attended a memorial ceremony. When asked by reporters about the establishment of the Protection Law for *hibakusha*, they replied negatively, demonstrating doubt as to true reflection towards war.

### ***30% give no paid vacation-time : 80% demand overtime work***

## **Companies are Coldhearted to Part-time Woman Workers**

Approximately 30% of the companies have no yearly paid vacation and 80% demand over time work.

Private investigation of 245 companies resulted in a "White Paper on Part-timers: 1985" bringing out these percentages. While the number of part-time workers increases yearly, working conditions remain very poor.

From what the general affairs bureau reported in the "Survey on Labor," female part-timers, working hours not exceeding 35 hours a week, have increased from 1,980,000 in 1975 to 3,060,000 in 1983, and their percentage among all employed females reached 21%. This tendency was also found to be true in the private survey that was carried out. Fifty-one percent of companies increased the number of employees as compared to last year, making 5.7% total increase. The manufacturing industry in particular has made a significant in

crease, for most companies responded to business recovery and increase in production by increasing female part-timers.

The average age and length of service of the subjects surveyed was 41.1 years and 3.6 years respectively. The five-day working week is most common (41%) while those who work six days is 38%. Twenty-eight percent work less than five hours a day while 17% work six hours and 12% work seven hours.

As for working conditions, 27% of the companies offer no paid vacation time. Companies that do offer paid time-off allow an average of only 6.3 days. Fifteen percent of the companies did not give physical examinations. As for overtime work, 77% of the companies have overtime work. Forty-three percent responded that "there are times when we have them do overtime work longer than the regular employees' working hours," virtually making part-timers regular employees.



*At that time, I was...*

## Relating my experiences of discrimination, Part(VII)

### A sign Around My Neck

I was kept standing all day long with a sign around my neck, reading "The boy who forgot his lunch money." This occurred about 20 years ago when I was in the sixth grade, but I still remember it as if it happened yesterday. I was not directly discriminated against at that time, but I can still recall feelings of chagrin and humiliation that are just as if not more strong.

District was a poor area at that time. Not a few of the homes could provide its residents three regular meals a day. Naturally, they were unable to pay P.T.A. dues. This being so, studying was the last thing we could put our minds to. We would forget our homework. Rather, we could not do our homework. Most of these children had low scholastic ability.

Teachers, caring nothing about these matters, would tell us to bring school-lunch fees. Our parents, on the other hand, told us to say that we'd forgotten it. The first such occasion, my name was put on the blackboard. The second time, I pleaded with the teacher to wait because we didn't even have money to buy rice. Nevertheless, he did not understand. In the upshot, the teacher thought up the punishment of hanging a sign around our necks.

There were three signs: the boy/girl who forgot his/her lunch money; the boy/girl who forgot his/her homework; and the boy/girl who forgot his/her P.T.A. dues. These were written with magic marker with a string attached to hang around the neck. I was always kept standing at the back of the room all day long with all three signs around my neck. What was more mortifying was when I had to do the same thing at morning assembly. The names of those who forgot their lunch money were announced to all the students at morning assembly. We had to line up in a row in front of the whole student body. "You are not to do what they have done," the teacher said. Glancing from left to right, I realized that most of us were from Buraku.

In those days, schools were like prisons for me. Wearing signs of "criminal charges," and not allowed to study, we cleaned the teacher's room and

bathrooms with more effort than others. Far from realizing the reality of Buraku, the teachers viewed us as if Buraku children were dirty.

The punishment by signs lasted three months. Not being able to bear this, we went to discuss the matter with Mr. (currently an advisor at Osaka Hdq.) This led to the struggle for education that has made part of the history of the liberation movement in Osaka. We got a written apology from the schoolmaster. We negotiated with the board of education and conducted a sit-in. I participated, wearing a head band. When we won, we were overjoyed.

We were delighted to hear that our textbooks became free of charge.

Today, I am the chief of Education and Counter measures Department. I had not been able to attend preschool; I suffered "sign education" during my elementary school years; in junior high, I dived into juvenile delinquency.

Because our family was poor, I could not go on to high school. What saved me then was the children's association. I would have ruined myself if it had not been for that. Because I did not receive anything from school education, I feel that there are a lot of things I can do in education and

Chief, Organization Department, Osaka Hdq.  
B.L.L.  
Chief Secretary, Branch B.L.L.



*As many as 5000*

## More than 2000 Refuse to be Finger-Printed

The Ministry of Justice reported on August 16 the number of foreigners who are refusing to be finger-printed as required by the Alien Registration Law. As of August 15, there are 2002 people, including the 1091 currently considering refusal who are refusing to be finger-printed. From this current investigation, it was learned that a majority of the people who are refusing are now actually considering refusal. Up until recently, foreigners were issued certificates whether finger-printed or not. But now the Ministry of Justice notified offices (on May 14) not to issue certificates immediately to refusers but to make efforts to persuade them to be finger-printed, thus a sudden sensation.

As of July when a large number of foreigners renew the registration, 1355 people (including 923 under consideration) refused being finger-printed, 3.1% of the total number of foreigners expected to extend/transfer their registrations. Compared to April when 0.4% refused, the number is increasing rapidly. The movement against finger-printing is mounting strong.

### Wicked Letters to Finger-Print Refusers

#### Administration Investigates as a Violation of Human Rights

It was reported at the Justice Committee of the House of Representatives on September 6 that some Koreans in Japan, who opposed against the Alien Registration Law and refused to be finger-printed, had been receiving wicked letters and telephone calls of harassment that quotes death. The department of human rights protection in the Ministry of Justice made clear that they are investigating the case as "violation of human rights."

Interpellator Mitoshi Amano (Socialist Party) introduced some of the one hundred amounting letters that was sent to nursery manager

, who was arrested by the Kanagawa Police Department in May for refusing finger-print. The letters were all anonymous or false quoting "Die, you human junk!"

In the meantime, figures published by the organization of resident Koreans of Japan, there are 4721 people who are refusing to be finger-printed (as of Aug. 12). The Koreans are the majority group of foreigners, most populous in Osaka prefecture with 1173, Aichi with 458, Tokyo with 444, Yamaguchi with 343, and Fukuoka with 323.

The reason for the inconsistent figures in the two investigations is because reports arrive "half a month late" from the local self-governing bodies to the Ministry of Justice, according to the Ministry.

From a survey of a certain private body, the up-to-date number of foreigners refusing finger-prints exceeded 8700 as of September 1. This means that the refusers expanded to 45 prefectures not including Okinawa and Yamagata.

The issues concerning the refusals of finger-prints are now being listed under the items of discussion at the U.N. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, taken into regards that this violates the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Admitting that harassments against finger-print refusers are increasing, Nozaki chief of the human rights department replied that 459 people are asking the Ministry for help. Said Nozaki, "Such letters and telephone calls are acts which must not be permitted, considering protection of human rights, and therefore we are investigating it as a case of human rights violation. At the sametime, we would like to work on areas of enlightenment to prevent such acts."