



# BURAKU LIBERATION NEWS NO.49

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## 46th BLL National Convention Convened

The 46th National Convention of BLL was held on March 3 and 4, and participated by about 1100 representatives. The Convention characterized this coming fiscal year as the year of decisive political battle and adopted the policy outline for it. The outline underlined, in particular, the need for (1) the election victory of four BLL-backed candidates, (2)

winning majority seats for the reformists over the ruling conservative, (3) the legislation of the Fundamental Act for Buraku Liberation, (4) the retrial of Sayama Case, etc. The following words are greetings of the president of BLL on behalf of the Central Headquarters.

### Year of Political Reform

President, BLL  
Saichiro Uesugi

We continued in last year's 45th Convention that the movement was entering the third phase under the perception "Both Japan and the world are witnessing the historical transition era".

We agreed that our struggles in this phase are characterized by the growing initiatives of peace, human rights and democracy.

Our struggles in the past year truly marked a strong step into the new era. At the same time, however, we observe reactionary developments that rise in our way.

The path the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are following is a dangerous path that we oppose.

Against the global tide for disarmament, military budgets have yearly increased. Now Japan is the third biggest military power. The orientation toward arms race and war leads to more discrimination and aggravated life.

Along with this militaristic growth, reactionary

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ideologies are reinforced and ethnocentric views are rising. Japan's history of invasion is portrayed falsely and voices for the amendment of Constitutional stipulations are heard. Especially, utilizing the death of former Emperor, the ruling government and dominant political forces are determined to consolidate this reactionary development. Mass media were mobilized to make campaigns for glorifying the Emperor, the public were compelled to express their "mourning", and a series of unconstitutional ceremonies were carried out including the State Funeral for the late Emperor. The Ministry of Education has also been attempting to dishonor the history of post-war democracy and the public will by making it obligatory for schools to hoist the Rising-Sun Flag permanently and sing the "Long-Live the Emperor" song on more occasions and not just in ceremonies and also by featuring late Admiral Togo in the school textbook who once claimed. "If we lose in this war, our Emperor's nation will collapse".

As indicated also by the forcible passage of the consumption tax bill and the so-called Recruit Bribery Scandal, the present political scene shows extreme corruption and arrogance of the ruling party.

We cannot just let such a political situation continue. In other words, we must dedicate our entire efforts to campaigning against the ruling party and for political reform through the decisive political battle of 1989.

The 46th BLL convention, held under these circumstances, have particularly important tasks and issues at hand.

First, we must win in the decisive political battle of 1989.

Second, we must engage ourselves in a wide movement against the ongoing reorganization and reinforcement of reactionary regime that uses the Emperor as a political means.

Third, in conjunction with these movements to change the political situation, we must advance our struggle for the legislation of the Fundamental Act for Buraku Liberation.

Fourth, we must organize carefully planned Kyudan (collective denunciation) by examining each discrimination case thoroughly and carefully. Recurring discriminatory incidents in regard to marriage, employment, and education, discrimination cases involving leaders of religious and business organizations and even government officials cause such incidents. Avoiding empiricism and a resort to conven-

tional styles of Kyudan, we must develop our Kyudan tactics following the rules and standards that we have created through sixty years of history.

Fifth, utilizing the recent series of victory in retrial cases as a momentum, we must win the retrial of Sayama case to put an end to 26 years of detention of Mr. Ishikawa and free him.

Six, we must play positive roles in eliminating various forms of domestic discrimination and contributing to the improvement of areas that neighbor Burakus. Further, we are determined to consolidate the foundation of the "Leveller's movement for the world". Especially, we must obtain the registration of IMADR as an official UN NGO by 1991. Also, it is necessary for us to build up the basis to promote human rights struggles in Asia.

Finally, as our social responsibility grows, we must strengthen the organization of BLL so that it can carry out a lofty mission.

Fellow representatives! We face a number of problems that encompass wide areas. This is a testimony to the fact that our liberation movement has grown bigger and accumulated its strength. With the unity and solidarity of our comrades all over Japan, we wish to concretize the policy for the third phase of our movement and make our steps forward to celebrate the "down of liberation".

*Newly Published*

# “A History of Buraku Liberation”: Vol. III, — Postwar —

Since 1987 the Buraku Liberation Research Institute has promoted a plan to edit “A History of Buraku Liberation” -3 volumes in all. The third one, “Postwar,” has just been published.

By way of a full-scale historical book, we had in the past “History of Buraku and the Liberation Movement” issued in 1965 - a time when research activities on the Buraku issue were beginning.

We are now 20 years on. During that time, our studies have yielded fruitful results: discovery of new materials, development of regional or individual Buraku studies, re-evaluation of fixed perspectives, etc.

The Buraku liberation movement itself is entering the third phase of “new creation.” For the sake of future activities, it is necessary to look back upon the movement from its beginnings to the present time. It is in order to meet such a demand that our institute has been preparing this publication.

The newly published third volume, “Postwar,” deals with the period from 1945 to January 1989. This is the first book to trace the path of the Buraku liberation movement after World War II.



## 部落解放史

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部落解放研究所編

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*An SDF Member Makes Discriminatory Remarks*

## People from Buraku Are ‘No Good’

A member of the Self-Defence Forces made the following comments when he was recruiting new members: “We don’t accept people from Buraku

areas. We have never had anyone from the Buraku and will never recruit anyone from this area.”

These remarks were made in Shonai, Fukuoka



prefecture, to tickle the elite consciousness of the applicants from non-Buraku areas. The BLL Fukuoka Headquarters held a "Kyudan" (denunciation) meeting on the afternoon of February 17.

In spite of having two months of in-company study sessions, the members couldn't answer the questions asked about their discriminatory consciousness and attitude.

This has revealed the lack of commitment to awareness-raising activities by the Self-Defense Forces and the administration. This fact led to

another "Kyudan" meeting being staged in April.

These discriminatory comments were made by "Y," who was working for the public information section. In the first two fact-finding meetings, in order to cover things up, "Y" had said: "There are quite a number of officials like myself. I don't exactly remember what I said. You may have misunderstood what I actually said."

At the third fact-finding meeting, he finally admitted it was true that he had made the discriminatory remarks.

# 167 Million Signatures Submitted to Foreign Ministry for Ratification of International Racial Discrimination Convention

On March 22, 1989, a delegation from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Central Executive Committee visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and handed Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno 167 million signatures on a petition requiring prompt and complete ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

This convention, they stated, has already been ratified by 127 countries. So Japan should also ratify it as soon as possible if it is to commit itself to becoming an international society and it will be of great help in eliminating discrimination against Burakumin, the indigenous Ainu people and Korean people living in Japan.

In reply, the Foreign Minister explained that as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs basically agrees with the convention, he will try to intercede with the authorities. He also said that if Japan did sign it, appropriate domestic legislation would have to be arranged. He himself is studying the situation in West Germany and requesting the Ministry of Justice to take the necessary steps for its ratification.

The meeting included a protest delivered by a member of a delegation from the Hokkaido Utari



(Ainu) Association in connection with a statement made in Nemuro City by Mr. Furukawa, the special envoy in Hokkaido. He has said that there were no racial problems in Japan.

Foreign Minister Uno commented that the statement was a source of deep regret and added that it did not represent the standpoint of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The members of the delegation were as follows: Mr. Yoshii: Chairman, Liaison Conference of Reli-



gious Groups on the Dowa Issue.

Mr. Takei: Representative, Tokyo Metropolitan Entrepreneurs' Liaison Association on the Dowa Issue.

Mr. Yoshimoto: Executive Officer, Central Headquarters, Buraku Liberation League.

Mr. Kaizawa: Vice Director, The Hokkaido Utari

(Ainu) Association.

Mr. Lee In Ha (Korean) : Representative, National Liaison Conference to combat National Discrimination.

Mr. Kato: Chief, National Movement Dept, of General Council of Trade Unions of Japan.

## Meeting Staged in Tokyo Against Apartheid and Toward Prompt Ratification of Racial Discrimination Convention

On March 21, 1989, 500 people took part in a gathering held in Tokyo to protest against apartheid and to urge prompt ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

First, a film titled "Amandra! Maatla!" was screened. The heroine of the story is a girl active in the liberation movement in South Africa, and the film clearly showed what a crime the apartheid system is.

Then Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, Director of IMADR (International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism) and representing the sponsor of this meeting, made the following comments: "Japan has superseded every other country in the world to become the racists' main trading partner - an issue over which Japan was criticized in a UN General Assembly resolution last Desember, Every Japanese should reflect deeply on its meaning and take necessary and concrete steps toward putting an end to the brutality." The next speaker was Dr. Kinhide Mushakoji, the Vice- Rector of the United Nations University, in a speech titled "The Structure of Discrimination-International and Domestic Aspects," he emphasized that there was a common structure between apartheid and various kinds of discrimination in other countries. He stressed that we must create an international movement against discrimination under the leadership of the United Nations.

Mr. Yasuo Maruyama, Director of the ILO, reported that the content of ILO Article 107, " Convention concerning the protection and integration of indigenous and other tribal and semi-tribal populations in independent countries " was intended to make them assimilate and did not reflect the standpoint of the indigenous populations themselves. So it was necessary for the indigenous populations themselves to clarify their identity in order to reflect respect for self-determination. Over 280 draft amendments were submitted. The issue of the indigenous Japanese Ainu was included in the report. This instrument will be amended in June of this year.

Then the ANC head office conveyed a message from Archbishop Desmond Tutu and introduced various reports involving anti-apartheid appeals and concrete suggestions.

Finally, Mr. Prankash Diar, lawyer in the Sharpeville Massacre case, added an appeal for prompt ratification of the International Convention on All Forms of Racial Discrimination. All the participants upheld the appeal.

*We Long for a Society with Human Rights Fulfilled  
without Any Discrimination*

# **A Counterargument to the Report Submitted by Japan under the Int'l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (6)**

## **Article 15**

The reason why the paragraph 2 of this Article, especially its last half, was provided is based on the idea not to exempt the responsibility of the past war crimes, particularly of the crimes inflicted by fascism in the World War II.

We note here that there have been frequent instances where acts and statements against to this idea keep occurring in Japan in the last several years. To cite a few examples, contents of certain school text books denying the atrocities of Japanese military action in the World War II, cabinet ministers making worship visits to the shrine where the war heroes including war criminals as well are enshrined, and cabinet ministers openly denying the established intention of past invasion to Asian countries.

## **Article 17**

Civil liberties covered in this article need to be protected both in terms of their public law aspects and in regulatory, private law aspects dealing with private business activities. Critique to the first report submitted by the Japanese government (the Report) shall be made in such contexts.

<secrecy of communication>

The Report maintains that the secrecy of individual communication is strictly guaranteed. But is it true? As revealed recently in the wiretapping conducted by the Security Department of Kanagawa Prefectural Police at the residence of a Communist party leader, it appears that wiretapping is still practiced rather prevalently in Japan. Arbitrary police investigations based on ungrounded assumptions are frequently conducted aided by the development of new technologies for electronic tapping, photographing, recording / replaying and other purposes. Abusive use of these technologies will result in violation of privacy.

<respect of honor and trust>

The report argues that honor and trust are maximally respected. Recently, however, there are growing concerns about the intrusion of media into one's private life and the clash between the freedom of

reporting and protection of privacy. More effective remedies need to be provided for citizens while handling cautiously the issue of freedom of reporting and expression.

<protection of privacy>

The Report's reference to privacy is only "Rights to privacy, one's right not to have his/her private life disclosed disgracefully, is increasingly regarded as something to be legally protected." No concrete countermeasures are mentioned. The right to privacy is interpreted today also as the right to control the flow of information about oneself. Japas is only second to the US in per capita number of computers, and both government and private institutions keep a phenomenal volume of individual information.

15 government ministries and agencies process 1.2 billion individual data: entry and departure (Justice), automobile registration (Transportation), savings (Posts and Telecommunications), pensions for public servants (General Affairs), tax (Finace), patients (Health and Welfare), job applicants (Labor). Local governments should probably keep even more data. Private businesses collect client data such as date and year of birth, occupation, workplace, educational background, annual income, assets, hobby, family composition, credit utilization. Volume of information per company was 1.42 million as of September 1985.

Law suits dealing with violations of privacy are increasing. Internationally, OECD recommended an eighty-item guideline for protecting privacy. Advanced industrialized nations except for Italy and Japan have created protection laws already. The new bill proposed by the government for protecting individual information is very insufficient. The biggest defect is that the bill contains many exceptions. Japanese government is not willing to have legal control.

In 1985 partial revision was made to the inhabitants registry law to keep better the secrecy of one's registry information. Still, the issue of regulating investigation activities is left untouched. Prompt efforts should be made to legislate certain control on investigations that violate privacy.