

# SHISO-UNDO NEWS

## No.168

SHISO-UNDO is a Japanese communist group for cultivation of working class consciousness.

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### Korean and Japanese University Students in Solidarity Protest Japan's Ongoing Colonialism

On August 21, a demonstration and parade was held around Shinjuku Station, Tokyo, organized by the Tolpa Project (a mass action by Korean and Japanese University students to remember the history of the massacre of Koreans in Japan and to oppose discrimination against Koreans), against the erasure of the historical facts and unfinished solution on the massacre of Koreans in Japan the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 by the Japanese government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. 150 people, mostly students and youth, participated in it, calling for “the Japanese government to inquire into the truth” and “the Tokyo Metropolitan Government should acknowledge the fact of the massacre.”

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## Poem

# When I say Hiroshima

KURIHARA Sadako

When I say "Hiroshima,"  
 I wonder if they respond to me gently, "Oh, Hiroshima"  
 When I say "Hiroshima," "Pearl Harbor"  
 When I say "Hiroshima," "Nanjing Massacre"  
 When I say "Hiroshima," "The Manila burning at the stake of women and children alive,  
 locked in dugouts showered with gasoline"  
 When I say "Hiroshima," echoes of blood and blaze come back to me.

When I say "Hiroshima," no such gentle response as "Oh, Hiroshima" comes back.  
 The dead and the unnamed people in the Asian countries spout out  
 all together the fury of the raged.  
 When I say "Hiroshima," expecting a gentle response, "Ah, Hiroshima,"  
 We really must throw away the weapons, which had been supposedly thrown away.  
 The military bases of the foreign country must be removed.  
 Until that day, Hiroshima is a bitter city of cruelty and distrust.  
 We are pariahs scorched by the latent radiation.

When I say "Hiroshima" ...  
 In order to receive a gentle reply, "Oh, Hiroshima,"  
 We must cleanse our filthy hands.

(Translated by the International Dept., Activist Group Shiso-Undo)

### On the 110th Anniversary of Kurihara Sadako's Birth: On the Anti-War Poet to be Remembered in August

OMURA Toshikazu, born in Nagasaki, Japan

KURIHARA Sadako (1913-2005), author of the poem "When I say 'Hiroshima'" (first published in "Hiroshima: Future Landscape," 1974; the original poem was written in 1972), was born in 1913. She was a leading Japanese poet of the post-WWII and anti-nuclear and peace activist. She was involved in the anti-nuclear arm movements and the anti-war in Vietnam. She was born in Hiroshima City. She was exposed to the atomic bomb at her home located four kilometers north of the hypocenter of the blast on August 6, 1945.

Today, on the 110th anniversary of her birth, Kurihara is generally known only as the poet of "Umashimenkana" ("Let her deliver the baby") (first appeared in November 1945), a poem about a midwife who gave birth to a new life in contrast to the reigned death in the hell of the atomic bombing.

More recent but important works include:

"Even from beautifully disguised wars  
 I find the intentions of the hard-hearted fiend  
 .....  
 What is being done  
 in what is called a holy war and a battle for  
 justice?  
 Murder, arson, rape, robbery"  
 (from "What is War?", 1942, in "Black Eggs")

It is a poem that denounces the falsehood and inhumanity of the Empire of Japan, which she composed during WWII. This attitude of demanding the truth and being outraged at injustice, which can be seen in the poems written during WWII, supported Kurihara's efforts in the anti-nuclear and peace

movements over the past 60 years. This attitude has also led to the movement against the war in Vietnam, which has overcome the individualization and privileging of the “A-bomb experience,” from which she has long felt fettered, and to a confrontation with the general state of “postwar” Japan, which has completely forgotten the prehistory of “Hiroshima.”

In ‘When I say “Hiroshima”’ Kurihara, as an A-bomb survivor, denounces that the atomic bombing of Hiroshima is inseparable from the history of the Japanese Empire, which inflicted unparalleled cruelty on tens or hundreds of millions of people in the Asia-Pacific region, and that the past of aggression and colonial rule has not been cleared up. In the logic of the passage,

When I say “Hiroshima”...

In order to receive a gentle reply, “Oh, Hiroshima,”  
We must cleanse our filthy hands.

The resolution of the unsettled situation must precede the claim of “damage,” and the massacre by poison gas produced in Hiroshima must precede the death of the Japanese in “Hiroshima.” The historical antecedent of the Japanese deaths in “Hiroshima” would also be assumed, as in the case of the massacre by poison gas produced in Hiroshima.

Kurihara's poem confronts and gouges out the prehistory of “Hiroshima” detached from “Hiroshima” through the power of a simple counterpoint.

(The rest is omitted)

(SHISO-UNDO NO. 1091, AUGUST 1, 2023)

## How to face the 100th Anniversary of the massacred Korean residents at the Great Kanto Earthquake (3)

### What is the background of the massacre? Experiences of the colonial wars in Korea

Shin Chang-U (Professor, Hōsei University)

The subjects who were responsible for the massacre of more than 6,000 Koreans were the army, police, and vigilantes. Why was the false rumor spread by both administrative officials and civilians that “a riot broke out by Koreans” immediately after the Great Kanto Earthquake? And why did both administrative officials and civilians who believed this false rumor lead to the massacre of Koreans? Even now, more than 100 years after the incident, this is one of the most important questions that still needs to be answered in historical research.

#### The View of Mr. KANG Deoksang

There are several theories as to the cause of the outbreak of the false rumor, including the theory that it was caused by administrative officials and the theory that it was caused by civilians. Recently, based on the fact that the aspect of false rumor differs from region to region, many studies have proposed that both

administrative officials and civilians are involved in the occurrence of the false rumor. However, the idea common to all studies is that whatever the source of the false rumor is, the key to recognizing history is that the history of Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula is the backdrop to that rumor. Mr. Kang argues that the cause of the false rumor was influenced by the Japanese colonial war of Korean people, where the Japanese military, police, and local soldiers suppressed the Korean national liberation movement. He has also astutely pointed out that the experience of that colonial war had an impact on the Japanese people as well. The Japanese colonial war of Korean people includes Donghak Peasant Revolution (1894-95), the Russo-Japanese War and Manchurian Righteous Army War (1904-15), March 1st Movement (1919), the War against Japanese Siberian Intervention (1918-22), and Gando Massacre (1920).

## The Experience of Colonial War

Japan's military experienced many years of colonial warfare. My research has focused on the question of how the accumulated experience of the Japanese military was reflected in the massacre at the time of the Great Kanto Earthquake. Specifically, the question is how the colonial war experience of the army leaders and the security forces attached to each division that were mobilized for security under the Martial Law Command was reflected in the Great Kanto Earthquake. With regard to the actions of the security forces, I believe that their experiences as petty officers and enlisted men may have had more influence than those as commanding officers. That is to say, it is the experience of the draft system and the war in Korea as petty officers or enlisted men that more strongly influences on the vigilante behavior of the local veterans.

For example, some of the cavalry regiments that committed massacres at Kameido, Oshima, Minamigyotoku, and Urayasu were involved in the war to defeat Manchurian Righteous Army in Korean peninsula. And in Jeollanam-do and Jeollabuk-do, which were the sites of bloody battles, those regiments experienced harsh "mob busting," including the slaughter of civilians, shooting of prisoners, and arson attacks on villages. The Tokyo 1st Division and Utsunomiya 14th Division, which were involved in the massacre of Koreans when the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred, had conducted "extermination" operations against the anti-Japanese movement and had used methods to kill innocent villagers for "conspiring with righteous soldiers" when they had been stationed in Korea. They had had experienced this kind of war in the colony before the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred.

In addition, at that time, both Japanese administrators and civilians had a discriminatory

attitude toward Koreans that was peculiar to the nationals of the colonial suzerainty. This was due to their experience of war in the colonies. They had internalized the image of Koreans as "anti-Japanese mobs" and "vicious Koreans" through people from their hometowns who had gone to war in the colonies and through information in local newspapers. This did not only cause a disdain for Koreans, but also fanned a burning hatred toward them backed by the awareness that Koreans were seen as "outlaws" and that Japan had to defend its colony of Korea. It was a discriminatory mindset that justified the killing of Koreans. The people living in the areas that sent soldiers to Korea accumulated the experience of, so to speak, "supporting" the war in the colonies as well.

Now that 100 years have passed since the Great Kanto Earthquake, we must reaffirm that it is insufficient to view the massacre of Koreans as a one-time incident by a small group of people that occurred amidst the confusion of the emergency of the earthquake. In order to get at the true nature of the massacre, it is not enough to study only the time when the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred. It was greatly influenced by the harsh colonial rule in Korea and the military action of the Colonial War. It must also be viewed in the context of all the crimes committed by the Japanese nation in the colonial wars that followed Donghak Peasant Revolution. These experiences were the basis for the "satanic illusion" of "Korean insurrection," in which people regarded innocent Koreans as people "conspiring with criminals" and attempted to "exterminate" them, just as they had done in the colonial wars. That is the history of the massacre of Koreans that people carried out when the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred. We must also, from this perspective, identify the responsibility of the Japanese rulers and administrators, and the Japanese people.

(SHISO-UNDO NO. 1092, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023)

## Japanese and Korean Workers Take Joint Action to Stop Dumping the Contaminated Water

### We denounce the forced dumping! We continue the struggle after the initial outrage

NAKAHARA Junko, Permanent Secretary, ZENROKYO

#### Voices from around the world against the discharge of contaminated water

In the Republic of Korea, 85% of the population opposes the discharge of contaminated water into the ocean at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO). Labor unions, agricultural, fisheries, and citizens' groups have formed a joint struggle organization and demanded that the Japanese government must cancel the plan altogether, saying, "Ocean dumping of nuclear contaminated water is an international crime that will seriously pollute the Pacific Ocean, devastate the ecosystem, and drive the entire Pacific fishing industry to an end.

On July 8, Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU, *Minju Nodong*), literally translated as National Confederation of Democratic Trade Unions, held a "Japan-Korea Joint Action to Stop Japan from Dumping Contaminated Water into the Sea! Japan-Korea Workers' Joint Action" in Seoul, and sent a message of solidarity from the National Council of Trade Unions (ZENROKO). On July 30, a delegation of about 30 people from the Republic of Korea belonging to the "Joint Action to Stop Ocean Dumping of Radioactive Contaminated Water in Japan," political parties, environmental citizens' movements, fishermen, and others came to Japan to participate in the "World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Fukushima, 78 years after the atomic bombings." On the following day, on March 31, workers and citizens of Japan and ROK held a joint action in front of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo to stop the dumping of radioactive contaminated water into the ocean.

The delegation of KCTU to Japan consisted of nine eminent members, including Yang Gyeong-

soo, chairperson; Kim Eun-hyeong, vice chairperson; Yoon Jang-hyeok, chairperson of Korean Metalworkers' Union (KMWU); Jeon Hui-yeong, president of the Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union (KTU, *Jeon Gyojo*); Yoon Boo-sik, head of the Jeollanam-do Provincial Headquarters; Kim Ho-jeong, secretary general of the Seoul Headquarters; and Ryu Mi-gyeong, director of the International Bureau.

#### Speech in front of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry

At the METI front, Korean parliamentarians, environmental activists, and representatives of the National Fishermen's Association voiced their opposition to the dumping of nuclear contaminated water into the ocean, while a representative of the METI Tent Plaza and myself from ZENROKYO made brief remarks.

I began with a story I heard from NOZAKI Tetsu, chairman of the Fukushima Prefectural Fisheries Federation, who had met with METI Minister NISHIMURA Yasutoshi regarding the contaminated water discharge issue, when I met him immediately after the March 11, 2011 earthquake 12 years ago. Mr. Nozaki said, "When the earthquake hit, we fishermen were waiting offshore to protect our boats from the tsunami. When we returned to the harbor, the town looked like a hellscape, with houses collapsed and families swallowed by the tsunami, he said, shaking his large body and sobbing. I was shaken with anger toward the government and TEPCO. We are the only country to have suffered the atomic bombings of war, but we have failed to fight back against the ideological attack on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and we bear a heavy responsibility for having built 54 nuclear power plants in the narrow, earthquake-prone country of Japan. Just as the oceans of the world are connected, we Japanese and Korean workers are connected in the severe

global capitalist economy. I appealed to them to work together in solidarity.



Up: The members of KCTU in the action in front of the METI building.

Down: All after the protest action to the Prime Minister's Official Residence, Tokyo

The action in front of the Prime Minister's Office was vigorously chaired by Kim Eun-hyeong, Vice Chairperson of KCTU, and Yang Gyeong-

soo, Chairperson stated that the issue of the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean is a question of whether money is more important or lives are more important. "We cannot allow the discharge of contaminated water into the ocean to endanger people's lives just because it is less costly. We are determined to fight for our safety and our lives," he said, urging the Japanese government to withdraw its decision to dump it into the ocean.

### Let's Continue the Struggle to Stop Discharging the Contaminated Water!

On August 22, the Kishida administration decided at a cabinet meeting to release contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Plant. Following the government's decision, TEPCO, ignoring the voices of opposition from around the world, pushed for the discharge of contaminated water that had accumulated in tanks at the Fukushima Daiichi Plant into the ocean shortly after 1:00 p.m. on August 24. In addition, the government and TEPCO have reneged on a promise they made to the Fukushima Prefectural Fisheries Federation in August 2015. We will not allow the Kishida administration and TEPCO to get away with this outrage. Let us continue the fight to stop the discharge to protect the future of our children in solidarity with workers and citizens in Fukushima and around the world.

(SHISO-UNDO NO. 1092, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023)

### Essay:

## "Socialism or Death!" --The Problem is Not only about Nuclear Power Plants

NIHEI Kazuo, resident of Miharu-chō, Fukushima Prefecture

The headline is a slogan that Fidel Castro, familiar to readers of the Shiso-Undo monthly paper, used to end his speeches. The editorial board asked me to write a "report from my hometown Fukushima" on the problem of dumping contaminated water from the nuclear power plant into the ocean, but I declined,

saying that I could not speak as if I represented the local movement. It's not like I don't have something to say related to this, so I decided to write about it.

I recently had an opportunity to watch the NHK documentary program "Hiroshima's Black Sun"

(broadcasted in 2011). The documentary attempted to reconstruct the whole story of the so-called “Manhattan Project” from the production of the atomic bombs to the dropping of the bombs and their aftermath, by combining footage from the time. It depicted the formation of the so-called military-industrial complex and its criminal nature. It illustrated that the major national project was carried out in secret, even from the vice president of the time. Of course, the workers and soldiers were not informed of the dangers of radiation exposure, and they were not only sacrificed but also subjected to human experimentation. (Speaking of human experimentation, the Unit 731 of the Imperial Army comes to mind, and it is easy to see why they were treated so well by the U.S. military after the war.)

The dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan was carried out precisely for the needs of America's postwar strategy and as an experiment to confirm the power of the atomic bomb (which of course included evaluating its effects on the human body). It is just an excuse to hasten Japan's surrender. This was the emergence of a “nuclear empire” (Robert Junck) of secrets, lies, violence, and interests (though the perspective of the pursuit of interests was weak in the video program).

What we are witnessing in Fukushima today is the unmistakable image of this empire. At the time of the nuclear accident, the term “nuclear village” and “mafia” were used, and the mass media used these terms to criticize the forces promoting nuclear power, but in reality, these terms were nothing more than a vulgarization of these forces and a cover-up of their true nature (regardless of subjective intent).

Immediately after the accident, the Chief Cabinet Secretary's demagoguery, “There is no immediate effect on health” led to the high incidence of thyroid cancer in children kept in Fukushima. But, no one except pseudo-doctors (academics) who did not want to admit its causal relationship has to admit that, although I have no way of knowing the actual number. Of course, it is said that not only children are affected by the thyroid gland, but adults are also more

susceptible to various types of cancer and heart disease.

The effects of the large amount of radioactivity that has been exposed to mankind since the first nuclear explosion test in July 1945 are not properly known to the public. Based on this, the dumping of radioactive contaminated water into the ocean, which should not be deceived by vague terms such as “release,” it is a dumping of radioactivity into the sea.)

As can be seen from the above, the current problem of dumping contaminated water is not a Fukushima problem. This is evident in the IAEA's actions and Prime Minister Kishida's trip to the EU and other countries to seek their consent. The nuclear empire cannot avoid dumping contaminated water into the ocean, and they are not even trying to hide it. Humanity is now at the crossroads of whether or not it will perish along with the imperialists.

The problem is not only nuclear power. The plunder of capital has reached every corner of the globe, and half the world continues to starve. It is not that capitalism cannot feed them. This disparity (discrimination) is the indispensable means of obtaining surplus value, as Karl Marx made clear in his *The Capital*.

According to the teachings of economics, capital does not pay workers wages commensurate with the “value of labor power (which is, needless to say, the guaranteed value of daily reproduction of labor power as well as reproduction as a class),” and this makes reproduction of labor power (reproduction of workers as a class) impossible.

In every respect, capitalist society is in crisis. More precisely, human society, dominated by capital, is facing a crisis. There is no future for mankind unless it breaks free from the domination of capital. In my mind, rings the slogan of Fidel Castro, “Socialism or death!”

(SHISO-UNDO No. 1091, AUGUST 1, 2023)

# Illustrated Report

● HIROHAMA Ayako

## • ON THE WORK STYLE "STATIONED FREELANCE"

CONTRACTS EASILY ENDED, THOUGH THEY WORK SAME WAY AS EMPLOYEES. THERE'S A MERIT THAT THE JOB IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

IT'S A WORK STYLE WITH DISADVANTAGES, SUCH AS NO PAID VACATION, NO TRANSPORTATION EXPENSE PAID,

"STATIONED FREELANCE" HAS BEEN COMMON IN THE PUBLICATION INDUSTRY FOR A LONG TIME. HE/SHE COMMUTES TO THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE EVERY DAY AND WORKS FOR FIXED HOURS, BUT UNDER AN OUTSOURCING CONTRACT, NOT EMPLOYMENT.

I'M DISPATCHED TO A PUBLISHING COMPANY BY SIGNING CONSIGNMENT CONTRACT WITH A PROOFREAD SERVICE COMPANY.

CASES OF COUNSEL OR TROUBLES ARE INCREASING

MS.T, STATIONED FREELANCE

THEY REPORT TO THE EMPLOYEES AND THEY WORK JUST LIKE EMPLOYEES.

IT'S INCREASING IN OTHER INDUSTRIES, TOO, CALLED "DIGUISED FREELANCE" OR "NAME-ONLY SOLE PROPRIETOR."

IT'S MORE STABLE THAN FULL FREELANCES, BUT MUCH WORSE THAN EMPLOYEES.

← UNION COUNSELLORS

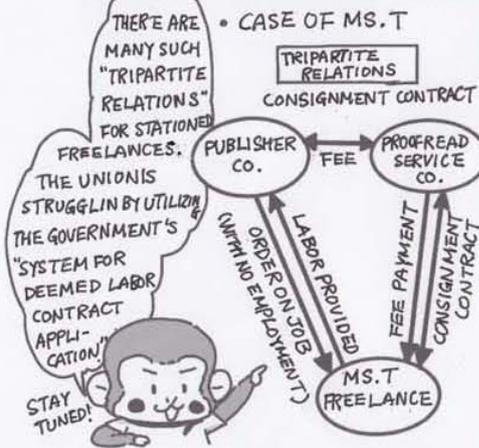
NO TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES  
NO PAID HOLIDAYS

NO LABOR INSURANCE  
NO SOCIAL INSURANCE.

THIS IS THE CONTRACT.

IT'S ACTUALLY A DISPATCHED WORK, ISN'T IT?

WORK INSTRUCTIONS COME FROM PUBLISHER EMPLOYEES ON SITE... WOULDN'T YOU CALL THIS A DISGUISED CONSIGNMENT?



UNION REQUESTED FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH BOTH THE PUBLISHER AND THE PROOFREAD COMPANY, BUT THEY REFUSED IT. MOREOVER, THEY MADE BAD CHANGES, SUCH AS MOVING HER WORKPLACE TO HER HOME. UNION FILED A PETITION FOR RELIEF WITH THE TOKYO LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION!

I WANT TO SIGN A CONTRACT MATCHING THE ACTUAL SITUATION.

LABOR STANDARD LAW ISN'T APPLIED. NO SOCIAL INSURANCE.

YOU WORK THE SAME WAY AS "DISPATCHED" WORKERS" BUT

Illustrated by HIROHAMA Ayako

Translated by Int'l. Dept. SHISO-UNDO

(SHISO-UNDO No.1090, JULY 1, 2023)

## Yokohama City Employee's Labor Union Protests against ASO Taro's Remarks We Denounce the "Prepared to Fight" Remarks and Express Determination Not to Fight

The Central Executive Committee of Yokohama City Employees' Labor Union

*ASO Taro, the first incumbent Deputy Prime Minister of Japan to make an official visit to Taiwan, delivered a speech in Taipei on August 8, in which he bluntly stated that Japan, Taiwan, the United States, and other volunteer nations must function as a strong deterrent force against China, and that he was "ready to fight". The Yokohama City Employees' Labor Union was quick to issue a statement of protest under the name of the Central Executive Committee, denouncing the plot of "workers killing each other" and clearly stating its determination and principled position that local government workers will not again take on the task of carrying out wars of aggression.*

*(Editorial Board)*

August 15, 2023

### **Protest Statement of the Central Executive Committee of Yokohama City Employees' Labor Union**

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Vice President ASO Taro, who visited Taiwan, said on August 8, "We must be prepared to function as a strong deterrent for Japan, Taiwan, the United States, and other like-minded countries. There has never been a time like this. We are prepared to fight," he said, "If push comes to shove, we will use it. We will use it for the defense of Taiwan, for the stability of the Taiwan Strait. We must convey a clear intention to the other side, and this will serve as a deterrent," and so on. This assertion is a provocation of war with China in mind that deviates from the exclusive defense of Japan, and cannot be tolerated.

LDP Vice Chairman for Policy Research SUZUKI Keisuke, who accompanied the minister, stated in a BS Fuji's program on the evening of August 9, "Naturally, it was the result of coordination, including within the government." Not only was this a statement made by a key figure in the ruling party, but if it was made after confirmation by the government, it is extremely

serious in that it could be taken as an official statement of the national position.

The principle that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China is an internationally recognized legal principle. The Japanese government has also confirmed this principle in the important political documents on Japan-China relations as follows: the Japan-China Joint Statement (1972), the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China (1978), the Japan-China Joint Declaration on the Establishment of a Partnership of Friendship and Cooperation for Peace and Development (1998), and the Japan-China Joint Statement on the Comprehensive Promotion of "Strategic Mutual Benefit Relations" (2008). The following is a summary of the key political documents in Japan-China relations. In this year of the 45th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, what the government should do is to respect the basic principles. We should strive to develop friendly relations between our two countries through diplomacy.

Even if there were to be a "Taiwan contingency," it would be an internal affair of China, and no other country would be allowed to interfere. Making a fuss about the "Chinese threat" and even using military force to incite Taiwan's independence does not constitute legitimate activities in defense of democracy.

The Japanese government has recently been emphasizing "a free and open international order" and "an international order based on rules." If we are talking about the international order, we must abide by the UN Charter, which clearly states respect for the territorial integrity of all nations and the prohibition of the use of force of any kind to change national borders, which Aso's comments also violate.

Japan's imperialism and militarism in the last

war of aggression threatened the stability and prosperity of the region and took the lives of many workers across the border. The Japanese government's "war-making nation" has aroused the suspicions of neighboring countries that Japan is trying to achieve a different form of hegemony in the Asian region, which it could not achieve in the past, backed by its military alliance with the United States, and is causing them to look at Japan with extreme caution.

The Yokohama City Employees' Labor Union, whose mission is to fight for the complete independence of Japan and the realization of lasting peace in the world in cooperation with all working people in Japan and abroad, denounces Aso's statement that he is "ready to fight" and plans to kill workers in exchange for his greed

and his own interests.

In addition, we reiterate our opposition to the preparations for war, including the deployment of an enemy base attack capability and the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. military alliance based on the "Three Security Documents" of the end of 2022, and call for withdrawal of the deployment of landing craft units to the "Yokohama North Dock," which is the embodiment of these preparations in the Yokohama City area. We are committed to taking joint and solidarity actions with the determination that local government workers will not again take on the responsibility of carrying out the war of aggression.

(SHISO-UNDO No. 1092, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023)

Information

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