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Movements to Strengthen Military Bases in Western Japan We Protest against the Suppression to Anti-Base Movements

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In the recent House of Councillors election, the LDP-Komeito government became a minority ruling coalition, following the House of Representatives election in October, 2024. However, the constitutionalist parties such as Japan Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party retreated, while right-wing parties such as the Democratic Party for the People and the Sanseito (Party of Do It Yourself), even more dangerous than LDP-Komeito coalition, gained ground. The minority coalition government will survive and likely maintain its course of linking a Taiwan contingency to a Japanese emergency, viewing China as an enemy, and further strengthening the Japan-U.S. security framework and military alliance. The mass media focusing on the war in August (of 1945) was filled with accounts of the war damages suffered by the Japanese people, completely ignoring Japan's responsibility for the harm it inflicted, which claimed twenty million lives and destroyed cities and countryside across Asian nations. This situation cannot prevent a new war.

The intensification of war preparations in western Japan following the Upper House election is proceeding at a breathless pace. On July 29, media reported that the Ministry of Defense had begun coordinating to deploy the first batch of domestically produced long-range missiles, designed to carry out enemy base attack capabilities (counterstrike capabilities), at the Ground Self-Defense Force's Kenbu Garrison (Kumamoto City), aiming for deployment within the current fiscal year. The government plans to deploy an upgraded version of the "Type 12 Surface-to-Ship Guided Missile" with an extended range of 1,000 kilometers. This missile, capable of striking enemy vessels and bases from outside opponent's range, will bring China's coastal areas within striking distance. Furthermore, its deployment to the Yufuin Garrison (Oita Prefecture) is planned for the next fiscal year and beyond, with future deployment to the Katsuren Vice-camp (Okinawa Pref.) also under consideration. In response, on August 4, approximately 100 citizens from groups in Kumamoto City held a protest rally demanding the withdrawal of the missile deployment plan. Logically, China would likely deploy missiles capable of striking Kenbu Camp (as well as both Yufuin and Katsuren) as a countermeasure. In such an arms race, the people of both nations suffer; only the war-mongering governments and the military-industrial complex profit. Lieutenant General TORIKAI Seiji, Commander of the Western Army of SDF, stated, "The deployment location is undecided," and "There will inevitably be concerns and burdens for residents. We must explain carefully. If deployment occurs, we must establish a system capable of effective operation." He stubbornly insists, "We will pursue military expansion regardless of public concerns or burdens," and "We will

explain, but we will carry out what we have decided.”

On July 9, the first V-22 Osprey aircraft arrived at the militarized Saga Airport, and 17 aircrafts have already been deployed to the Saga Garrison of the Ground SDF. Training has begun, and dangerous low-altitude flight training connecting 85 locations across seven prefectures in Kyushu is scheduled to commence. On July 5, the Ground Staff Office of the Ministry announced that the joint operational training exercise “Resolute Dragon 25” with the U.S. Marine Corps will be conducted from September 11 to 25 across eight prefectures, including Okinawa. Approximately 14,200 personnel from Japan and the U.S. will participate, and of course, the Ospreys will be involved.

In Okinawa Prefecture, an intolerable situation is unfolding. On August 4, it was reported that a female school teacher wearing camouflage clothing participated in a training experience inside the Ground SDF Ishigaki Garrison. On August 5, the GSDF Miyakojima Garrison conducted a pedestrian disaster prevention drill wearing combat uniforms on public roads within the city. The garrison commander intimidated citizens observing the drill, shouting, “Get permission! Stop it!” Furthermore, a woman who was seriously injured during protests at the Anwa Pier in Nago City in June, 2024, where a fatal accident occurred, was questioned twice by the prefectural police on August 6 and 8 as a “suspect” in a case of grossly negligent homicide. This is an outrageous act by police that treats the victim as the perpetrator and a criminal. Furthermore, on August 7, the Okinawa Prefectural Police raided the home of writer MEDORUMA Shun, who had been monitoring construction related to the new Henoko base, seizing his computer and smartphone. The alleged offense was touching and damaging a fence installed by the Okinawa Defense Bureau. However, it is the Bureau itself that should be held accountable for leaving the fence, which had deteriorated and rusted over time, unattended. On August 11, 75 citizens submitted a protest petition to the Okinawa Prefectural Police. We strongly protest the police crackdown on citizens’ protest activities.

The ruling class, stymied economically, seeks refuge in war and xenophobia. The military and police use military force and public security as twin engines to mobilize the people for wars. Now more than ever, we must raise high the banner of anti-war and peace and build a people’s struggle.

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Frequent Incidents of Attacks on Chinese Nationals Fight Against Anti-Chinese Xenophobia!

Editorial Office

Ahead of the recent House of Councillors election, the Sanseito party spearheaded xenophobic smear campaigns targeting foreigners, particularly Chinese nationals. These

spread rapidly on social media, fueling dangerous public sentiment that scorns foreigners and treats them as criminals. The government, ruling coalition parties, and even some opposition parties jumped on this bandwagon. An abnormal situation emerged where strengthening “measures against foreigners” became a major election issue, with parties competing to shout it loudest.

Amid such circumstances, attacks targeting Chinese residents in Japan and Chinese tourists have been occurring frequently.

On the night of June 6, a Chinese tourist was slashed with a knife by an unknown man in Shimogyo Ward, Kyoto City. The perpetrator fled the scene.

Around 10:00 pm on July 30, a Chinese tourist was attacked by robbers in Nishinari Ward, Osaka Prefecture, and suffered injuries from being strangled. The perpetrator was arrested.

Around 9:00 am the following day, July 31, two Chinese men were severely injured after being beaten with weapons by four unknown men in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo. The perpetrators are still on the run.

In light of these developments, the Chinese Embassy in Japan has issued three separate calls (on July 31, August 1, and August 18) urging Chinese tourists visiting Japan and Chinese nationals residing in Japan to “strengthen safety precautions.”

In the appeal issued on the afternoon of July 31, the day of the assault, it stated: “The Chinese Embassy in Japan immediately contacted and comforted the injured compatriots, visited the police station with jurisdiction over the incident site, and demanded that the Japanese side take immediate action, arrest the suspects, and severely punish the perpetrators. In light of the recent rise in xenophobic sentiments in Japanese society, the Embassy lodged a strong protest with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, demanding the safety and lawful rights of Chinese nationals in Japan be guaranteed.”

In a call issued on August 18, it stated: “Recently, there have been frequent incidents of attacks targeting Chinese nationals. ... Tourists visiting Japan and compatriots residing in Japan should enhance their safety awareness and avoid crowded areas and regions with poor public security. Comply with local laws and regulations. If you encounter discrimination or trouble, respond calmly, avoid physical confrontations, and ensure your personal safety.”

As this appeal indicates, the Chinese Embassy must be recognizing that the frequent assault incidents are not unrelated to the dangerous situation of rampant xenophobia in Japanese society. What about the Japanese people? Few are likely aware that such incidents occur frequently and that the Chinese Embassy must be responding with a sense of crisis. Meanwhile, the mass media conspicuously reports every incident involving Japanese nationals in China, waging a campaign of condemnation and attacks against China.

The situation is grave. This is because attacks against China (and Chinese people) in society, which had remained within the bounds of speech, including on social media, no matter how vicious the slander, have now clearly manifested as physical violence.

Looking back at Japan's modern history, incitement of discrimination and xenophobia against the peoples of Asian nations, including China and Korea, was intrinsically linked to Japan's wars of aggression and colonial rule over those countries. The massacres of Koreans and Chinese during the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 were similarly structured. The persistent discrimination, oppression, and attacks against Korean residents in Japan that continue to this day are fundamentally driven by the purpose of advancing policies of hostility, destruction, and war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Amidst the intensification of international imperialism's strategy to encircle China, xenophobic attacks targeting China and the Chinese people could escalate further within Japan. Shouldn't the frequent assaults on Chinese nationals be seen as a harbinger of this?

The struggle against violence toward Chinese people is both an internationalist duty of Japan's working class to combat all discrimination and oppression against other ethnic groups, and the most urgent battle to prevent international imperialism—including Japan—from waging war against China.

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