



January 1984

An Appeal to our Readers for the New Year

The year 1983 was a very memorable year in that we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That eternal peace be achieved through the elimination of discrimination and protection of human rights was emphasized throughout the world.

From August 1 through 12, the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was held by the United Nations in Geneva and the Program of Action for the next decade was newly adopted which has given a fresh direction to UN actions.

In Japan, too, different activities in honor of the anniversary of UDHR took place on a large scale. During Human Rights Week, from December 4 through 10, symposia of commemorative gatherings were held in Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima and Fukuoka with guest speakers from the United

Nations.

In spite of such increased public interest for protection of human rights and elimination of discrimination both domestically and abroad the threat of nuclear war has become even greater.

At the same time, many discriminatory incidents of a Fascist nature have been increasing in this time of worldwide inflation.

Let us make the year 1984 be of great progress in eliminating discrimination and protecting human rights; let it also be a fresh start for disarmament to do away with nuclear war!

The Buraku Liberation League as well as the Buraku Liberation Research Institute promise to work much harder for the complete elimination of discrimination from this earth and for true peace.

With our best wishes to you all for the coming year!



The staff and persons concerned with BLRI.

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Splendid Commemorative Gatherings in Honor of the 35th Anniversary of UDHR Held During Human Rights Week

Many different activities were carried out throughout Japan, with representatives from every circle, in honor of the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during Human Rights Week, December 4 through 10.

Among others a couple of symposia of commemorative gatherings were held with three guest speakers invited from the United Nations: Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, Former Chairman of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and protection of Minorities; Georg Mautner-Markhof, Senior Officer in the Office of UN Center for Human Rights; and Yo Kubota, Assistant Secretary of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. They paid a visit to a Buraku community in Osaka.

The symposia were held with 1,200 participants in Tokyo on December 6, 2,000 in Fukuoka and 800 in Hiroshima on December 7, and 3,000 in Osaka on December 10.

The speakers' addresses included the following points: 1) peace, human rights and development are connected in one body; 2) UN actions for protection of human rights throughout the past 35 years; 3) Japan's greater role in protecting human

rights as well as in eliminating discrimination from the world.

In the Osaka gathering, several appeals from Burakumin, Korean residents in Japan, women and disabled persons were presented; they included their own experiences of discrimination and a strong call for an early end to discrimination.

Besides the symposia, the executive committee for the 35th anniversary of UDHR composed of working bodies from 14 prefectures, hosted a commemorative gathering. One was also sponsored by the Japanese Government.

The Central Executive Committee for the anniversary intends to prevent such activities from becoming a one-time efforts; it will continue to call for the early ratification of several UN conventions, especially, "The UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and "The UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women", to help strengthen their actions toward the elimination of day-to-day discrimination.

The English report on the gatherings held by the Central Executive Committee for the anniversary will be published around April next year.



Tokyo Gatherings in Honor of the 35th Anniversary of UDHR



[Guests from UN]



Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury

Born in 1921.

Former President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Member of the UN Commission on Human Rights; Former Chairman of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; Chairman of the UN Working Group on Slavery; Head of the Bangladesh delegation to various international organizations and conferences; Chancellor of the Universities of Dhaka.



Georg Mautner-Markhof

Born in 1946.

Doctor of Law, University of Vienna; Former Chargé d'Affaires of Austria in Damascus and Kuwait; Former Special Assistant to the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Senior Officer in the Office of the Director, UN Centre for Human Rights.



Yo Kubota

Born in 1951.

Former Lecturer in law at Nippon University, Tokyo; Human Rights Officer, United Nations; Assistant Secretary of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; Secretary of the UN Working Group on Detention; Founder Member of the Japanese Human Rights Law Group.

TOKYO DECLARATION

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in the United Nations in 1948. Since then, its principles have been implemented as the UN International Covenants on Human Rights, the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and as the objectives for the movements to gain the rights of minority races, women, and others. However, the current world situation is not necessarily heading in that desired direction. Even the reduction of nuclear armaments to do away with all war, has not been achieved. At present, we cannot help foresee the possible threat of war.

On the international level, we have been struggling for the complete eradication of nuclear weapons, a symbol of the obliteration of mankind,

and on the national level, the elimination of discrimination, namely the violation of human rights, against Buraku communities, women, and racial minorities. Nevertheless, far from the complete eradication of nuclear weapons, we are threatened by nuclear terror, because nations with nuclear weapons have not reached agreement. Incidents of discrimination occur frequently, and merely revising the new Law on Special Measures for Area Improvement Projects will not solve these serious matters.

We are in a position to faithfully realize to the fullest extent possible the Declaration of Human Rights which advocates to the world in a lofty voice the abandonment of war and the struggle for liberty and equality. However, we must reconsider

whether we sufficiently understand and are acting upon those aims. We lack the organization by which to solve the problem "jointly," together with the people of the entire country and the efforts of private citizens as well as those of the state.

On this commemorative occasion, we are highly conscious of our responsibility to the world to actively propose and practice how important it is

to respect human rights. Therefore, we vow to propose and enact these policies in common throughout the world. At the same time, we demand the Japanese government ratify the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

Recalling that 60 years ago we stood up to advocate the "Liberation of Humanity" and "Respect for Human Rights", today we declare with enthusiasm and solidarity the renewal of such efforts and thereby make the following proposals:

- 1) To organize the transmission and public availability of information gathered by the government in connection with the Respect for Human Rights;
- 2) To establish the Japan Forum for the protection of Human Rights by all parties concerned.



A stamp in honor of the 35th Anniversary of UDHR

December 6, 1983

Central Gathering to Commemorate
the 35th Anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Tokyo, Japan

Dr. Natan Lerner Gives Commemorative Lecture

Buraku Liberation Research Institute Holds 15th Anniversary Assembly in November—

The Buraku Liberation Research Institute held its 15th anniversary assembly on November 18 and 21 in Osaka and Tokyo respectively with approximately six hundred persons associated with the institute attending. Also a special guest, Dr. Natan Lerner, a jurist of International Law in Israel, gave a special commemorative lecture.

After a slide presentation tracing the development of the institute's fifteen years, Assistant Director Murakoshi opened with the greetings from the sponsor, expressing gratitude for the support of many people and also appealing for co-

operation in the future.

Also as guests, along with Chairman Uesugi, were the Governor of Osaka, Mayor of Osaka, Chairman of the General Conference of Osaka, a representative from the Council of Osaka Citizens to Promote Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, President of Osaka City University representatives from religious groups and representatives from companies, who each gave congratulatory messages.

Director Harada introduced the institute's

fifteen-year course and, looking back to the days of its founding, appealed strongly for progress in the activities of the institute to liberate Buraku-min from discrimination, "hoping that soon there will be no need for such a research institute".

Dr. Natan Lerner gave a special commemorative lecture at this assembly. In his speech entitled "The 35th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International

Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination", Dr. Lerner spoke from an international point of view about the background of the origin of the convention, the significance of the convention towards eliminating discrimination and the importance of Japan ratifying that convention. In the evenings, hotel receptions in honor of the occasion were held.

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Dr. Natan Lerner gives Commemorative Lecture



Buraku Liberation Research: 17th General Meeting Held

In October, a meeting with 13,000 participants was held in Hyōgo Prefecture, the first time to be held there.

On the opening day of the meeting, the 35th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was celebrated. Appeals were made regarding the actual condition of discrimination

against Buraku-min, Korean residents of Japan, the disabled person, the Ainus, the citizens of Okinawa Prefecture and women and to lead toward ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.



“Citizenship” granted to the study of Buraku problems **BLRI Chairman Tomohiko Harada Dies**

Chairman of Buraku Liberation Research Institute, Tomohiko Harada, known as the foremost scholar of Japanese cities in the feudal age and as a practical researcher of Buraku problems, died on December 8 of cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 66. He was a professor at St. Michael’s University and professor at Osaka City University.

While a student in the Faculty of Literature at Tokyo University, Harada started his study of Japanese cities in the feudal age, which was then almost untapped. From 1952 he lectured on the history of Japanese economy at Osaka City University.

The method of his historical was a through-and-through positivism, which he also used for the study of Buraku history. He established the theory of the origin of discriminated against Buraku produced by the early modern politics of Japan, and rejected all biased theories concerning Buraku problems. One of his works, “Hisabetsu Buraku no Rekishi” (The history of discriminated against Buraku communities) is still a best seller today. While a professor at Osaka City University, he held the post of chairman in the Faculty of Economics and there opened a reserach center for Buraku problems before any other university in Japan; he added to the curriculum of the university formal courses on the theory of Buraku problems as well as on Dōwa education thus granting “citizenship”, or formal status in academics to both the study of and education for Buraku liberation.

Since the time he was a lecturer at Osaka City University, Harada joined the Buraku liberation movement as a theoretical leader and was elected the first chairman of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute upon its foundation in August 1968 and held the post until his death. In 1963 and 1964 he was deeply concerned in the Dowa section of the Osaka City and Prefectural governments. For of all these distinguished services, he was awarded the Matsumoto Ji’ichiro Prize in 1980 from the BLL.

We will carry on with concerns of Prof. Harada, who has passed on in the midst of his important activities, and continue to make further efforts toward the perfect liberation of Buraku communities.



the late Mr. Tomohiko Harada

1.3 Million People Participate in Rallies All Over Japan to Demand the retrial of Ishikawa

From October 21 to 31 in various parts of Japan, approximately 1.3 million people participated in rallies to demand the retrial of Mr. Ishikawa.

As we face a most critical moment a year and a

half since the Supreme Court first examined whether to open a retrial of the Sayama Case, new evidence to prove the innocence of Mr. Ishikawa was presented on October 31 and a retrial of the case was demanded.



Deep-Rooted Discrimination In Business and Religion

Mawata Conceals New Discriminative Documents “Sales Prohibition Lists” and “Lists of Areas with the Most Complaints about Sales”.

Mawata company, major makers of “futon” (Japanese bed clothes) and blankets, was found last year to have been developing a list in order to remove discriminated Buraku-min, the mentally handicapped, families on welfare relief, the aged living alone, and fatherless families, from home visit sales and thus received severed criticism from the Buraku Liberation League and other organizations for discriminated people.

In spite of this, a new fact has surfaced in

recent findings of the BLL.

Mawata was concealing the existence of the “Lists of Areas with the Most Complaints about Sales” which prints the names of discriminated Buraku areas. They also were developing what is essentially “Buraku Lists”.

It has also been discovered that in company training is hardly carried out. The discriminative nature of Mawata was critically pointed out by the kyudan kai.

Mt. Kôya’s Shingon Sect Puts Blame about Discriminative Incident on the Individual

The Second kûdan kai was held in October concerning the Sect that over a long period of time the discriminatory words, “Eta sendara”, have been printed on the amulets made by Mt. Kôya’s Shingon Sect.

In the meeting, the apology written by the individual who produced the amulet was criticized for lacking any sincere understanding of the discrimi-

natory nature of the words “Eta sendara”. The Shingon Sect itself was also criticized for, although eight months had passed since the First kyûdan kai it abandoned further guidance of said individual stating “he has no understanding” of what was done while at the same time the sect acknowledged the individual’s submission of an admittedly meaningless apology.

⟨Movements Abroad⟩

Terroist Violence against Minorities ~America

Elderly Black women were imprisoned for fighting for the right to vote; the Black mayor of Tchula, Miss was framed for assault and fraud; an elderly Black man was shot in the face by a Klansman for driving too slow; a Black man was run over and killed by a white who didn’t like the fact that he was walking with a white woman. After the acquittal of six Klansmen and Nazis in the Greensboro Massacre, it seems that a “green

light” to racist violence was ignited.

Four years ago, on November 3, in Greensboro, North Carolina, five members of the Communist Workers Party were murdered, in front of television cameras, by the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi members. The five were known for their stand against racism and discrimination against blacks in the U.S.A. When the jury acquitted the six Klansmen and Nazis, the public burst out in anger, giving



them no alternative but to open a grand jury and investigate the crime.

However, during these four years, the increase in terrorist violence against minorities and dissidents has been astounding. In Atlanta, Ga., 30 Afro-American children mysteriously disappeared and were later found brutally murdered. Since the incarceration of the supposed killer, 40 Afro-American women have vanished only to be found raped and viciously killed. Throughout the country, Black elected officials are under attack, many on dubious state and federal charges. In parts of the South, blacks who vote risk losing their jobs. Afro-Americans, Indians and Chicanos continue to struggle against increasing displacement from tradi-

tional homelands which form the basis of their livelihood. Within the American Indian Movement members face regular harassment and arrests. Over 100 AIM members have been injured or killed in mysterious accidents, and violent assaults. The bulk of these crimes go unpunished.

The government, having a connection with the Greensboro Massacre, is engaged in a cover-up of the massacre. Therefore, the cases must be brought to the people. International support and public opinion are crucial.

note: facts extracted from "The Greenboro Civil Rights Suit: The Struggle Against Racist Violence" and from the letter from Dr. Martha Nathan and Nelson N. Johnson.

Buraku Problem Put Up in a German Magazine "Pogrom"

"Pogrom", one of the major Human Rights magazines published every second month by the Organization for Oppressed Peoples (Die Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker), informing readers about discrimination problems from various places throughout the world, covered a serious discrimination problem in Japan, the Buraku problem, titled in "Burakumin/Japan" a special issue, the 98th, (22pp.-31pp.) of June 1983.

The article consists of the following five topics: 1) Discrimination against a Minority in Japan (Die Diskriminierung einer Minderheit in Japan); 2) The Sayama Case (Der Sayama Prozeß); 3) A Buraku Discrimination Incident in Austria (Ein Fall von Burakudiskriminierung in Österreich); 4) Periodicals of the Buraku Liberation League (Die regelmäßigen Publikationen der BLL); 5) The first International Conference against Discrimination in December 1982 in Japan (Die erste internationale Konferenz gegen Diskriminierung in Dezember 1982 in Japan). Each topic is discussed accurately in detail, through which one can grasp what the problem is all about. Namely, the historical background, current situation of Buraku communities, discriminatory incidents, and how the liberation movement has been carried out, both on the national and international level.

The Buraku problem has been taken up in the magazine "Pogrom" in two ways, by the introduction of this article. Firstly that the International Conference against Discrimination was held in Japan last December 1982 by the sponsorship of the BLL and other related organizations inviting Romani Rose, Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat deutscher

Sinti und Roma) as well as the representative of the Organization for Oppressed Peoples (Die Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker) as one of the speakers at the Conference, and secondly that the German Evangelic Church Conference was held in Hannover in June 1983, to which a representative of the Buraku Liberation Reserach Institute was sent at the invitation of the Organization for Oppressed People (Die Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker).

