

March 1988

'International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism' Established

With the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination from the world the founding meeting of 'The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism' was held on Jan. 25, 1988, at the Matsumoto Memorial Hall in Tokyo.

The meeting was convened by Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, President of the Buraku Liberation League, Japan.

The participants from overseas and Japan were as follows :

Overseas

Ms Myriam Schreiber, Lawyer (Belgium)
Prof. Soon Man Rhim (U. S.)
The College of New Jersey

Mr. Mouloud Aounit (France)
Secretary -General of MRAP
Ms Catherine Cadou (France)
Researcher in Japanese Studies
Mr. Romani Rose (W. Germany)
Principal Director and chairman
of the Central council of German
Sinti and Roma
Dr. Martin Kaneko (Austria)
Lecturer, Wien Universty
Mr. Freddie Dlamini (South Africa)
ANC, in charge of International Div.

Japan

Mr. Saichiro Uesugi
President, Buraku Liberation League



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Mr. Saichiro Uesugi giving a lecture on behalf of the host organization.



Mr. Tatsukuni Komori

Secretary-General, Buraku Liberation League

Mr. Giichi Nomura

President, Hokkaido Utari Association

Rev. Lee In Ha (Korean)

Representative, National Liaison Conference to
Combat National Discrimination

Mr. Tsutomu Nishioka

Secretary-General,
National Liaison Conference for Liberation of
Disabled People

Ms Manae Kubota

Women's Liberation Activist
Member of House of Councilors

Mr. Sueo Murakoshi

Director-General, Buraku Liberation Research
Institute

Mr. Kenzo Tomonaga

Secretary-General, Buraku Liberation Research
Institute

The following agenda was unanimously adopted at
the founding meeting :

- (1) Preparation report (progress report on the estab-
lishment)
- (2) Tenor of establishment
- (3) The Articles
- (4) Board members and the Headquarters
- (5) Activities Policy
- (6) Budget
- (7) Commemorative appeal

The aim of this movement is to eliminate all
forms of discrimination from all parts of the world by
cooperating with the UN and various activities in the
world.

Concrete activities will include : (1) publication of
bulletins and magazines ; (2) holding of lecture classes
and meetings ; (3) participation in and the submission
of proposals to any conferences staged by the United
Nations in connection with human rights ; (4) various
forms of investigation and research into all forms of
discrimination existing in the world ; (5) various activ-
ities in pursuit of the goals of the elimination of
discrimination and the protection of human rights.

During Human Rights Week this coming Decem-
ber, we are staging 'The 2nd International Conference
Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism '
together with the Council of the Universal Declaration
of Human Rights. We are also going to apply for UN



Ms. Takako Doi, President of Socialist Party,
giving a message as a guest.

NGO registration.

Since the foundation of the Zenkoku Suiheisha
(National Levelers' Association) on March 3, 1922, the
Buraku liberation movement --- the Buraku
Liberation League, in particular --- has actively
conducted various activities for the elimination of all
forms of discrimination through international solidar-
ity.

For example, during World War II, the Zenkoku
Suiheisha protested against the persecution of the
Jews and handed a letter of protest to the German
Embassy. They have also cooperated with people
facing discrimination in Korea, the "Pyakuchan" (who
belong to the 'Koheisha' movement).

After the war, the late Jiichiro Matsumoto, our
former President, set up exchanges with representa-
tives of the outcasts in India and the aborigines in
Australia. He also participated in a world confer-
ence calling for the elimination of racial discrimina-
tion.

Through our activities over the past decade, we
have rapidly strengthened international solidarity.
We have also actively participated in the activities
proposed by the UN toward the elimination of dis-
crimination and the protection of human rights.

Building on the foundation of these past activities,
the establishment of 'The International Movement
Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism'
aims at the spirit of international embodiment.



So we are confident that this founding meeting will represent a new step forward and marks an epoch-making event for the future of the movement.

The new organization appeals for the active participation of groups and individuals fighting against discrimination throughout the world.

The principal staff members elected at the founding meeting held on Jan. 25 in Tokyo are as follows :

- President : Mr. Saichiro Uesugi (Japan),
President, Buraku Liberation League
- Vice-President : Ms Myriam Schreiber (Belgium)
Lawyer
- Secretary-General : Mr. Sueo Murakoshi (Japan),
Director-General,
Buraku Liberation Research

Headquarters

c/o Matsumoto Memorial Hall
3-5-11 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo,
Tel : 03-586-7447

Participants gathering from domestic and overseas for the establishment of 'International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism'.



Commemorative Appeal of The International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism

We have established today, January 25, 1988, The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism here in Tokyo, Japan, with a participation of personalities from U. S. A., Belgium, France, West Germany, Austria, South Africa, Korea and Japan.

The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination is an organization which aims at the elimination of all forms of discrimination from the world, and the promotion of the respect for human rights.

Today, there is no such state that can claim no human rights violations are practiced within its territory. That is the reason why activities for the elimination of discrimination and the protection of human rights are carried out throughout the world.

However, it is difficult to achieve a remarkable advancement as long as these activities remain only domestic within a given country, without international cooperation. That is because those who are discriminated, against and whose human rights are violated, are in a disadvantageous position in their



own country, politically, economically and socially.

Therefore, international cooperation and solidarity is indispensable in order to achieve the goals of the elimination of discrimination and the protection of human rights.

We, The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, are determined to take part in this international cooperation.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As you know, the Declaration proclaimed all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and insisted that the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of respect for, and observance of human rights would lead to lasting peace, and called for an international unity for this sake.

During the past 40 years since then, universal movements toward the elimination of discrimination and the protection of human rights have been continuously pushed forward, as is demonstrated in the adoption of as many as 20 treaties on human rights by the United Nations alone.

However, we still continue to witness serious cases of discrimination and human rights violation as symbolized in the existence of apartheid in South Africa. Rather, there is even a sign of aggravation of the situation, which is a thread to world peace.

In this commemorative year of the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we appeal to all human beings to be back to the fundamental spirit of the Universal Declaration and to strengthen their efforts to embody this spirit.

We, the International Movement Against All Forms Discrimination and Racism, are resolved to carry out various activities including the Second International Conference against Discrimination. We, on this occasion, also demand :

☆ The United Nations develop various activities to commemorate the 40 the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and hold a world conference on the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of respect for, and observance of human rights.

☆ Each government, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Declaration, ratify or accede to the treaties on human rights adoped by the United Nations, and take national measures to implement the provisions of the treaties. Furthermore, each govern-

ment give the highest priority to the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of respect for, and observance of human rights.

☆ The government of South Africa immediately abolish apartheid which is a crime against mankind. Also each government and private sectors sould break off economic, military, and cultural relationships and sports exchange with South Africa which would contribute to the maintenance of apartheid system.

☆ All non -governmental organizations and people deeply appreciate the spirit of the Universal Declaration in this commemorative year, and strengthen their activities for the embodiment of the spirit of the Declaration.

Finally, we wish as many organizations and people as possible would participate in the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism.

January 25, 1988

All those present

Foundation Assembly of the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism



Niigata District Court

Dowa Measures 'Apply to Undesignated Areas, Too':

The verdict on a Dowa-related administrative lawsuit was delivered on Jan. 26, 1988, at the First Civil Affairs Division of the Niigata District Court. Two Buraku residents had filed a suit against their village mayor for turning down their application for a small-business loan, claiming that they were eligible for the Buraku-business promotion loan. The application was refused by the village administration because it had not been designated as a "Dowa community" by the national government.

The District Court handed down the following verdict: "The village, although not officially designated as a Dowa community, is apparently a Buraku eligible for receipt of the loan. The village authorities' rejection of the application because of the absence of designation contradicted the constitutional principle of ensuring fundamental rights. "The village mayor decided against appealing to a higher court.

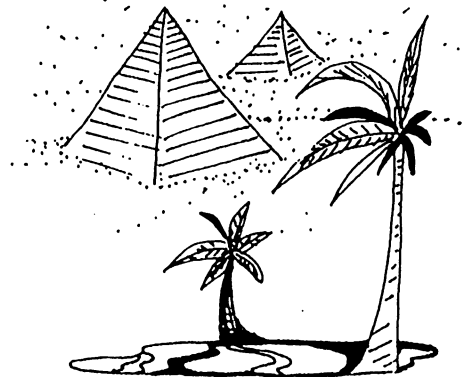
This was the first court ruling to deal squarely with the relationship between the way government designation / non-designation bears on a Dowa community and its eligibility for Dowa measures. It is expected to have a great impact on the development of similar cases elsewhere.

The plaintiffs had argued after their application was rejected that their community was "an area deprived historically and socially of stability and improvement in living conditions," thereby qualifying for the special loan, and that non-designation by the government had resulted from the negligence of the village authorities since 1971 to report to the government that it was a Buraku --- as they had done until 1967. Even today the local residential environment is vulnerable --- threatened, for example, by possible cliff collapse; many people have to work away from home because of a shortage of jobs in the locality; and there is hardly any intermarriage with non-Burakumin. "Nevertheless," the plaintiffs said, "the village authorities have not paid due attention to actual conditions in this Buraku."

The village authorities claimed, for their part, that they did not report to the government that the community was a Buraku because there was strong opposition from the residents to being identified in this way and that government designation was deemed an indispensable condition for eligibility for the loan.

The judge decided in favor of the plaintiffs' claim on the following grounds: (1) neither the national Dowa Projects Law nor the prefectural guidelines for Dowa measures stipulate that designation as a Dowa community is a requirement for implementing Dowa measures; (2) given the spirit of the constitution is to protect fundamental rights, Dowa measures should be implemented in a Buraku, even when it is not officially designated as a Dowa community; (3) designation as a Dowa community is not a necessary precondition for implementation of Dowa measures in the community. The judge also ruled that it was a denial of the rights of those encountering discrimination not to have measures implemented respecting the wishes of the majority of the local resident.

The Buraku Liberation League Headquarters commented: "According to our survey, there are over 1,000 Buraku yet to be designated as Dowa communities. Given this verdict, the government needs to reevaluate its policy because it claimed last year that no new designations would be necessary."



Due to the KAL Bombing Incident

Korean Residents Suffering Harassment

Since the KAL bombing incident, Korean residents around the country have been subjected to various kinds of harassment, including violence directed at North Korean elementary and high school students, insulting behavior and annoying telephone calls to North Korean schools and the Zainichi Chosenjin

Sorengo (Korean Residents' Association). Female students wearing their school uniform, traditional Korean dress, have been the main victims of physical abuse, targeted for attacks on their way to and from school.

Incidents Involving Striking, Kicking and Choking

"He must have followed me from the train," reported an 18-year-old female Kobe North Korean High School student, who was attacked near her home in Nagata ward in Kobe. She had heard from two of her school friends that they had been terrorized in the Kobe subway system by a middle-aged man who warned them, "Go back to your own country." So she was wearing a sweater in order to cover her traditional school uniform and put on a scarf to hide its distinctive collar before getting off the subway.

When she reached a poorly lit street some 100 meters from the station, she suddenly felt a tap on her shoulder. She turned around to find herself confronted by two men wearing coats. They hurled accusations at her-- "You are a Korean!", etc. Suddenly, one of them slapped her left cheek. She fell down and they started kicking her. Moments later, a man on a bicycle approached the scene and so the attackers fled. He stared down at the helpless girl and then simply went on his way without offering to help her.



The student described her assailants as being about 170 cms tall.

Two separate incidents in which students were choked with rope were reported : on Dec. 3, a female ninth-year student was assaulted in Iwakura, Aichi prefecture ; and on Dec. 11, another female third-year high school student was attacked in Hino, Tokyo. In both cases, the students were wearing the traditional dress, known as "Chima Chogori," which prompted the surprise attack.

On Dec. 2, two female second-year high school students were almost forced into a van by three thugs. According to the victims, the assailants appeared suddenly from the rear. As in the choking incidents,

they approached their targets in a calculating manner as if to ask directions.

Even when recognised or confronted by the students, they still persist in shadowing them. For example, two cases involving junior high school students were reported on Dec. 5--one at the JR Nishi Nippori station in Tokyo and the other at the JR Funabashi station in Chiba prefecture. In both cases, the girls were followed by men in cars and finally managed to escape by disappearing into the crowd. In the Funabashi case, a male classmate had been watching the man shadow the female student, and they reported that he had kept following her for about 15 minutes.

An Eight-Year-Old Girl Shoved Out Of The Train

The following incident involved an eight-year-old girl on her way to Chiba Korean Elementary School. She was trying to get on a crowded train at the JR Hamano station in Chiba when a man in his 40s suddenly shoved the girl out of the train, shouting "You Korean--don't get on!" The young girl said : "There were a lot of people around who heard the man shouting before he pushed me, but they all pretended to be reading and acted as if nothing had happened." This was a very traumatic experience

for the elementary school student and even though she was crying on the platform clutching her school bag for 10 minutes, not one of the station employees or bystanders made any attempt to do anything for her. They all simply ignored her. She felt too intimidated to get back on a train so she went straight back home, crying the whole way. She wasn't wearing the traditional "Chima Chogori," but the man probably saw the school emblem on her uniform.

People Pretending Not To Notice

These incidents involving female students have occurred in Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto and other areas throughout Japan. However, in every one of the incidents mentioned above, not a single person made any attempt to help or console the victims

Only on one occasion, in Kyoto, when a junior high school boy was being hit and dragged down the street, did a housewife who happened to be passing voice her anger.



Productive Outcome Expected? **Japan's Restraint of Trade With South Africa As Consequence Of Urge From United States**

Japan's trade with South Africa registered \$4.27 billion last year increasing by 20% from 1986 and finally surpassed that of the United States.

Criticism from abroad appears to be rising as shown by the letter of protest addressed to Prime Minister Takeshita from the Association of Black House Representatives of the US. The Foreign Ministry quickly responded to this saying "We have to take some measures to prevent this case from developing to another Toshiba incident". On January 28, M. Onda, head of the Division of Middle East and Africa of the MOF, requested the vice-president of Federation of Economic Organizations, Mr. Hanamura, to 'deal with the matter prudently' and on February 26 Foreign Minister Mr. Uno met leaders of the Federation.

The Federation of Economic Organizations has not really given a consent to it. Mr. Hanamura maintains "The increase is only caused by the appreciation of the yen. We cannot change our policy." Mr. Saito, the president of the Federation, says, "Our

Federation does not have the authority to direct our members". Two years ago when a California state Congressman urged the Federation to reduce the trade with South Africa in exchange for the proposed abolition of the unitary tax, the Federation turned down the request by separating the two issues.

The Federation of Economic Organizations, however, is anxious about the deliberations on the protectionist Omnibus Trade bill in the US Congress. Leaders of the Federation have a sense of crisis when they say "Things could turn disastrous if we do not pay due attention to the anger expressed in the US Congress" and have decided to ask member companies to restrain themselves.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry originally maintained the position not to align with the Foreign Ministry and reacted critically to the MOF's hurried approach to the Federation of Economic Organizations. But the MITI suddenly changed their policy on February 9 saying "We alone cannot keep a different position".

Auto Industry Counterarguing 'We Create Jobs For Blacks'

Almost 40% of Japan's increasing export to South Africa is automobiles. According to the survey conducted by the Automobile Industry Association, about 310,000 units of cars were sold in total in South Africa last year, 16% increase from the previous year. Among auto manufacturers, Toyota ranked the first with 28% share, Volkswagen the second with 15% and Nissan the third with 13%. Including the shares of Mazda, Mitsubishi and others, the share of Japanese producers probably exceeds 50%.

Both Toyota and Nissan export by the KD (Knock Down) system by shipping auto parts and components from Japan and assembling them in South African plants that have been set up with the local capital.

Nissan responds to the criticism by maintaining "Out of our total 4,000 local employees, 2,600 are blacks. We have many black managers. We are not

just pursuing profit. We are contributing to the job creation for and social advancement of blacks. Toyota also provides "We have restrained our export to South Africa. The rate of Japan's export increase was below that of the US and the FRG."

These counterarguments are made without recognizing the following important truths. 1) Japanese car makers may be contributing in a way to the increase of jobs available for blacks, but actually contributing far more to the economic stability of the South African government that sustains Apartheid rule. 2) In response to the UN's call for economic sanctions, many countries and businesses have properly responded with concrete actions. 3) Most of South African blacks who are the direct party concerned are appreciating the economic sanctions against South Africa.