

Association of Indigenous Peoples in the Ryukyus (AIPR)

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A right to Ryukyuan history, culture and language.

1. Ryukyu was a kingdom, and in pre-modern times recognized by the Chinese emperor, and Ryukyu held its position as an important member in the East Asia.
2. Ryukyu traded with China, Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and countries on the Malay Peninsula, Japan and other countries in East Asia, also associated with Western countries, gave up war, won fame as the peaceful state which esteemed faith and proprieties, built friendship with other countries.
3. In the 16th century, Ryukyans became known in Europe as Rekius, a people who knows morality. British who visited Ryukyu in the beginning in the 19th century described them in Europe as a peaceful country which doesn't have any weapons.
4. Ryukyu signed **treaties** with United States, France and Netherlands in the mid 19th century. In 1879, Japan using armed police and military merged Ryukyu Kingdom by the force.
5. The Japanese military which occupied Ryukyu were also stationed at Ryukyu after that, and Ryukyu was put under the Japanese government. This violates Article 51 of the Vienna Convention.
6. After that Japan took their identity away from Ryukyans, regarded Ryukyans as inferior to other ethnic groups and began an integration policy affecting their language, culture and history, with the aim of making the Ryukyuan people extinct.
7. Japan placed Ryukyu under Japanese law and took away all rights of Ryukyans. Ryukyans were denied their traditional system of land ownership and lost the power to protect their property. Under Japanese law Japanese were able to take away Ryukyans' property.
8. Ryukyans can't study their own culture, language and history in school, and Japanese language and history are forced on them.
9. On the other hand Japan abolished things in Ryukyuan culture that it found unnecessary, and adopted as its own things it found useful.
10. Karate is a traditional martial art in Ryukyu, but the right of Ryukyans to karate has been taken away. Japan is inucing karate to the world as Japanese culture at present.

11. UN Human Rights Committee expressed concern at the Japanese Government not recognizing the Ryukyans as an indigenous people in 2008, and recommended that the traditional life and cultural heritage of Ryukyans be protected,, that land rights be protected, and that children be given a chance to study their language, culture and history as part of the regular school curriculum.

12. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called for the Japanese Government to recognize Ryukyans as an indigenous people in 2014. It recommended that the Government take concrete steps to protect Ryukyans' rights, that it act promptly to protect the several Ryukyuan languages from the danger of extinction, make it possible for Ryukyans to be educated in their own language and see to it that Ryukyuan history and culture are included in the textbooks used in school curriculum.

13. UNESCO has also recognized Ryukyuan as an independent language, and that it is facing a crisis.

14. But up to now the Japanese Government has neither recognized Ryukyans as an indigenous people nor taken any measures to protect their traditional culture, history and language..

15. On the contrary, a National Diet member who does not recognize Ryukyans as an indigenous people pressed Japanese Government work for the abolition of the UN recommendation, and a related Cabinet Minister stated he'd like to work for a de facto withdrawal and correction of the recommendation.

16. Japanese Government is recommendation of a freedom right agreement committee and a discrimination abolition committee and a claim of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. 11th article, 12 articles, 13 articles, 14 articles, 19 articles, 20 articles, 23 articles, 24 articles, 25 articles, 26 articles, 27 articles and 28 articles. A right of culture of Ryukyans, history and linguistic succession and the chance to take the measures by which a region and spirit get in touch, admit a right to that and need enactment and also learn culture of Ryukyans, history and linguistic education by a scholastic place should be given based on a freedom right agreement 27th article.

Offences by the Japanese army and the damage to Ryukyans during the Battle of Okinawa

17. In 1945, Japan, to slow the advance of the US military's toward the Japanese mainland, adopted the strategy of delaying them by detaining them in the Ryukyus.

18. As this delaying action strategy was carried out making no exceptions for heavily populated areas, more than one-fourth of the population of Ryukyu lost their lives.

19. The Japanese military conscripted people from their early teens to aged people in

their seventies as forced laborers, carrying ammunition or delivering messages.

20. Not only that, the Japanese military also forced the children and the aged, including women, to participate directly in battle.

21. When the Japanese military short of food in the field, they robbed Ryukyuans' food, and when they need to take refuge in a trench they would kick out the local people.

22. As a result Ryukyuans were driven away from safe areas to battle zones, where many lost their lives.

23. The Japanese military regarded all Ryukyuans as spying for U.S. forces, issued killing instructions and killed systematically to defend military secrets

24. The Japanese military didn't permit Ryukyuans to surrender to U.S. forces.

The Japanese military directed Ryukyu people to end their lives themselves rather than become US prisoners. sometimes distributing grenades and making them kill themselves..

25. Ryukyuans who tried to surrender or became prisoners of U.S. forces were killed. The Japanese military even prohibited Ryukyuans using the Ryukyuan language, and gave killing instructions for Ryukyuans who did so.

26. These violate the Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land Article 29, Article 45, Article 46 and Article 47; these killings of Ryukyuans killing by the Japanese military amount to a crime against humanity. The Japanese military took Ryukyuans land away and made military bases during the Second World War, but that land was nationalized after the war and still isn't returned at present.

27. This violates Article 46 of the Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, the Indigenous People's Declaration of Rights Article 9, Article 10, Articles 25, Article 26, Article 27, Article 28, Article 29 and Article 30. After that the U.S. forces have used the old Japanese military's bases as the U.S. military bases, which today continue to be compulsorily provided to the US military by the Japanese Government., and making U.S. forces offer it compulsorily by Japanese Government. This violates the Indigenous People's Declaration of Rights Article 30, .

28 The Japanese military established headquarters in Shuri, which had been the capital of the Ryukyu Kingdom and which is the location of many historic landmarks, and carried on the battle from there. .

29. As a result, historical and cultural assets, amounting to national treasures, collected over more than 500 years, along with valuable historical records, were destroyed. All historical cultural asset which hangs long years in more than 500 for it and is valuable racial assets in formed Ryukyu was destroyed, and historical sources also became extinct.

30. This violates the Hague Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, Article 56. The Japanese Government should investigate this wrong done to the Ryukyuan people by the Japanese military in the battle in Okinawa, punish the wrongdoers, apologize to the victims, provide compensation, and restore the destroyed cultural assets, villages, ruins and landscape destroyed by the Battle of Okinawa..

About the remains of the war victims, cultural assets and sacred places in the construction site of the planned new U.S. military base.

31. During World War II, the US military constructed a concentration camp. Camp Ourazaki, on the site which is now Camp Schwab, the place where the new base is to be constructed.

32. To this camp they forcibly brought non-combatants, including people from Mobutu Peninsula, where no fighting was going on.

33. The tens of thousands of Ryukyuns who were brought there suffered food shortage, unsanitary conditions and severe surveillance, and more than 300 lost their lives, mainly senior citizens, infants and women.

34. The U.S. made the camp site a Marine Corps base in 1952, and a private citizens were forbidden to enter, which meant that in Ryukyu couldn't meddle any more, and remains those who died at Ourazaki camp were left just as they were.

35. To this day there has been no investigation of the remains of those who died in the Ourazaki Camp, and the Japanese Government, ignoring the opposition of the Ryukyuan people, is planning to build this new US base over the remains of these war victims.

36. This is a blasphemy against the dead and against the Ryukyuan people. Many of their remains have been found on the construction site, including those laid to rest in earthen vessels. In addition, there are a number of sacred sites in the area.

37. To destroy these sites without even carrying out an investigation is an act of cultural destruction of the Ryukyu people, and a blasphemy.

38. Japanese Government should investigate remains of those who passed away at Ourazaki Camp in accordance with Indigenous People's Declaration of Rights, Article 12, and the 2014 UN World Indigenous People Meeting Outcome Document, Item 27, and pay a visit to express its condolences with dignity. It should also take measures to protect the remains and the cultural assets in the Henoko planned base construction site

39. In the 1920s, Japanese anthropologists collected remains of Ryukyusns from graveyards and sacred places all over Ryukyu, without notifying the families or related

persons.

40. Japanese universities are in possession of remains of Ryukyu persons, which they have not returned to this day.

41. The Japanese Government should require them to return those remains in accordance with The Indigenous People's Declaration of Rights Article 12, Items 1 and 2, and UN World Indigenous People's Meeting in 2014.

About the resistance movement, the hatred of that by Japanese society. and the response of the Japanese Government

42. Hate speech directed at Ryukyu people has increased sharply in Japanese society in recent years.

43. While hate speech toward Ryukyu people brims over on the internet, there is also writing in in which malice toward Ryukyu people is expressed.

44. In 2013, in opposition to the deployment of the US Marine Corp's MV22 Osprey in Okinawa, a demonstration was held in Tokyo prior to handing over a petition to the Government. Participating in this demonstration were the heads of every city, town and village in Okinawa, the Chairs of the Prefectural Assembly and each local Assembly, Okinawa's National Diet members, and a large number of citizens. As they walked through the streets of downtown Tokyo, a large number of rightists showered them with hate speech, such as "traitors!", "Get out of Japan!! and the like.

45. In October, 2016 a Japanese policeman used the discriminatory expression "dojin" against an Ruykyuan opposing the construction of new helipads in the US military's northern training camp at the town of Higashimura. This expression which was historically used by Japanese to insult the Chinese, literally translates as "earth person", roughly means "barbarian" or "savage", and was associated with the fixed expression which would translate into English as "Shut up, Chink!" Protesters are also called "senile", "feces!" and other such expressions.

46. The Okinawa State Minister of the Japanese Government stated that the use of this expression by a Japanese policeman did not constitute discrimination.

47. Later, a cabinet decision not to punish the Okinawa State Minister for this remark was approved. The failure of the Japanese Government to punish such a wrongdoer has produced a chain of violations of human rights.

48. The Governor of Osaka, from which that policeman had been sent, far from punishing him for his racist hate speech, praised him for his services. This gave rise to a rash of hate-speech graffiti in Osaka, attacking Ryukyuan, Chinese, Koreans and Buraku people.

49. In January, 2017 a Tokyo television station aired a program in which people opposing the helipad construction were compared to terrorists. The program fanned hatred against Ryukyu people by broadcasting malicious falsehoods, such as that the protesters had prevented an ambulance from passing, that they were gathering demonstrators by paying them money, and so on.

50. The Ryukyu people oppose a military bases based on their experience of the battle in Okinawa and the U.S. military occupation.

51. These Japanese hate speakers don't touch this point at all, and distort the situation by presenting it as if it were a small radical sect.

52. These hate speeches violate the Freedom Right Agreement Article 2, Item 1 and Article 20, Item 2 , as well as the Racial Discrimination Abolition Treaty Article 2 Item 1 (a) and (b), and Article 4, (a) (b) and (c). The Japanese Government should take appropriate measures based on Item 2 of the Racial Discrimination Abolition Treaty, Article 2, Item 2 and 3 of the Freedom Right Agreement, the 8th Article and 15th article, Item 2(e) of the Indigenous People's Declaration of Rights. Establishment of s system of law prohibiting discrimination is required of the Japanese Government.