

To: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Written Information Submitted for the Summary of the Human Rights Situation in Japan to be Prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Title: Discrimination Against Korean Residents in Japan

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Introduction to LAZAK (Lawyers Association of Zainichi Koreans)

Lawyers Association of Zainichi Koreans (“LAZAK”) was established in May 2001 by Korean and Korean-Japanese lawyers and legal apprentices, who reside in Japan. The term “Zainichi (“residing in Japan”) Korean” includes those who live in Japan and maintain the nationality of the Republic of Korea (“ROK”) or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (“DPRK”) as well as Japanese nationals who are of Korean descent and regarded their ethnicity as Korean. Currently more than 100 Zainichi Korean lawyers and legal apprentices belong to LAZAK. Towards the abolition of discrimination against Zainichi Koreans and protection of ethnic human rights in Japan, members of the LAZAK have provided legal support for litigation related to human rights of Zainichi Koreans. Besides that, LAZAK has published several books related to Zainichi Koreans and built relationships with Korean lawyers all over the world. Because of these activities, LAZAK was awarded a human rights prize from National Human Rights Committee of the ROK Government in 2007. LAZAK submitted its shadow report to the UN CERD Committee with respect to the discrimination Against Koreans in Japan in July 2014.¹

As of June 2016, there are approximately 500,000 Korean residents in Japan. Approximately 350,000 of them are individuals who had been forced to live in Japan in the first half of the twentieth century when Korea was a Japanese colony, and their descendants. Majority of Korean residents have lived in Japan for three to four generations. Because Japanese Nationality Act is based on strict blood lineage, Korean residents in Japan remain foreign nationals, though they have lived in Japan for multiple generations. As described in this report, Koreans in Japan are still subjected to a range of discrimination and disadvantage for reason of their nationality.

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¹<http://www.lazak.jp/2014/09/10/LAZAK%20%5BCERD%20Shadow%20Report%5D%202014.07.%81iEnglish%20ver%81j.pdf>