



An Appeal to The Members of International Fellowship

February 2014

We would be very grateful to you if you could write a letter to The Norwegian Nobel Committee (The Norwegian Nobel Institute, 0255 Oslo, Norway; Email: postmaster@nobel.no) to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Japanese citizens who have kept the Peace Constitution, Article 9, which prevented the nation from getting into war against other nations since 1947. The reason why we are trying this appeal is because we have no other good means now to stop our Prime Minister Abe who is trying to abolish the Article 9 so that Japan could join the war to "fight with" the United States army. We have worked very hard to stop him. Only last week, we learned our appeal was received by the Nobel Committee as one of many nominated candidates for the Nobel Peace Prize. The EU received that prize in 2012.

Our Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had won his post by the general election last July by manipulated election system. He and his party actually received the support of not more than 1/2, but his party won seats for nearly 70 % in the Congress. Abe's grandfather was a militaristic politician, Nobusuke Kishi. He was sentenced as one of war criminals in the last World War II, but was released by dealing with the U.S. Occupational Headquarters. Kishi then became a prime minister and tried to pass the Military Security Treaty between the U.S.A and Japan in 1960. But he faced big opposition by Japanese citizens and was forced to resign his post. Shinzo Abe, as his grandson, determined that he would regain "strong Japan," by strengthening the Military Security Treaty with the U.S.A. Abe forced to pass the "National Secrecy Law" last December, imitating that of the United States. This Law would forbid Japanese citizen for his "basic human rights to obtain information, to express his own opinion, to organize a group to protest against the policy of the government, etc. This destroys the democratic system in Japan, putting her into the pre-war regime of the World War II. The university professors, writers, journalists, common citizens all opposed this law. We sent many postcards, fax messages to the congressmen, and joined the peace march. However, the Prime Minister Abe and his party ignored us by cutting down the discussions very short during the Congress session and forced to enact the law by "over-one-half" majority votes. It was really a nightmare!

This Secrecy Law will go into effect within one year. Therefore, we are trying by every possible means to stop Abe from enforcing the law which could put people in jail whom the government decides "undesirable and dangerous." Most Japanese now oppose the re-operation of Nuclear Plants because dangerous radioactive materials are accumulating while no good way is found in the world to safely keep those wastes. Moreover, the nuclear weapons can be produced from the nuclear plant operation. Furthermore, Abe went abroad to export the nuclear plant system on behalf of some businessmen who seek for profit! The global world is poisoned by lust for money. The world really needs now is to build good human relations instead of more weapons. We would not need so much of comfort, but need safe and peaceful living for everyone. The Article 9 is needed for our world to renounce War!

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Kyoko Itaka, general secretary, Japan FOR