

JAPAN

The 54th International Antiwar Assembly in Japan – Elements

(1) The central meeting of the 54th International Antiwar Assembly was held in Tokyo on August 7th, attended by 1,200 workers, students and citizens. Regional meetings were also held on the same day in Sapporo (Hokkaido Region), Kanazawa (Hokuriku Region), Nagoya (Tokai Region), Osaka (Kansai Region), Fukuoka (Kyushu Region) and Naha (Okinawa Prefecture), each attended by several hundred people. In an ardent, militant atmosphere, all the meetings were highly successful.

(2) The Executive Committee for the Antiwar Assembly received 23 messages of solidarity from overseas organizations and individuals (see the list below). They were printed with their Japanese translations attached and distributed to the participants, including those in regional assemblies. All of them were introduced, and greeted by fervent, sympathetic applause from the audience.

(3) In the central meeting in Tokyo, the keynote speech was delivered by a comrade from the Executive Committee. He pointed out that we are faced today with the increasing danger of a world war as confrontation is intensifying between the US/Japan and China/Russia. In order to eradicate this imminent crisis, he said, we must fight resolutely by overcoming the degeneration of the leaderships of official opposition movements. He thus gave a clear direction to antiwar struggles.

(4) He also referred to the latest struggle in Okinawa, where workers, students and residents have risen in protest against the forcible resumption by the Japanese government of the construction of US military helipads. They are still fighting at this moment, despite ruthless repression by the riot police (for this, see another report).

(5) The Chairman of Zengakuren reported on the student delegation to Tahiti that he headed. From June 29th to July 5th, Zengakuren students visited Tahiti in response to the invitation from a local

organization that initiated events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first nuclear testing that French imperialism conducted in French Polynesia. They took part in demonstrations and fought hand in hand with Maohi people, who had been demanding apology and compensations for nuclear damages from the French government and fighting to end the French colonial rule. *'We emphasized to Maohi people that the working people must unite across borders to fight against wars, poverty and colonial rule.'* *'Let us spread our international antiwar struggle over the world!'* The Chairman's speech evoked excitement and profound emotion among the participants.

(6) Then, a worker delivers a speech from the labour front. The public worker spoke about her activities in her trade union branch. Today, both the labour aristocrats in Rengo and the bureaucratic leadership of Zenronren restrain trade unions from actively engage in antiwar struggles. In opposition to such oppression and degeneration of the existing leaderships, she organized various forms of antiwar activities together with her colleagues and fought to strengthen trade union organizations. She gave a vivid report on those efforts.

(7) To finalize the meeting, all the participants shouted slogans and sang *The International*. They pledged themselves to each other to fight more actively in their working places and campuses to liven up antiwar struggles.

August 12th 2016.

The Executive Committee received the messages of solidarity from the following organizations and individuals (by date):

- The World Conference against Precarious Labour, War and Exploitation in Mumbai
- Russian Communist Workers Party
- The International Secretariat of the Fourth International
- The Revolutionary Association of the

- Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)
- Larisa Babienko (Russia)
- Tavini Huiratira no te Ao Maohi (Maohi-Nui, French Polynesia)
- Left Radical of Afghanistan
- Victor Isaichikov (Russia)
- Revolutionary Marxists in Britain
- David McReynolds (USA)
- Faridabad Workers Newspaper (India)
- Lewisham People Before Profit (Britain)
- Workers Revolutionary Party (EEK) (Greece)
- News and Letters Committees (USA)
- Vladimir Pronin (Ukraine)
- The Russian Party of Communists
- The Commission of Condemned Workers, Relatives and Friends of Las Heras (Argentina)
- Russian Communist Workers Party - Tyumen State Committee
- Union Pacifiste de France
- Fraction Leninista Trotskista Internacional - Colectivo por la IV Internacional
- A World to Win (Britain)
- ANTARSYA (Greece)
- The Organizing Committee for the Reconstitution of the Fourth International (OCRFI)

Okinawa - An Urgent Report

The Japanese government led by Shinzo Abe resumed constructing military helipads in a mountain village in the northern part of the Okinawa Island on July 22nd. The facilities are planned to be used for 'anti-guerrilla training' by US tilt-rotor Ospreys, which are to be deployed at a new US Marine base at Henoko Cape (whose construction is now stopped temporarily). The government has mobilized 500 riot police officers from the mainland, and is now violently trying to remove workers, students and villagers who are resolutely fighting to foil the construction.

HAÏTI

U.N.'s Admission of 'Role in Cholera Epidemic in Haiti' Not Good Enough!

The U.N. is Responsible: Reparations to All the Victims' Families Now!

All U.S. / U.N. MINUSTAH Troops Out of Haiti Now!

On August 17, the *New York Times* ran an article to report what the entire nation of Haiti and millions of people the world over already knew, that is, that the United Nations, to quote the *Times*, "*played a role in the initial outbreak of cholera in Haiti and that a 'significant new set of U.N. actions' will be needed to respond to the crisis.*"

This was the first time since the cholera epidemic began killing Haitians nearly six years ago that the United Nations has acknowledged the UN's role in the outbreak of the epidemic. But the admission by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stops short of saying, as the *Times* article notes, "*that the United Nations specifically caused the epidemic. Nor does it indicate a change in the organization's legal position that it is absolutely immune from legal actions, including a federal lawsuit brought in the United States on behalf of cholera victims seeking billions in damages stemming from the Haiti crisis.*"

In a word, the cover-up continues.

Yes, the U.S.-U.N. MINUSTAH troops were directly responsible for introducing the cholera epidemic into Haiti - and yes, they must pay reparations to the families of the cholera victims and to all Haitians who are victims of violations to their human rights.

We, the undersigned conveners of the New York-based Haiti-Guadeloupe Campaign Committee, have been campaign for close to a decade to demand the immediate withdrawal of ALL U.N. occupation troops from Haiti, the cancellation of Haiti's foreign debt, the reimbursement of the money that was extorted at Haiti's independence, and reparations for the families of the cholera victims. We have helped to organize multiple international delegations to the U.N. to press for these demands.

Together with the people of Haiti, we say the following:

The U.N.'s belated "admission of their role" is not good enough. The U.N. is directly responsible for the outbreak of the cholera. It must pay the billions of dollars demanded in the lawsuits. And, most important, all MINUSTAH troops must get of Haiti NOW, so that full sovereignty and democracy can finally be restored to this proud nation of Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Toussaint Louverture !

We invite all supporters of democratic and human rights to endorse these demands and to support a delegation to the United Nations within the next six weeks to deliver these demands to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Please get back to us on this.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Colia Clark and Alan Benjamin
Co-Conveners Haiti-Guadeloupe
Campaign Committee ■

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