

THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

**IMADR Oral Statement: 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 9: Interactive Dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on the Contemporary Forms of Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,**

24 June 2014

Thank you Mr. President,

IMADR would like to support the annual report of the Special Rapporteur on the Contemporary Forms of Racism, especially in regard to the use of the internet and social media by racist groups.

In Japan, the issue of hate speech has been getting more serious. The Internet has been used for disseminating discriminatory remarks, collectively attacking on particular groups including ethnic Koreans and Burakumin, and gaining more support. In January 2007, a racist group "Z" (name anonym) was formed with the initial members of about 500 persons. Since then, it has been organising demonstrations and hate speeches on the street, whereby they loudly voice out abhorrent statements including the calls for massacre and repatriation of the members of minority communities. The group has video recorded its demonstrations and uploaded them in the internet, inciting discrimination and gaining more supporters. As of April this year, the group claims to have about 14,000 members, an increase by 28 times for seven years. It is important to note that minority communities, attacked and discriminated against on the Internet, face similar challenges in the real world for the past several decades without any effective legal and administrative measures.

There is no law in Japan that prohibits advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence as provided in Article 20-2 of the ICCPR which Japan has ratified. Also, Japan has acceded to the ICERD, but it is still putting reservation on the Article 4 (a) and 4 (b) that stipulate the prohibition of and imposition of sanctions on racial incitement and racist propaganda.

We urge the Government of Japan to immediately research the actual situation of the issue of hate speech, develop legal and administrative measures to address it, and put them in place.

Last but not least, we welcome the request that the Special Rapporteur has made to the Government of Japan for his follow-up visit. We believe that he could provide Japan with his expertise and technical assistance to solve issues relating to the hate speech and racial discrimination in the country

Thank you Mr. President.