

THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

Oral Statement

I would like to call the attention of the distinguished members of the Committee to the table in the ERD Net NGO report indicating the progress of implementation of 2010 CERD recommendations. As you see, almost all recommendations have not been paid attention by the government despite the fact that NGOs have repeatedly had dialogues with the relevant government agencies asking for the implementation of these recommendations. It is not surprising that most of 2010 recommendations were the same as those made by the CERD in 2001. During the CCPR review of Japan last July, the CCPR also expressed its deep concern about making the same recommendations as it has done for the past 35 years since the Japan's ratification.

I would like to reiterate here that Japan has no legal and administrative measures to address racial discrimination despite the fact that it has acceded to the Convention nearly 20 years ago. This indicates that victims of racial discrimination have had no resort and resources in seeking justice. And it has brought about serious damage and negative effects to the discriminated against communities as well as our society as a whole. To confront this, there have been initiatives among some lawmakers and civil society organizations to make a law for the elimination of racial discrimination. Now, it is very important and strongly urged that the government supports and involves itself in these new initiatives.

In order to develop legal measures and policies to eliminate and prohibit racial discrimination, the government is required to have actual figures of minority communities according to the definition provided in Article 1 of the Convention. For this purpose, the government is urged to immediately conduct a nationwide survey to find actual situations and effects of racial discrimination. It is also much needed that the government should immediately develop and implement training programs for law enforcement officers and other public officers to have genuine understanding of the Convention and other relevant international norms and standards.

Finally, I would like to stress that Japan has no time left to let racial discrimination unaddressed and to keep ignoring the recommendations made by the CERD and other UN human rights bodies.

Thank you for your attention,

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