

The Prime Minister of Japan  
1-5-1, Nagata-Cho, Chiyoda-Ku,  
Tokyo 100-8968 Japan

**Statement by Civil Society Organisations in India and Japan on:  
Removal of the U.S. military base from Okinawa  
(Respecting the rights to security of the Ryukyu Indigenous people and the preservation of  
their ecological and cultural heritage)  
(11<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, Hyderabad, India)**

*Affirming the fact that the Convention on Biodiversity, ratified by Japan, is conscious of the intrinsic value of biological diversity and its components, and also about the protection of customary use of biological resources in accordance with “traditional cultural practices”, cultural values and components, which exist in different country and areas,*

*Acknowledging the continuous endeavours of the Ryukyu Indigenous People together with the civil society organizations (CSOs), who by initiating Citizens Movements and other mass programmes, media and legislative advocacy, and other possible measures are trying to restore peace and security in Okinawa that are threatened by the establishment and occupation of the U.S. Military Base,*

*Concerned about the violation of the Convention on Biodiversity by building military Base in a land sacred to the Ryukyu people together with the seriousness of the issue of “structural discrimination” resulting from the destruction of the Ryukyu Indigenous community’s historical and ecological heritage and the traditional knowledge accompanying it, as a consequence of the establishment and occupation of the U.S. Military Base,*

*Considering that the peaceful life of the Indigenous People of Ryukyu-Okinawa and more generally life and its diversity in Okinawa is now in an even more serious situation of insecurity than when, on the occasion of Nagoya COP10 in 2010, the Indigenous Peoples of the World issued their Appeal in support of their brothers and sisters in this Archipelago,*

*In view of a petition already submitted in this regard to the UN Commission for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination, by the Ryukyu Indigenous People in this regard for a peaceful life without any Military Base,*



*We, a group of concerned civil society organizations and citizens in India and Japan, engaged consistently at the national and international levels over many years, in the protection and promotion of the rights of the socially excluded and indigenous communities, gathered to share the traditional Ryuku knowledge on the occasion of the Convention of Biological Diversity during COP11 in India, in October 2012,*

*On behalf of the indigenous and local minority peoples of India and Japan wish to draw your attention to the voice of the voiceless indigenous and minority peoples who cannot ignore the plights of their brothers and sisters, the Ryukyu Indigenous People in Okinawa.*

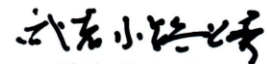
*Urge the Governments and the peoples of the United States of America and of Japan to take urgent steps as below:*

1. Undertake “an environmental impact assessment with an adequate consultation with the people of Henoko community”, in accordance with clause 8j of the CBD which calls the State parties to respect traditional knowledge, "consult the indigenous community in its environmental impact assessment".
2. Considering the unsustainable and inadmissible situation in Okinawa, take the necessary measures to bring back peace and security in Okinawa, ceasing the destruction of its traditionally rich ecosystem and of its cultural heritage of traditional wisdom in peace and harmony with nature and humankind.
3. Eliminate the establishment of the Ospry helicopters from the village Takae, (located near the American military Exercise Ground of North Okinawa), as the same have endangered the forest of Takae, which harbors many animal and vegetal rare species near extinction. Moreover, the stationing of Ospry helicopters has increased even more the insecurity of this peaceful forest region through their exercises.

Sincerely,



**N. Paul Divakar**  
National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights



**Kinhide Mushakoji**  
IMADR & JCNUNDB

**Delegates of the Conference on:**  
**“Sharing Traditional Knowledge of Social Minorities on Biodiversity and Ecological Sustainability: In Search of an equity-based eco-development”**  
**Thursday, 11 October**  
**Hyderabad International Convention Centre, India**

<b>S. NO</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1.	Ashish Kothari	Coordinator of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan process in India
2.	Vincent Manoharan	National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights
3.	Kawamoto Yoshikazu	Writer and Researcher on Buraku History
4.	Senaga Osamu	Okinawa Civil Network for Biological Diversity
5.	R. Ravi Kumar	National Dalit Forum
6.	M. Sudhakar David	Advocacy Researcher from Dalit-Yanadi Community
7.	E. David Mark	Comprehensive Community Welfare Society
8.	Brigette Sebastia (Anthropologist)	French Institute of Pondhicherry (Social Sciences)
9.	Prof. E. Sudha Rani (Professor)	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University
10.	Silveri Srishailam	PROBE (media)
11.	D. Leslie Martin	Dalit Watch-Andhra Pradesh (AP)
12.	Prasad Muvvala	SSC - Vijayawada, AP
13.	Rev.Fr.K.Thomas Reddy	SSC - Srikakulam, AP
14.	Mr. Ch.Paul	SSC - Srikakulam, AP
15.	Fr. Joseph Kamaravalli	DSSS. K, Khamman
16.	Suresh Gaddam	DSSS. K, Khamman
17.	Mr. M. Bala Swamy	APSSF
18.	Fr. John Vattamattom	MSI
19.	Fr. Axf. Bosco SJ	CITRA
20.	P.Yedukondalu	PDSSS
21.	K. Christina	APSSF
22.	B. Kamla Paul	APSSF

23.	Rev. Fr. Joy Thomas	VDSSS – Visakhapatnam
24.	M. G. Prakash	VDSSS - Visakhapatnam
25.	Fr. A G William	DNSSS
26.	H. Vijaya Raju	NDSSS
27.	Ram Kumar	Deccan Chronicle
28.	Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend	ICCAConsortium
29.	Akemi Miysuishi	JELF
30.	Fr. A Raju	SSC, Eluru
31.	M. Satish	SSC, Eluru
32.	P. Bala Swamy	SSC - Vijayawada
33.	Konatambi	Caritas, India
34.	Fr. T. Rajaj	DSSS, Nalgonda
35.	Fr. Anthony Zojthumma	AP Bishops Council
36.	Fr. K.D. Joseph	KDSSS, Kurnool
37.	Fr. N. Bala Chandran	MPSSS
38.	J. Neelaiah	Ankuram Sangam
39.	A.R. Juna Rao	Caritas India
40.	Desmond. Noronha	Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction, NDSSS
41.	BDA Sathya Babu Bose	CRSD
42.	Raghu Rama Kr. G	CRSD
43.	Fr. Kurian	Diocese of Adilabad Human Promotion Society
44.	Soori Babu. K	Guntur Diocese Social Service Welfare Society