

case.

On another front, people gathered at protest rally working against the construction of a new offshore U.S. air base in Henoko, in front of Camp Schwab. Protesters are resentful about not only the construction itself but also the asbestos problems emerged last July when Okinawa Defense Bureau demolished old buildings to make space for construction works. It is widely known that asbestos cause lung emphysema and mesothelioma.

Okinawan citizen groups started sit-in protest in front of the gate of the Camp Schwab as their voices were declined and

ignored. People protestors demanded a clear explanation about the construction to a person in charge in front of Camp Schwab, but they did not get any meaningful results. And their request to await a decision by the future governor was ignored. Okinawa Defense Bureau asked the police to dispatch the riot police and later on riot police quickly detained protesters.

In the gubernatorial election, Takeshi Onaga who opposed the construction won a landslide election. A new war begins!

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Translated by Akemi Marumo

Revised ODA Increases the Risk of Diversion of Aid to Military Use

On March 31 (2014), the first Advisory Committee meeting on the review of the basic principles of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the meeting, the Government presented their intention to revise the principles to allow the program to provide aid in security-related fields.

On May 13, in response to this ongoing revision, Japanese aid and development NGOs held a press conference in Tokyo to release a statement raising their voices against the change. NGOs, including ODA Reform Network, requested the Government to keep four main principles, and called for necessary action to be taken in the revision process, for instance, listening to the voices of citizens and aid-related organizations, and ensuring a transparent and democratic process.

On February 10, 2015, the Cabinet renamed the ODA charter the "development cooperation charter," recasting the program as part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "proactive pacifism" and expanding its scope. At the end of 2013, the Abe Administration set a goal, which Abe calls "proactive pacifism", in its "National Security Strategy (NSS)" and it stipulated the strategic use of ODA programs.

The basic principles of the ODA Charter, approved in 1992, are as follows:

- 1) Environmental conservation and development should be pursued in tandem.
- 2) Any use of ODA for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts should be avoided
- 3) Full attention should be paid to trends in recipient countries' military expenditures and their development and production of mass destruction weapons, etc.
- 4) Full attention should be paid to efforts for promoting democratization and the introduction of a market-oriented economy, and the situation regarding the securing of basic

human rights and freedoms in the recipient country.

Based on these principles, until present time, the Government bans providing ODA relief supplies to foreign militaries and prohibits the use of public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, for military purposes.

But the revised guidelines open the way for Japanese assistance to overseas militaries, though only in a non-military capacity. The matter of how to prevent the

diversion of aid for military purposes, however, was left unaddressed.

We are deeply concerned about the expansion of the use of the ODA program for military purposes, as the Abe Administration is attempting to reinterpret the Constitution to let Japan exercise the right to collective self-defense.

Mei Takahashi (AJWRC)

Translated by Akemi Marumo

Japan Gears up to Push Collective Self-defense

Growing protests with Cabinet approval of collective self-defense

On July 1, 2014, the Cabinet of the Prime Minister Abe decided at an out of the ordinary meeting to revise its "interpretation" of the Japanese Constitution and approved the right to exercise collective self-defense. With this change, Japan will be able to counterattack when an armed force is used against "a country that is in a close relationship with Japan," even if Japan itself is not under direct attack. This is a major change in Japan's security policy from "exclusive defense." Komeito (Komei Party), a coalition partner of the leading Liberal Democratic Party, was initially against the change, for they "cannot approve revising interpretation of the Constitution," but they eventually agreed and approved it by the meeting.

1. National security has changed for the worse

Up until the change, the Japanese government

had only allowed individual self-defense and banned collective self-defense efforts. The government's statements in the past had listed three conditions that would allow it to exercise self-defense efforts. The Cabinet approval this time decided that if the following three new conditions were met, Japan Self-Defense Forces can engage in armed attack with other countries as "self-defense." The conditions are as follows: "not only when an armed attack against Japan occurs, but also when an armed attack against a foreign country that is in a close relationship with Japan occurs, and as a result, threatens Japan's survival and poses a clear danger to fundamentally overturn people's right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness," "when there is no other appropriate means available (to remove the danger)," and "use of force to the minimum extent necessary."

These three new conditions have many abstract expressions and no explicit regulations to stop the use of force. It might be possible to use force as "self-defense" not only for collective self-defense but also for collective security, such as sanctioning invasive countries based on UN resolutions. It is said that the Japanese government will attempt to revise the