

### **No.3 Report**

#### **Overthrow Obama, Commander-in-Chief of US Imperialism!**

**Stop the War by the united power of workers and students of the U.S., Japan and all over the world!**

**Let's -rise up together for the struggle to abolish nukes and wars from the world!**

March 4, 2010

Zengakuren (All Japan Federation of Students' Autonomous Bodies)

Thank you very much for inviting us to this historic rally. We have brought a heartfelt message of Japanese students and workers to you. Our slogans are exactly same as yours. We enthusiastically support your struggle and express our deep respect for your discussions and organizing efforts to prepare today's great event.

All over the world, new labor movements and student movement against privatization and war are emerging. A large number of workers and student who have risen up in these movements are eagerly seeking a new principles and orientation of movement and organization.

We, Zengakuren, have also faced such challenge. What we have learned through the struggle in Hosei University is as follows:

First, powers and potentials of students are unlimited unless unity and solidarity are not destroyed. Second, it is absolutely necessary to build up an unshakable political leadership with clear understanding of the world and current situation in historical perspective. We have to answer questions: What kind of era do we live in? What kind of enemies are we fighting? What has been depriving us of human beings freedom and conditions of subsistence and what are the conditions for change it? The leaders are required to think through these issues and build up clear policies to fight injustices in the current world in order to carry out radical emancipation of human beings.

Please read the following article, which is meant for the first step to organize constructive discussions to develop solidarity between students in Japan and in the U.S. and to create a common understanding and a common struggle.

#### **(1) Overthrow Obama, Commander-in-Chief of US Imperialism!**

It is vital for us to forge international solidarity and unity of workers in Japan, the United States and the rest of the world so as to overthrow the Obama Administration.

Obama represents capitalist class pure and simple. His mission is to reconstruct capitalist domination of the world. To this end, Obama does not hesitate to escalate the wars. He announced the goal of doubling the export; he declared redivision of the world market. As in 1930s, capitalists in the US and other countries are escalating inter-imperialist rivalry, mutual annihilation battle.

More importantly his policy is driving a wedge between workers in the US and in the rest of the world and destroying international unity of working class. Division of the

international working class paves the way to another World War.

Since the Obama Administration was born from historical downfall of US imperialism, the working class cannot harbor illusions. Only way forward for the working class is to overthrow him together.

Already progressive US workers and students have long been fighting Obama and now more and more people are joining this fight, disillusioned with Obama. Nevertheless, part of established labor union leaders still glorify him and mobilize their union members to support him and to defend capitalists of their own country. On the other hand, we in Japan are also facing similar problem. Almost all of existing labor leaders and “leftwing” political parties including Japan Communist Party are promoting every kind of illusions in Obama. We must defeat these betrayals and create a new international unity to overthrow Obama Administration.

## **(2) Struggle against US military bases in Okinawa**

In Japan, Hatoyama Administration of Democratic Party is in deep crisis over the issue of US military bases in Okinawa Prefecture.

“Shut down Futenma Base now!” “Don’t relocate the base to Henoko!” All the Okinawan people are now raging at the US base issue. Huge struggle are now emerging, demanding the removal of all the military bases from Okinawa. (Futenma is situated in the middle of Okinawa mainland and Henoko in north).

Established political currents in Okinawa are boosting illusions in Obama and Hatoyama and desperately calming down anger of Okinawan people to defend Japanese and US governments. Obama is in fact insisting on constructing a new military base in Henoko and Hatoyama’s cabinet chief went so far as to state; “In my view, there is no need to take the desire of Okinawans into consideration.” Massive and fierce battles between the government and the Okinawan people are soon to begin.

For the US military strategy, Okinawa is the “keystone” in Asia-Pacific and has been playing an important role as the most vital staging base of strategic bombers and Marine Corps in all the major US wars, including wars on Vietnam and Iraq. Today, the US commander-in-chief Obama is promoting a transformation of the military forces for which construction of a new base in Henoko is an absolute necessity. Overwhelming portion—75%—of the US military bases in Japan is located in Okinawa, which constitutes thus the substantial core of Japan-US Security Treaty.

Therefore, the struggle with a slogan, “Stop construction of a new US base” “Remove all bases from Okinawa”, has a strategic importance for the struggle to stop war and to overthrow Japanese imperialism. Anger of Okinawan people is mounting. The Japanese working class is now rising for a great struggle against war and military bases overcoming the division between mainland Japan and Okinawa and forging unity as one class.

When Japanese and US working class unite and rise up against Japan-US Security Alliance, the wars can be stopped.

Let’s look back briefly at the history of Okinawa after WWII. Okinawa was the only theater

of ground battle during World War II in Japan. The Emperor and the Japanese Military Forces sacrificed Okinawa to gain time in a losing war and to avoid anticipated US ground attack on mainland Japan. They mobilized all the Okinawa residents into desperate military operations. Many of them were ordered to commit suicide by the Japanese army commandant. After the war, the Emperor Hirohito sent a letter to General MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in occupied Japan, and proposed to let Okinawa under permanent US occupation. It was a shameless attempt of ensuring political survival of the Emperor himself at the sacrifice of Okinawa.

Thus Okinawa was converted into “islands of military bases,” separated from mainland Japan under brutal US military rule. Okinawan people repeatedly rose up for protest actions demanding “removal of military bases and return to Japan.” The major force of these Okinawan struggles is labor unions. Militant strikes of the labor union of military base workers played the pivotal role in the struggles in Okinawa. In response to the struggle of Okinawa people, young workers and students in mainland Japan launched direct actions against Vietnam War in 1970’s. Their struggle was directed also against Japan-US Security Alliance and military bases in Okinawa.

At that time, Zengakuren organized in mainland Japan and in Okinawa a massive direct action with a common slogan: “Remove US military bases! Take back Okinawa! Smash Japan-US Security Alliance! Overthrow Japanese Imperialism!” In this struggle in 1971, one policeman died at a crash between the riot police and demonstrators. One of the leaders of Zengakuren, brother HOSHINO Fumiaki, was framed up in charge of alleged murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment. He has been detained already for 35 years since his arrest until today. Brother Hoshino’s very existence and his courage in his very long ordeal in prison encourages many workers and students who are now standing up for Okinawa struggle.

On May 15, 1972, Okinawa was officially “returned” to Japan; it was, however, a fraud—the US military bases remained and still remain in Okinawa as before. The governments of the US and Japan deceitfully betrayed the Okinawan people’s demand for removal of the bases. Okinawa was once again made permanent “Islands of bases.” Since then, Okinawan people have been holding every year a massive Okinawa Rally on May 15. The day, May 15, is commemorated as day of “return of Okinawa to Japan in 1972 and the day to remember Atomic Bombing on Hiroshima on August 6, days of anti-war struggle.

In 1995, US and Japanese governments were obliged to promise the removal of Futenma base, shocked by fierce protest action in Okinawa against the rape of a girl by military servicemen. Nevertheless, the both governments later made a plan to construct a new military base in Henoko, Nago City, under the pretext of replacement of Futenma Base.

Okinawan people, especially in Henoko, stood up against construction of a new base. Zengakuren decided to send a permanent contingent to Henoko to fight against the base construction from all over Japan, and the Zengakuren contingent launched direct action at offshore construction site. Thus we have, together with Okinawan people, successfully stopped construction of the new base until today.

Although fearing these struggles, Obama is intent to construct a new base. However, he will dig his own grave in Okinawa. Okinawa is now a powder keg for world revolution. Zengakuren will launch an all-out struggle against the new military base and is determined to overthrow Japanese-US Security Alliance.

### **(3) Challenges of Hiroshima and Nagasaki anti-war, anti-nuke struggle**

Two main pillars of anti-war struggles have been Okinawa struggles and Hiroshima-Nagasaki anti-nuke struggle. Every year, a large number of workers and students from around the country gather in Hiroshima and Nagasaki under the slogan of “Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Never Again!” The annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki rallies have contributed much to revitalize anti-war movement, educated innumerable activists and developed and inspired labor movement and student movement.

Today, however, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki struggle is faced with a serious crisis. The leaders of traditional anti-war, anti-nuke movement (part of labor union leaders, Japan Communist Party, Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima City etc.) are praising Obama’s speech in Prague (April 5, 2009) as a “declaration for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons” and trying to convert the anti-nuke movement of Hiroshima and Nagasaki into “support Obama movement.” It is a complete denial of the core principle of anti-war, anti-nuke struggle based on working class: “only the united power of working class can stop the wars and abolish the nuclear weapons.” At the same time, we have to note that chauvinistic bashing of North Korea is being instigated.

Obama emphasized, in fact, the United States’ overwhelming superiority as a nuclear power nation and insisted on the necessity of maintaining effective nuclear arsenal. He declared his intention of strengthening nuclear monopoly of the US and possible use of nukes without any historical remorse or apology for the actual atomic bombing in the past. The speech was an impermissible declaration of nuclear war.

What are the lessons drawn from the atomic bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

The underling historical fact was that WWII broke out as a result of the defeat and failure of working class of the whole world in overthrowing capitalism in death agony after the Great Depression since 1929 because they could not unite internationally and fight against war and capitalism. The historic outcome was the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki—indiscriminate massacre of workers and people. The United States’ aim of the atomic bombing was to demonstrate its overwhelming military superiority and to build a post-war world system under US domination with dollar as key currency. Development of nuclear weapons and its use and the crisis of capitalism were and still are two sides of the same coin. We must remember the then US President F.D. Roosevelt preached “arms reduction” in word and secretly developed nuclear weapons in deed to get out of economic crisis.

After WWII, the US has maintained its domination of the world by expanding nuclear forces. The former Soviet Union and China and North Korea have responded to the US military pressure with their own nuclear armament because their Stalinist regimes could not and cannot believe in power of working class struggle. Nuclear armament of Stalinist

governments has been none other than their desperate attempt to maintain their anti-worker regimes. It has only provided a golden pretext to imperialist camp for nuclear buildup. Today, US and Japanese imperialists are vehemently inciting chauvinism and preparing war on North Korea.

It is time for us to recover international working class solidarity, overcoming long history of division by nuclear armament under world domination of imperialism and Stalinism. We must strip off all weapons from handful of capitalists who seek to save their position and properties, maintaining huge stockpile of weapons including nukes and using them. Only the working class internationally united under anti-imperialist and anti-Stalinist program can accomplish this historic task.

There are certain political currents that cannot stick to class struggle principle and have already developed their position from opportunism to chauvinism in the intensifying situation. They give up confronting their own government and their own capitalist class and began to glorify Obama, launching chauvinistic attack on North Korea.

We have been creating a new anti-war, anti-nuke struggle based on class struggle labor movement for years. In 2008, sister Arlene Inouye, the founder and coordinator of Coalition Against Militarism in our Schools from Los Angeles joined the Hiroshima Rally on August 6. Last year, brother Juan Del Pozo from ILWU Local 34 attended our August Hiroshima Rally. International solidarity has made a historic progress.

#### **(4) Common struggle to abolish nukes and war and to fundamentally change the world**

Throughout the history of post-war Japan, the student movement led by Zengakuren has been always at the forefront of anti-war movement. Students' desire to stop war comes from historical lesson of World War II: Japanese universities were turned into war mobilization machine. Therefore, students' struggle for their autonomy and anti-war struggle are one and the same.

Last year, the state power unjustly arrested eight students—leaders of Zengakuren and other activists—and detained them for eight months. However, we strengthened workers' and students' solidarity and fought back against the state power and got back all the arrested students. All of them courageously and uncompromisingly fought back in prolonged detention until their final release.

Our most powerful “weapon” during these struggles is the Marxist thought: “The emancipation of the working class must be conquered by workers themselves.” Leaders who believe in power and potentials of working class and are trained through struggles on workplace will never be defeated by any repression. Struggle in Hosei University is creating new leaders of class struggle one after another and is contributing to the construction of a new revolutionary workers party that has completely broken away from existing leadership. This party is emerging as a workers party with a program of anti-imperialism and anti-Stalinism that embodies the principle of self-emancipation of

working class. We will resolutely pursue this task.

Brothers and sisters in the United States, let's fight together to turn the era of the global economic crisis and war into proletarian world revolution and emancipation of human kind!