

My last time visit to Iwakuni was 2 years ago, and at that time there still seemed to be a little bit of hope in the community. However in the 2 years, the runaway construction has gone too far to go back and I wonder where we can go to seek hope. The natural bay with sea grass has now been replaced by concrete and Atagoyama-hill has been destroyed too far to imagine that a hill was there.

Despite the circumstances, I was so impressed by Iwakuni locals who never give up and fight against the current situation. There were flags all around the community saying "We Don't Want U.S. Military!!" I could feel that "NO" to the U.S. military was the majority of locals' will. Court trials to protect local people's rights of living also started.

People in Iwakuni will face many further challenges now and in the future. But for them to be able to continue fighting to get the good life back, we should support them by spreading Iwakuni's information and doing whatever we can, even if it is a small action.

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