

YWCA of Japan Calls Ending Military Violence Against Women and against all Populations

It was during the YWCA Week Without Violence when a young woman was attacked by 2 young American military soldiers placed in the U.S. military base in Okinawa, Japan. Crimes in Japan caused by the U.S. military and soldiers count nearly 2,000 annually and the recent violence against woman in Okinawa is the tip of an iceberg. Appeals and demonstrations accusing such crimes were organized in front of the U.S. embassy for a number of times, however, the U.S. military's supremacy over people's lives in Japan never change unless Japanese people obtain jurisdiction.

For the upcoming triennial YWCA National Council in November, YWCA of Japan is preparing advocacy workshops aiming at strengthening and empowering our membership to be able to work effectively in order to bring peace and justice in our society and to the world. The workshop theme includes "Women's Rights and Military Base".

Since the U.S. military bases locate all over Japan, a majority of population hold fear, anger, and anxiety against the U.S. military. Especially in Okinawa, a southern island, its 10% of entire land is occupied by the U.S. base.

In the "Women's Rights and Military Base" workshop, we invite an activist-pastor from Okinawa as a guest speaker and members from Okinawa YWCA will share their thoughts, actions, and life experiences that are exposed to military violence every day. A young woman from Hiroshima YWCA will also speak about her action against the U.S. deployment around the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni which is the closest U.S. base to Hiroshima.

We believe, peace can only be achieved by non-violence way. With the presence of military, we have no peace. Sisters, let's hold our hands together to end military violence against women and all citizens.

YWCA of Japan
October 25, 2012



Photo: YWCA of Japan “Protester’s message on the fence around the U.S. military base in Okinawa, Japan”