



To: Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan
Mr. Bunmei Ibuki, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Mr. Masaaki Yamazaki, President of the House of Councilors

Protest Against Japanese Government's Move Towards Militarization and Collaboration with the U.S.

We protest against the actions by the government of Japan, who urgently and eagerly pursues national security and military related legislations. Such planned legislations are based upon arbitrary interpretation of the Japanese Peace Constitution, and aimed to enable Japan to conduct military operation with its allied nations namely the USA under the name of the Right of Collective Defense, a national right denied by the Japanese Peace Constitution.

Since the start of the Abe Cabinet in July 2013, a promoter of the Right of Collective Defense was appointed for the Director-General of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau, and a number of security and military related laws have been raised one after another, such as the law for Secrecy, the law for installation of the National Security Council, the law for Principle of the National Security, and the law for securing the process of Collective Defense. These are intended to be passed during your term without enough discussion.

Reflecting to the Constitution, the successive Cabinet and the Director-General of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau have denied the Right of Collective Defense, although accepting the minimum level of operation of individual self-defense, ever since the birth of the Japanese Constitution in 1947. The article 9 of the Constitution states that the Japanese people “forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes” and “The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized”. It is very clear that the Right of Collective Defense which enforces Japan to conduct the act of “defense” without being attacked is not allowed according to the Japanese Constitution, the supreme law.

We are proud of our Constitution that thoroughly upholds peace and true democracy. The YWCA of Japan stands by this Constitution established in 1947 reflecting the sincere regret for the Japanese military aggression over thousands of people around the world during the WWII. As members of the international community, we have focused our work on grassroots peacemaking and have been working closely especially with neighboring YWCAs such as in China, Korea, and Taiwan. As a result, we maintain a platform for peace with people in northeast Asia based upon humanity and trust.

Again, we protest against the Abe Cabinet's actions which deny the Constitution, democratic decision making process, and every one of our grassroots effort to make peace in the northeast Asia and in the world. We strongly denounce your actions which are unacceptable in the country ruled by constitutionalism.

October 25th, 2013

Naoko Matano, President, Mikako Nishihara, General Secretary, YWCA of Japan