



12th December 2017

Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister,
Mr. Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Japan

**Letter of Request to Oppose the Statement by the U.S. President
“Recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel”**

Satoko Fujitani, President,
Yumiko Ozaki, General Secretary,
YWCA of Japan

The remark made on 6th December by the U.S. President Donald Trump, stating that he “recognizes Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel” and intention to move the U.S. Embassy there, is something that justifies the illegal occupation of Palestine by Israel.

Israel imposed military occupation on East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza Strip during the war in 1967, and claims Jerusalem as its capital. This is a clear act of invasion, and has been repeatedly pointed out and criticized in many U.N. resolutions including those of the Security Council and the U.N. General Assembly.

In addition, the recent remark undermines the prospect of peacebuilding in the Middle East, plunge the Middle East and the World at large into further unrest, and expose Palestinian people to severe danger. To this date, there have already been many cases of injury and death due to police and military suppression and attacks on demonstrators in East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza.

While many Governments have voiced criticism and concern over the remark by President Trump, the Japanese Government stays silent on this matter.

The YWCA of Japan, which works for a society where the human rights and dignity of all people are protected and peace with justice is realized, requests the Japanese Government to urge the U.S. Government to retract the remark by President Trump. Japan, as a member state of the United Nations, U.N. Security Council and Human Rights Council, has a responsibility to speak out for the protection of international human rights law and U.N. resolutions. We strongly urge the Government to fulfill this responsibility, as a state claiming to “contribute to peace and stability of the region and international community” .

The YWCA of Japan demands the Japanese Government to:

- Clearly point out the illegal and problematic nature of the statement by President Trump of the United States, and urge its retraction.