

FREE HIM IMMEDIATELY!

■ Upsurge of Racism in Japan ■

Now we are witnessing disturbing developments going on in Japan. There have been racist demonstrations increasingly staged in the Shin-Okubo area, located in Shinjuku, Tokyo where people of different nationalities live including Korean people forming a Korean town. The demonstrators carry discriminatory placards that read, "Kill all Koreans, whether they are good or bad!". We cannot tolerate any racial discriminations at all.

Meanwhile, Toru Hashimoto, Osaka Mayor and a co-leader of Japan Restoration Party, was heavily criticized from overseas for his remarks that the comfort women were necessary and that there was no proof that the Japanese authorities had forced women into servitude. He still remains in his seats instead of taking back and apologizing for these ideas. We strongly condemn these rising moves toward distortion of Japan's invasion of Asian countries and xenophobic violences, and will struggle to pursue universal values of peace and equality through international solidarity.

We would appreciate if you could spread this information by emails, on the internet etc.

●STATEMENT

FREE HIM IMMEDIATELY!●

The Campaign Against 6.16 Crackdown at Shin-Okubo, Tokyo has been launched to call for immediate release of Mr. A who was arrested last Sunday during a protest against racists and right-wing extremists at Shin-Okubo where many people with their origins in the Korean Peninsula live or work. In the wake of increasingly organized racist demonstrations hundreds of protesters gathered at the Korean town on the 16th June to speak out against racism in their own ways. Mr. A was one of those.

He was arrested just when the demonstrators (mainly consisting of Organization Not Allowing Privileges of Korean Residents known as "Zaitokukai" in Japanese) were approaching Shin-Okubo train station, chanting discriminatory slogans including "Kill Koreans!". Some of the racists began to cheer on the demonstration from the sidewalks with rising sun flags in their hands in the midst of the protesters and persistently provoke them, and the police arrested just one protester in a small confusion caused by the racists. Three out of four protesters who were arrested on that day were already freed early on, but Mr. A is still unjustifiably detained. We call for his immediate release.

The media reports as if the arrest was caused resulting from clashes between Zaitokukai and the opposing groups, but it is malignant rhetoric trying to shift the focus from the nature of this case, which was in fact a counter racism action against repeated hate speech and verbal violence. With the rise of nationalism and racism stirred up by such news media or politicians remarks attempting to distort the Japan's history of invasion and colonial rule, racists and nationalists like Zaitokukai have gained power, and the crackdown on anti-racism movement will only fuel racism and sever friendly relations with different people living in Japan and neighboring countries. Thus, we will continue to appeal for anti-racism, against discrimination and the crackdown to transform the social circumstances as much as possible.

Free Mr. A immediately!

★ We hope you will send your approval for this statement to antifa616q@aim.com

Your comments are greatly appreciated. Your name and comment will be published on our website.

<http://antifa616q.info-act.com/>

<http://antifa616q.tumblr.com/>

We ask those who don't want to be named to tell us.

★ A couple of lawyers have been working to release Mr. A, and this has cost a lot. We would also appreciate if you could make a donation to the relief efforts.

Account Name : Minnano Q (please mention to the crackdown at Shin-Okubo)
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00140-2-750198

JP Bank Account
Bank Code 019
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Campaign Against 6.16 Crackdown at Shin-Okubo, Tokyo