

管 区 事 務 所
〒162-0805
東京都新宿区矢来町65番
電話 (03)5228-3171
FAX (03)5228-3175

日 本 聖 公 会

NIPPON SEI KO KAI

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
65, Yarai-cho, Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 162-0805, Japan
Tel. 81-3-5228-3171
Fax. 81-3-5228-3175

September 1, 2014

To the following: Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan
Mr. Itsunori Onodera, the Minister of Defense
Mr. Hirohumi Takeda, Director General of the Okinawa Defense Bureau
From the following: The Rt. Rev'd Peter Ichiro Shibusawa, Peace and Justice Commission
Chairman, Nippon Sei Ko Kai

**This is a Petition of Redress Against the Drilling Survey Being Conducted in Preparation for
Constructing the New Military Base at Henoko, in Nago, Okinawa**

*"Put your sword back into its place;
for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." (Mathew 26:52)*

Being of unified mind as the Nippon Sei Kou Kai (the Anglican Church in Japan), we pray for and act on the behalf of a society that pays respect to the life of every person, in accordance with the teaching of Jesus Christ. Especially, learning about peace from the Okinawan perspective for more than two decades, we have been alert to the situation concerning U.S. military bases in Okinawa. And now, we cannot but be reminded of the words of Mr. Shoukou Ahagon, known as the Okinawan Gandhi who fought the land dispute for the Ieshima island: "All who take the sword will perish by the sword (Bible); all who have military bases will perish by the [existence of military] bases, and all who have nuclear weapons will perish by [those] weapons (History)." We stand also on these words of the Bible and History.

We strongly protest against the government forcibly starting the drilling survey for the new military base construction at Henoko, despite the fact that all the forty-one municipal heads in Okinawa, reaching a prefectural consensus, indeed have declared their opposition to this construction. The Japanese government emphasizes its position based upon the policies of "the transference of the Futenma Base" and "the reduction of Okinawa's base burden." However, the new Henoko Base, planned by both the U.S. and Japanese governments, will be a gigantic and comprehensive military base bigger than the Kadena Base that is already known as the largest in the Far East.

The Henoko base will have a V-shaped airport with two runways, a 214-meter long military wharf that Futenma base doesn't have, and also an area for stocking ammunition and other military equipment. Then, it is feared that the new base will cause greater damage and excessive burdens on not only the people in the area, but also the environment. Beyond this damage, we fear the abandonment of democracy by the hand of the government itself because Okinawans' protesting voice is ignored and a huge sum of tax money is poured into this U.S. base construction.

In a meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promised to "take specific actions" for the construction of the new base, at the same time to "do everything in his power to reduce the huge burden placed on Okinawans [as a result of the sheer excessive amount of bases maintained in their prefecture]." The reality is, however, nothing but making sure that the people suffer from full acceptance of the new military base construction at Henoko demanded by the U.S military, and the imposition of further burdens on Okinawans. The ruling LDP headquarters bought the approval of Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima by offering 300 billion yen per year for the Okinawa promotion and development budget for eight years. The deceptive tactics of Prime Minister Abe and LDP headquarters must not be tolerated.

Susumu Inamine, Mayor of Nago city which encompasses the Henoko area, is adamant in refusing to accept the construction of any military base, both on the land and the sea. Furthermore, many people all over the world are increasingly protesting against the Henoko landfill for environmental concerns, as it would devastate critically endangered marine life such as the Okinawa dugong.

Standing in unity with Okinawans having resolutely fought against the construction of the new Henoko U.S base, and trusting in the pacifist Constitution of Japan, Nippon Sei Kou Kai strongly protests against the government's forceful start of construction of the new base (drilling survey), and demands an immediate halt to the survey and the construction.