

THE JAPANESE WORKERS' COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Statement by Ms. Yumie MAEDA

on behalf of the

*Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights (JWCHR)*

Geneva, 11 August 2014

Thank you, Mr. chair-person,

We, Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights(JWCHR) reported twice about the situation of human rights violation after the Great Earthquake and the nuclear accident in Fukushima under the topic. Today we would like to make a speech on recent situation related to the accident.

It has passed about more than 3 years since hydrogen explosion in Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. However, victims have been forced to live in temporary houses and still are not

duly compensated. They are feeling strong anxiety: Information on radioactive dose level contained in food, soil and ash and in the air of living space are not noticed enough to them. Besides, it was turned out that evacuation work of rubble in the plant conducted last summer made radioactive substance disperse and adhere to agricultural crops 50 km away from the reactor.

The number of children contracting cancer of the thyroid is on the rise and now it is at least 50 among 287 thousands, which is at least 170 times higher than the normal incidence. Moreover, the maximum exposure dose level permitted to workers for the plant was raised to 250 mm SV per year in this August. The government neglects to supply sufficient health care and is abandoning citizens' lives.

Nevertheless, the Japanese government is eager to restart operation of halted other nuclear power plants. For an example, in conformity examination of Sendai nuclear power plant in Kagoshima prefecture in the south Japan, Nuclear Regulation Authority(NRA) made it pass the examination before the residence evacuation plan is drawn up. The reasons were because preparation of the plan is the matter of local authority's responsibility and thus NRA is not authorized to judge validity on it. With such system, the government is not learning from the experience in Fukushima.

On May 21, this year, Fukui district court made final injunction saying that Ohi nuclear power plant should not be re-operated because examination for re-starting was not enough. However, the government is trying to re-operation, neglecting safety confirmation. The government should respect the decision of the court and the opinion of citizens opposing the use of nuclear power for electricity. It is essential to re-consider the accident well to prevent it from happening again.

We, JWHCR request the Japanese government to stop reoperation of the plant and make full reparation to victims of Fukushima accident.