



Peace and Justice Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

September 15, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Peace and Justice Commission
 Submitted by: George Lippman, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission
 Subject: In Support of the People of Okinawa

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting the people of Okinawa in their opposition to the U.S. Marine Base under construction at Henoko, Okinawa (also known as the Futenma Replacement Facility or “FRF”). The Resolution should also call on:

- 1) the U.S. Department of Defense to undertake an appropriate and sufficient “take into account” process as ordered by the Court under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- 2) the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission to review and comment on this analysis.
- 3) Congress to review the environmental impacts of the construction
- 4) Congress to address the lack of democratic means employed in the construction of this base in Okinawa

Council should send a copy of this resolution to Representative Barbara Lee, and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well as to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Secretary of State John Kerry, President Obama, and to the Okinawan activists who signed the attached statement (Attachment 2).

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Unknown

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Impacts of the U.S. military presence in Okinawa include:

- According to a poll conducted by Ryukyu Shimpo/Okinawa Television Broadcasting, 80% of Okinawans oppose the new base in Henoko.
- Dangers to local communities and the environment include fires, aircraft crashes, and emergency landings, amounting to an average of 41 incidents a year, noise pollution that disrupts classes in local schools and affects people’s health, toxic

- contamination of land, air, water, and the ocean.
- Crimes by US troops against civilians include violent crimes such as robbery, arson, and rape. From 1972-2010, 5,705 crimes were reported, an average of 150 a year, with 10% of them heinous crimes such as homicide and rapeⁱ
- A high rate of prostitution surrounding U.S. military installations on the island
- The obstruction of Okinawans' democratic rights

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Peace and Justice Commission (PJC) on 4 May 2015 the Commission took the following action:

1. M/S/C (Bohn/Kenin) that the Peace and Justice Commission recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution in support of the people of Okinawa and send a copy of this resolution to Representative Barbara Lee, and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well as to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Secretary of State John Kerry, and President Obama, and to the Okinawan activists who signed the statement cited above at nohenokotakae@gmail.com.

Ayes: Bohn,D.; Herrera, A.; Kenin,W.; Lippman, G.; Mabanta, A.; Meola, B.; Nuruddin,M.; Sochet,N.; Nicely,M/Blake temp, Maran,R.
 Nays: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: Goyette,K.
 Excused: None
 Result: Motion Passed

BACKGROUND

The United States has maintained a military presence on the Island of Okinawa, Japan, since the end of World War II and after the U.S. military occupation of Japan ended, the Government of Japan permitted the United States to administer Okinawa and to retain exclusive use of facilities and areas in the Ryukyu Islands including Okinawa.ⁱⁱ As a result, the US military occupies nearly 18.4% of Okinawa's land, and has control over major areas of sea and air space for military training and operations, which consists of 32 bases and facilities with a total of 45,000 servicemen, civilian contract workers, and family members.ⁱⁱⁱ

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Japanese Ministry of Defense found that of the 5,334 species that exist in Henoko Bay, 262 are under threat of extinction, which prompted Japanese and American conservation groups to file a January 2003 lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Defense to halt construction of new installations^{iv} The plaintiffs allege that the defendants have approved the plans for construction of the Futenma Replacement Facility ("FRF")—a military air station off the coast of Okinawa Island—without taking into account the effect of the military facility on the Okinawa dugong, a marine mammal of cultural and historical significance to the Japanese people. In 2008, the US federal district court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and ordered the US military to do the "take

into account” process.^v

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Local citizens and elected officials, as well as scholars and activists from around the world have voiced their opposition to the construction of the Futenma Replacement Facility. September 20, 2014, 5,500 people gathered in protest; the Nago City Assembly accused the government of trying to push forward the relocation while ignoring the opinions of residents. It urged the central government to give up the relocation plan and to close the base at an early date. It also approved a written opinion demanding the cancellation of former Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima’s approval for landfill work in Henoko for the Futenma relocation.^{vi} The governor of Okinawa, Takeshi Onaga, opposes the construction of a new U.S. Marine Corps base in northern Okinawa, and has pledged “to stop construction using every means at [his] disposal.”^{vii} In January 2014, over one hundred international scholars, peace advocates, and artists signed on to a statement to demand cancellation of the plan to build the Henoko base and to insist upon the immediate return of Futenma to the Okinawan people.

Domestically, the United States’ own Congressional Research Service (CRS) has issued a report entitled “The U.S. Military Presence in Okinawa and the Futenma Base Controversy”, in which it states that “[m]ost Okinawans oppose the construction of a new U.S. base for a mix of political, environmental and quality of life reasons.” The Asia-Pacific Journal commented, “The fact that the governments of Japan and the United States should be committed to a project against the wishes of most of the people of Okinawa should in itself be cause for strong Congressional concern.”^{viii}

Finally, the City of Berkeley has a long history of advocating for peace and justice, and for the protection of the environment, committing itself to “respect Earth and life in all its diversity...care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love...build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful...and secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.”^{ix} Opposing the construction of a military base that the US Government’s own research service has concluded to be opposed by the majority of Okinawans’ wishes fulfills this commitment.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions considered.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission’s Report

CONTACT PERSON

Manuel Ramirez, Acting Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission	510-981-5114
George Lippman, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission	510-517-8379
Diana Bohn, Commissioner, Peace and Justice Commission	510-252-5497

Attachments:

1: Resolution

2: Okinawan Solidarity Statement

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

OPPOSE THE U.S. MARINE BASE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT HENOKO,
OKINAWA

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has a long history of advocating for peace and justice, and for the protection of the environment, committing itself to “respect Earth and life in all its diversity...care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love...build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful...and secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations;”^x and

WHEREAS, the United States has maintained a military presence on the Island of Okinawa, Japan, since the end of World War II in 1945, and after the U.S. military occupation of Japan ended, the Government of Japan permitted the United States to administer Okinawa and to retain exclusive use of facilities and areas in the Ryukyu Islands including Okinawa;^{xi} and

WHEREAS, the US military occupies nearly 18.4% of Okinawa's land, and has control over major areas of sea and air space for military training and operations, which consists of 32 bases and facilities with a total of 45,000 servicemen, civilian contract workers, and family members;^{xii} and

WHEREAS, impacts of the U.S. military presence in Okinawa include:

- Dangers to local communities and the environment including fires, aircraft crashes, and emergency landings, amounting to an average of 41 incidents a year, noise pollution that disrupts classes in local schools and affects people's health, toxic contamination of land, air, water, and the ocean.
- Crimes by US troops against civilians, including violent crimes such as robbery, arson, and rape. (From 1972-2010, 5,705 crimes were reported, an average of 150 a year, with 10% of them heinous crimes such as homicide and rape);^{xiii} and

WHEREAS, according to *Foreign Policy in Focus*, “Okinawa has suffered from the burden of the U.S. military presence for the past 69 years” in the past, as many as one in thirty Okinawan women were employed as prostituted women for the US military in ‘A sign’ bars... in 1969, at the height of the US War against Vietnam, the Okinawan police estimated 7,362 Okinawan women were working in prostitution though others estimated this number to be 10,000 or more.”^{xiv} As Okinawa's economy and life got better, many Okinawan women moved on to other occupations, and in that void, Filipinas were brought to Okinawa to fill in.^{xv} Suzuyo Takazato, Co-Chair of Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence (nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005), a

social worker who has worked with women survivors of sexual violence for over two decades wrote in *Report from Okinawa*, “The freedom of activity of U.S. military forces stationed in Okinawa is guaranteed, but policies to prevent crimes or support victims of crimes committed by U.S. troops has never even been discussed”^{xvi} ; and

WHEREAS, the building of a new U.S. Marine base (called “Futenma Replacement Facility”) in Henoko and Oura Bays and Nago City on the northern coast of Okinawa, to replace the Futenma base, which is situated in an urban area, would have drastic ramifications: **“it will destroy local marine life, pollute natural resources, and put residents in danger.** Even more disturbingly, it reflects the long-term violation of Okinawans’ democratic rights—namely, their ability to set the policies that affect their lives;”^{xvii} and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2014, 3,600 Japanese citizens rallied and marched to the base site in protest. In a Ryukyu Shimpō/Okinawa Television Broadcasting poll conducted that week, 80.2% of the Okinawan people oppose the new base in Henoko, and the city assembly accused the government of trying to push forward the relocation while ignoring the opinions of residents. It urged the central government to give up the relocation plan and to close the base at an early date. The Nago City Assembly also approved a written opinion demanding the cancellation of former Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima’s approval for landfill work in Henoko for the Futenma relocation;^{xviii} and

WHEREAS, in January 2014, over one hundred international scholars, peace advocates, and artists signed on to a statement to demand cancellation of the plan to build the Henoko base and to insist upon the immediate return of Futenma to the Okinawan people, writing:

“We support the people of Okinawa in their non-violent struggle for peace, dignity, human rights, and protection of the environment. We ask you to put democracy before militarism and to move toward ending military colonization of Okinawa by removing the Futenma base without building another base within Okinawa. With U.S. backing, the Japanese government, in an act contemptuous of democracy and of environmental protection, says it will ignore the expressed will of the Okinawan people and proceed with the Henoko base construction;”^{xix} and

WHEREAS, the Japanese Ministry of Defense found that of the 5,334 species that exist in Henoko Bay, 262 are under threat of extinction, which prompted Japanese and American conservation groups to file a January 2003 lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Defense to halt construction;^{xx} the plaintiffs allege that the defendants have approved the plans for construction of the Futenma Replacement Facility (“FRF”)—a military air station off the coast of Okinawa Island—without taking into account the effect of the military facility on the Okinawa dugong, a marine mammal of cultural and historical significance to the Japanese people. In 2008, the US federal

district court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and ordered the US military to do the “take into account” process;^{xxi} and

WHEREAS, activists are resisting the base by monitoring the sea in canoes to protect the biologically rich ecosystem of the Henoko and Oura Bays, and on September 20, 2014, 5,500 people gathered in protest, and they continue to mobilize despite government repression;^{xxii} and

WHEREAS, Takeshi Onaga, governor of Okinawa, elected by a landslide victory, who began his term on Human Rights Day, December 10, 2014, opposes the construction of a new U.S. Marine Corps base in northern Okinawa, pledged “to stop construction using every means at my disposal;”^{xxiii} and

WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report, “The U.S. Military Presence in Okinawa and the Futenma Base Controversy”, Okinawa hosts a disproportionate share of the continuing U.S. military presence, and “the opposition in Okinawa has hardened, and all the major political figures involved in approving the new base construction of have publicly opposed the plan, and due to “the controversy surrounding relocation...implementation of the Futenma relocation plan has stalled;”^{xxiv} and

WHEREAS, “Most Okinawans,” the CRS authors write, “oppose the construction of a new U.S. base for a mix of political, environmental and quality of life reasons.” The Asia-Pacific Journal commented, “The fact that the governments of Japan and the United States should be committed to a project against the wishes of most of the people of Okinawa should in itself be cause for strong Congressional concern;”^{xxv} and

WHEREAS, as of April 2015, 29 organizations in the United States have signed a solidarity statement saying “We, the undersigned US organizations support the demands of Okinawan people that this construction be stopped. The Okinawan people’s struggle is at a critical juncture. U.S. citizens can help by contacting members of Congress to impress upon them that a new Marine base at Henoko is unacceptable, and that construction must be stopped.

As Diet member Keiko Itokazu said, recalling the Battle of Okinawa and the people’s enormous suffering, ‘Life is a treasure. We are against war. We do not want to lose our precious lives by getting involved in war.’ It’s time for the international community to join Okinawan citizens in mobilizing toward that end;”^{xxvi}and

WHEREAS, On February 22, 2015, the US military at Camp Schwab in Okinawa arrested and detained two Japanese civilians who were protesting at the Camp’s main gate against the construction of a military base in Henoko and Oura Bay. On March 3, thirty groups of Okinawan civil society sent a letter of condemnation to Lieutenant General John Wiser.¹⁸

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council join Okinawan citizens to oppose the U.S. Marine Base under construction at Henoko, aka Futenma Replacement Facility ("FRF"), off the coast of Okinawa Island.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley joins Okinawan citizens to call upon the Government of the United States, through the elected representatives of the American people gathered in Congress, to ensure the following steps be taken in accordance with US laws and procedures:

1. The Department of Defense (DoD) undertakes an appropriate and sufficient "take into account" process as ordered by the Court under the NHPA. To do so would presumably require referral to an impartial, scientific, international panel, which should include representatives of Okinawan civil society. That panel would have to consider evidence on the presence of dugong in Oura Bay and the compatibility of such presence with the uses to which the Marine Corps would intend to subject the Bay should construction go ahead. *In camera* proceedings by a government appointed commission do not qualify as "appropriate" and "sufficient."
2. The US Marine Mammal Commission reviews and comments on the DoD's analysis.
3. Congressional hearings take up environmental issues in the Henoko plan.
4. Congressional hearings that address the lack of democratic process over the siting of this base in Okinawa
5. Pending satisfactory resolution of the above four matters, the Government of the United States should abandon base construction works at Henoko.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley send a copy of this resolution to Representative Barbara Lee, and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well as to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Secretary of State John Kerry, and President Obama, and to the Okinawan activists who signed the statement cited above at nohenokotakae@gmail.com.

ⁱ "Okinawa People Oppose New US Marines Base at Henoko." Women for Genuine Security. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 May 2015. <http://www.genuinesecurity.org/wordpress/?page_id=390>.

ⁱⁱ Rinehart, Ian E. *The U.S. Military Presence in Okinawa and the Futenma Base Controversy* (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

ⁱⁱⁱ Japan. Okinawa Prefectural Government. Reversion Affairs Division. Okinawa Prefecture. N.p., n.d. Web. <<http://www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/chijiko/kichitai/documents/us%20military%20base%20issues%20in%20okinawa.pdf>>.

^{iv} Ahn, Christine. "Okinawa: The Small Island Trying to Block the U.S. Military's "Pivot to Asia" - FPIF." *Foreign Policy In Focus*. N.p., 19 Dec. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://fpif.org/okinawa-small-island-trying-block-u-s-militarys-pivot-asia/>>.

^vPlaintiffs brought an action in the United States District Court, Northern District of California against the United States Department of Defense alleging violations of section 402 of the National Historic Preservation Act

("NHPA"), 16 U.S.C. § 470a-2, and the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706.
<http://www.jelf-justice.org/documents/20080124dugong-decision.pdf>, (Page 1 of 46)

^{vi} "Poll Finds 80% of Residents Favor Stopping Henoko Relocation Work." Ryukyu Shimpo. N.p., 26 Aug. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2014/09/03/15106/>>.

See also:

"Nago Tinkering with Ways to Block Henoko Move." Japan Update. N.p., 2 July 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://www.japanupdate.com/2014/02/nago-tinkering-with-ways-to-block-henoko-move/>>.

^{vii} (Ahn) (<http://fpif.org/okinawa-small-island-trying-block-u-s-militarys-pivot-asia/>)

^{viii} Yoshikawa, Hideki. "An Appeal from Okinawa to the US Congress. Futenma Marine Base Relocation and Its Environmental Impact: U.S. Responsibility." Japan Focus. N.p., n.d. Web. <http://www.japanfocus.org/site/make_pdf/4194>.

^{ix} City of Berkeley Earth Charter Resolution #61-007-N.S. adopted March 27, 2002: "Be it Resolved that the Council of the City of Berkeley endorses the Earth Charter in support of its principles and adoption by the United Nations at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (Rio+10)"

^x City of Berkeley Earth Charter Resolution #61-007-N.S. adopted March 27, 2002: "Be it Resolved that the Council of the City of Berkeley endorses the Earth Charter in support of its principles and adoption by the United Nations at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (Rio+10)"

^{xi} Rinehart, Ian E. *The U.S. Military Presence in Okinawa and the Futenma Base Controversy* (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

^{xii} Japan. Okinawa Prefectural Government. Reversion Affairs Division. Okinawa Prefecture. N.p., n.d. Web. <<http://www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/chijiko/kichitai/documents/us%20military%20base%20issues%20in%20okinawa.pdf>>.

^{xiii} "Okinawa People Oppose New US Marines Base at Henoko." Women for Genuine Security. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 May 2015. <http://www.genuinesecurity.org/wordpress/?page_id=390>.

^{xiv} Ahn, Christine. "Okinawa: The Small Island Trying to Block the U.S. Military's 'Pivot to Asia' - FPIF." Foreign Policy In Focus. N.p., 19 Dec. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://fpif.org/okinawa-small-island-trying-block-u-s-militarys-pivot-asia/>>.

“Okinawa has suffered from the burden of the U.S. military presence for the past 69 years,’ says Suzuyo Takazato. As a social worker, she has worked with women survivors of sexual violence for over two decades.. Takazato handed me a document containing decades of post-war U.S. military crimes committed against Okinawan women. As there is no official record of such crimes, Takazato and others mined through police reports and newspaper clippings from 1945 up to 2012. They compiled them into a shocking 26-page document that demonstrates that U.S. military violence against Okinawan women and girls is not just a case of a few bad apples, but rather structural.”

^{xv} "Okinawa: Effects of Long-term US Military Presence." Okinawa: Effects of Long-term US Military Presence (n.d.): n. pag. Web. <<http://www.genuinesecurity.org/partners/report/Okinawa.pdf>>.

^{xvi} Takazato, Suzuyo. "Report from Okinawa." Canadian Woman Studies. N.p., n.d. Web. <<http://cws.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/cws/article/viewFile/7929/7060>>.

Suzuyo Takazato is Co-Chair of Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence, Naha, Okinawa.

^{xvii} Ginoza, Ayano. "Resisting U.S. Bases in Okinawa - FPIF." Foreign Policy In Focus. N.p., 22 Oct. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://fpif.org/resisting-u-s-bases-okinawa/>>.

See also:

Horung, Jeffrey. "Futenma Replacement Facility." Interview. Dispatch Japan. N.p., n.d. Web.

<<http://www.dispatchjapan.com/blog/futenma-replacement-facility/>>.

"Nago Tinkering with Ways to Block Henoko Move." Japan Update. N.p., 02 July 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://www.japanupdate.com/2014/02/nago-tinkering-with-ways-to-block-henoko-move/>>.

"Abe Gov't Committing Political Suicide by Forcibly Building New US Military Base - @JapanPress_wky." Japan Press Weekly. N.p., 28 Aug. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://www.japan-press.co.jp/modules/news/index.php?id=7501>>.

“Japan’s government led by Prime Minister Abe Shinzo has forcibly been conducting boring explorations in the Henoko coastal area of Okinawa’s Nago City to build replacement facilities for the U.S. Marine Corps Futenma Air Station in Ginowan City. As the government blatantly attempts to create a fait accompli for the base construction ahead of the Okinawa gubernatorial election slated for November, it is fueling Okinawans’ anger.”

^{xviii} "Poll Finds 80% of Residents Favor Stopping Henoko Relocation Work." Ryukyu Shimpo. N.p., 26 Aug. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2014/09/03/15106/>>.

See also:

"Nago Tinkering with Ways to Block Henoko Move." Japan Update. N.p., 2 July 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://www.japanupdate.com/2014/02/nago-tinkering-with-ways-to-block-henoko-move/>>.

^{xix} "President Obama and Prime Minister Abe: Cancel the Plan to Build a New Marine Base in Henoko, Okinawa and Return Futenma Base without Relocating to Anywhere in Okinawa." Change.org. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 May 2015. <<https://www.change.org/p/president-obama-and-prime-minister-abe-cancel-the-plan-to-build-a-new-marine-base-in-henoko-okinawa-and-return-futenma-base-without-relocating-to-anywhere-in-okinawa>>.

^{xx} Ahn, Christine. "Okinawa: The Small Island Trying to Block the U.S. Military's "Pivot to Asia" - FPIF." Foreign Policy In Focus. N.p., 19 Dec. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://fpif.org/okinawa-small-island-trying-block-u-s-militarys-pivot-asia/>>.

^{xxi} Plaintiffs brought an action in the United States District Court, Northern District of California against the United States Department of Defense alleging violations of section 402 of the National Historic Preservation Act (“NHPA”), 16 U.S.C. § 470a-2, and the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”), 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706. <http://www.jelf-justice.org/documents/20080124dugong-decision.pdf>, (Page 1 of 46)

^{xxii} (Ginoza)

See also:

"[Editorial] Japanese Coast Guard Officers Should Not Use Brute Force against Henoko Protesters." Ryukyu Shimpo. N.p., 12 Sept. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2014/09/23/15357/>>.

"Ten Thousand Things." : 9.20.14 "All-Okinawa" Henoko Rally with Nago Mayor Susumi Inamine, Senator Keiko Itokazu, Gubernatorial Candidate Naha Mayor Takeshi Onaga, & 5,500 Okinawans Representing Seven Generations... N.p., 20 Sept. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015.

<<http://tenthousandthingsfromkyoto.blogspot.com/2014/09/92014-all-okinawa-henoko-rally-with.html>>.

"Injuries to Okinawa Anti-base Protesters 'laughable,' Says U.S. Military Spokesman | The Japan Times." Japan Times RSS. N.p., 09 Feb. 2015. Web. 06 May 2015.

<<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/community/2015/02/09/issues/injuries-okinawa-anti-base-protesters-laughable-says-u-s-military-spokesman/#.VUrX9M4wcdK>>.

^{xxiii} (Ahn) (<http://fpif.org/okinawa-small-island-trying-block-u-s-militarys-pivot-asia/>)

^{xxiv} (Rinehart)

^{xxv} Yoshikawa, Hideki. "An Appeal from Okinawa to the US Congress. Futenma Marine Base Relocation and Its Environmental Impact: U.S. Responsibility." Japan Focus. N.p., n.d. Web.

<http://www.japanfocus.org/site/make_pdf/4194>.

xxvi “Solidarity Statement: Respect the Will of the Okinawan People,” Women for Genuine Security, <http://www.genuinesecurity.org/wordpress/>

¹⁸ "Letter to Lieutenant General John Wissler." Groups of the Okinawan Civil Society (n.d.): n. pag. Web. <<http://img03.ti-da.net/usr/o/k/i/okinawabd/LettersofsCondemnationsandsDemandkMar-03-15k英語pdf>>.

BACKGROUND:

(referring to footnote #7) Suzuyo Takazato is Co-Chair of Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence, Naha, Okinawa.

Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence was formed in September 1995, following the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US servicemen. This group has held demonstrations and protests, organized letter writing campaigns, and brought their creativity and passion to protests and campaigns against the US military presence in Okinawa, which dates back to 1945 and the end of WW II. When Okinawan women went to the U.S. as part of the American Peace Caravan (Jan-Feb, 1996), the following five demands were issued to U.S. citizens, the U.S. government and members of Congress:

* We demand the investigation of all past crimes committed by U.S. military personnel in Okinawa, especially those that constitute human rights violations against women and girls;

* We demand the establishment of a concrete plan for the reduction and ultimate removal of all U.S. military personnel from Okinawa, especially the Marines;

* We demand that the U.S. military strengthen its orientation and continuing-education program to sensitize all personnel overseas, and their dependents, to respect and uphold the basic human rights of the citizens of the country in which they are stationed, especially its women and children;

* We demand that the governments of Japan and the United States:

(a) implement the Platform for Action (PFA) approved at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, (b) revise the Status of Forces Agreement, and (c) reexamine the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty to ensure that these two documents are in accord with the PFA;

* We demand that experts on such issues as the violation of women's human rights and the destruction of the environment be dispatched to Okinawa to investigate and evaluate the actual situation existing today.

We appeal to related governments and international agencies to review treaties including the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement and the new Defense Guidelines, as well as other international agreements, in order to bring them in line with the proposals of the Beijing Platform for Action and a gender perspective. We appeal for the revision of laws in order to prevent violence against women and to protect women's and children's human rights.

(referring to footnote #8) See also: Hornung, Jeffrey. "Futenma Replacement Facility." Interview. Dispatch Japan. N.p., n.d. Web. <<http://www.dispatchjapan.com/blog/futenma-replacement-facility/>>. “[Governor] Onaga’s win is almost sure to mean protracted delays in construction of the planned US Marine facility in the Henoko section of the prefecture, which is designed to replace the dangerously-situated Marine Air Station Futenma. Washington and Tokyo have been wrangling over terms for the promised closure of Futenma, located in the city-center of Ginowan, for close to 20 years. At a time when the US and Japan are deepening defense ties in part to counter the rise of China’s air and naval capabilities, the alliance once again faces the prospect of getting misguidedly sidetracked by haggling over construction of a base of arguably marginal strategic significance.

Meanwhile, Onaga’s victory is a bitter blow to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose government has often taken pride in claims its firm leadership had finally resolved the Futenma-Henoko issue. Late last year, Abe managed to pressure Governor Nakaima to sign the landfill papers required for construction of the Henoko base to proceed. The backlash against Nakaima, who had implied to voters he would stand firm against the Henoko project, was immediate, culminating in Sunday’s sound rejection of the incumbent governor by Okinawa’s voters.”

(referring to footnote #9) "Poll Finds 80% of Residents Favor Stopping Henoko Relocation Work." Ryukyu Shimpo. N.p., 26 Aug. 2014. Web. 06 May 2015. <<http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2014/09/03/15106/>>.

Shimpo and Okinawa Television Broadcasting (OTV) carried out a telephone poll jointly on August 23 and 24 referring to the seabed drilling survey in Henoko, Nago. The Henoko bay area is the planned reclamation site for

U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The poll found 80.2 percent of residents favored cessation of the relocation work.

http://www.genuinesecurity.org/wordpress/?page_id=384

Solidarity Statement: Respect the Will of the Okinawan People

The people of Okinawa are calling on the international community for help to stop the desecration of a sacred ocean site, Oura Bay in Henoko, for a new US Marines base. Oura Bay is the home of the dugong (the Okinawan manatee) and other endangered species, including extensive coral reefs.

The latest poll shows that 80.2% of Okinawans oppose this construction on environmental, ethical, and economic grounds. They are blockading the construction site from land and sea, and holding prefecture-wide rallies comprising all segments of the population. Reflecting this opposition, Okinawan voters elected Takeshi Onaga as their governor who is determined to work toward stopping the construction of the new base.

We, the undersigned US organizations, support the demands of Okinawan people that this construction be stopped.

We call on our members of Congress to sponsor briefings on Capitol Hill to hear about the highly undemocratic process of deciding on this location, which has been forced on the people of Okinawa by the US and Japanese governments; and to hear about the serious, long-term environmental and social impacts of US bases that Okinawans have been burdened with since 1945.

The US already has 1,000 bases worldwide. We demand the clean up not build up of overseas bases, and that our money be moved from military spending to human and environmental needs.

Women for Genuine Security and

- Anakbayan-East Bay
- Arab Resource and Organizing Center
- Arkansas WAND (Women's Action for New Directions)
- Bayan-USA
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for Political Education
- Climate Justice, Boston College
- CodePink, San Francisco-Bay Area
- Eclipse Rising
- Fertile Ground Environmental Institute
- Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
- Granny Peace Brigade, New York

- Hawai'i People's Fund
 - Human Rights Action Service
 - Japan Multicultural Relief Fund
 - Japan Pacific Resource Network
 - No Nukes Action
 - Oakland SOL – Sustaining Ourselves Locally
 - Oregon WAND (Women's Action for New Directions)
 - Popular Resistance
 - U.S. Labor Against the War
 - Veterans for Peace
 - Voices for Creative Nonviolence
 - Women in Black – San Francisco
 - Women in Black – Union Square
 - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, San Francisco branch
 - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, East Bay branch
 - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-US Section
 - World Beyond War
- (list in progress)

December 2014

BACKGROUND

This massive new facility for the US Marines—with two runways, naval port, military housing, and sports facilities—is to replace Futenma Marine Corps Air Station, located in Ginowan City.

Okinawan people's determined resistance has blocked this construction for 18 years. They voted against it in a non-binding referendum in Nago City in 1997. They have tried to elect anti-base candidates at all levels: city, prefectural and national. A daily sit-in on Henoko beach, initiated by elders who lived through the Battle of Okinawa during World War II, marked its tenth year in April 2014. An intense "sit-in on the sea" successfully disrupted offshore test drilling in 2004 and 2005 when people occupied test-drilling platforms day and night. In January 2008, a US Federal Court ruled that the construction plan violated the National Historic Preservation Act by not protecting a Japanese "national monument," the dugong and its marine habitat. Recently, environmental groups returned to court to try to stop the construction on environmental grounds.

Keiko Itokazu, a Japanese Diet member from Okinawa and co-chair of Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence, summed up this opposition: "We should spend our tax money on welfare, not war. Military bases don't protect the human rights of women and children. They destroy the natural environment, and tear Okinawan people's hearts apart."

US military footprint in Okinawa

The US military occupies 18.4% Okinawan land; and 74% of US military facilities in Japan are in Okinawa, the poorest prefecture comprising only 0.6% of the land area of Japan. Okinawan people have been subjected to crimes committed by US troops, including robbery, arson, rape, and murder; as well as military environmental contamination—noise, fires, aircraft crashes, and emergency landings. US bases contribute only 5% of the prefecture's revenue and impede sustainable economic development by taking precious land and resources.

History of Japanese oppression of Okinawa

In 1879, Japan annexed the independent Ryukyu Kingdom (present day Okinawa) by force. Mainland Japanese marked Okinawans as backward, shiftless, and dirty. At the 1903 Osaka Exhibition, Okinawans, Ainu, Koreans, and other “inferior” peoples were put on public display. Okinawans were forbidden to use their language and forced to learn Japanese. Those who migrated to the mainland often met with prejudice and discrimination over jobs and housing; restaurants had signs saying “no Okinawans welcome”.

Okinawa was the site of a three-month battle near the end of World War II, as Japan sacrificed these islands in the hope of protecting its main centers. A quarter of the Okinawan population died in the Battle of Okinawa, often described as a “Typhoon of Steel.” Survivors took shelter in caves and gravesites. Much of the main island was pulverized to rubble. During the fierce fighting, Japanese soldiers committed many atrocities against Okinawan civilians: rape and murder, using them as human shields, and forcing them to commit suicide rather than risk capture by US troops. This issue is still alive today, as the Japanese Ministry of Education has censored history textbooks that describe the mass suicide and the Japanese military's role in it.

In signing the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951, Japan sacrificed Okinawa once again. Japan's post-war constitution guaranteed basic human and civil rights but Okinawa was excluded from it and forced to serve as a US military outpost. When the US finally returned control of Okinawa to Japanese administration in 1972, the two nations agreed that US bases would remain.

