

# Stop Fascist Tokyo Governor Ishihara Invade in Education Scene!

## Refusal To Stand Up for “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” Is the Very Struggle Against Collaboration with the War.

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*For us lads of eighteen they ought to have been mediators and guides to the world of maturity, the world of work, or duty, of culture, of progress – to the future. We often made fun of them and played jokes on them, but in our hearts we trusted them. The idea of authority, which they represented, was associated in our minds with a greater insight and a more humane wisdom. But the first dead we saw shattered this belief. We had to recognize that our generation was more to be trusted than theirs. They surpassed us only in phrases and in cleverness. The first bombardment showed us our mistake, and under it the world as they had taught it to us broke in pieces.*

*While they continue to write and talk, we saw the wounded and dying. While they taught that duty to one's country is the greatest thing, we already knew that death-throes are stronger.*

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet On the Western Front*

### War starts from classrooms

It was at the end stage of WW I in Germany. “Now is the time for us to put our utmost power in the war,” teachers who had never been on the front preached virtue of war and patriotism. “Youngsters! Honor is waiting for you in the front”. At their instigation the students volunteered and went to the front one after another. Faced with the bitterness of the war the youth accused the teachers as cited above.

War started from classrooms. Now, once again war is going to start from classrooms.

War doesn't belong to the past. Now, two years after the beginning of Iraq war, the whole world knows an outrageous lie of “the weapons of mass destruction” and still war of mass slaughter of Iraqi people is going on. The stubborn resistance of Iraqi people has drawn the aggressors into quagmire; they, however, continue an endless war. They have formed the Axis of US, UK and Japan and have launched a scheme of the US military “transformation” in order to spread aggressive war throughout the world. The Koizumi administration is fully committed in this war drive.

Now 60 years after the defeat of the Japanese imperialism in WW II, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party has presented a draft of the constitutional revision to put an end to the postwar history of Japan. The Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) has recently proposed a revision of the Constitution and an amendment of the Fundamental Law on Education. Their revision is focused on the deletion of the second paragraph\* of Article 9 and the recognition of the right of collective defense.

In these circumstances the education is targeted. The government has seriously launched an attempt to transform classroom into a place of building up young people into soldiers who “sacrifice their own lives to the nation and kill people of other countries”. Otherwise, it is impossible to make Japan a war-waging state. Thus, the ruling class feels it inadmissible that education workers are sticking by the slogan: “Never again send our students to the battlefield”.

### Struggle against “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” defeats the revision of the Constitution and the Fundamental Law on Education

The resistance of education workers is a major obstacle for the government and the ruling party. As long as peace and human rights are openly pleaded in the

classrooms and the “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” is argued at every ceremony of graduation or enrollment, transformation of education into war brainwashing is impossible.

The struggle of education workers against “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” is a major power to defend classrooms from the attack of the reactionary forces, such as the government, Fascist Tokyo governor Ishihara.

### Absolute NO to collaboration with war!

#### Education Workers at the decisive crossroad

During the Fifteen Year War of Japanese Aggression on Asia, teachers played crucial role in establishing National War Mobilization System. Teachers instigated young people to devotion of their lives to the Emperor and the State, praising it as supreme virtue and persuaded them of the “Invincibility of the Divine Country Japan”. In Hiroshima, a girl in her death agony caused by the atomic bomb was reported to have scolded her parents, “Don't cry! I'm dying a death of honor for the Emperor's sake”.

The ruling class now demands teachers to pursue once again a “divine vocation” of wartime education. We should not look on the Tokyo Education Board's notification of October 23, 2003 on “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” enforcement, as an “occasional tempest”. Education workers face an alternative to be teachers of war education as divine vocation or to categorically refuse collaboration with war and to resolutely confront every drive for war.

### Stop Fascist Ishihara to take over classrooms!

ISHIHARA Shintaro is a genuine Fascist who openly avows: “I really want to be a Hitler, if possible”. Repeatedly declaring “Starting from Tokyo I transform Japan” “I launch a coup d'etat from Tokyo”, he aims to transform Japan into a country capable of waging war.

Ishihara as Tokyo Governor focuses on “educational reform.” In his scheme of total social reform, Tokyo's education has a key position. In the neighboring prefectures, Kanagawa and Saitama, and the City of Yokohama, the offices of governors and the mayor are already occupied by those politicians who advocate Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform (Tsukuru-kai). If in the coming municipal election of Chiba prefecture, MORITA Kensaku who demands “elimination of the masochistic view of the

\* “In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”

Japanese history”, i.e. refusal of self-criticism of Japanese aggression on Asia, is elected Governor, Ishihara’s scheme of establishing a “Great Metropolitan Coalition” of Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba will be completed.

Don’t allow Fascist taking-over of classrooms. The future of Japan depends on the struggle over education in Tokyo.

### **Regain fighting solidarity of rank and file to fight back union busting against the NIKKYOSO and TOKOKYO**

The government together with the Nippon Keidanren (JBF) is intent on union busting to suppress workers’ resistance to achieve their aim of transforming Japan into a war-waging country. The labor unions of the former Kankoro (Confederation of Governmental, Municipal and Public Service Workers’ Unions), such as Nikkyoso (Japan Teachers’ Union), Zentei (Postal Workers’ Union) and Jichiro (All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers’ Union) are targeted. The urgent policy of the ruling class is to privatize the postal service, to change public service system, to carry out tax reform and to totally dismantle social security system. We live in an age, in which Nikkyoso and Tokokyo can never escape from attacks by the Ministry of Education, Culture etc and Tokyo Board of Education by keeping a low profile.

To allow breakup of Tokokyo or to revive it as fighting union through the united power of rank and file members, these are the only alternatives.

### **TOKOKYO leadership invites police suppression**

Some of the high school headmasters called the police to interfere distribution of flyers in front of the school gates. It is quite a horrible behavior for high school.

But more serious problem is that the Executives of TOKOKYO issued a direction to union members to inform the school administration when somebody distributes flyers. It means to help school administration call the police. Is it permissible for union officers?

### **New upsurge of labor movement**

Fifteen years have passed since the disruption of the Sohyo (General Council of Trade Unions of Japan) and the founding of the Rengo (Japanese Trade Union Confederation) and Japanese working class has experienced a bitter period. In these few years, however, a totally new phase of upsurge has begun. On March 20, 2004, the first anniversary of the outbreak of the Iraq war, a massive mobilization of labor unions was successfully carried out as international anti-war struggle beyond the difference of the national federations they affiliate for the first time since the founding of the Rengo. Participants in this historical action were 60,000 in the Hibiya Park in Tokyo, one million across Japan and ten million in the whole world.

Also in the struggle against the revision of the Fundamental Law on Education, joint action of union members comprising both of Nikkyoso and Zenkyo (All-Japan Federation of Teacher’s and Staff’s Unions) has succeeded in preventing governmental attempt of submitting the bill of the planned revision in the Diet.

On February 6, a rally to refuse enforcement of “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” was held by the Network to Surround the Tokyo Board of Education with 950 education workers and citizens and issued a declaration to fight against “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” through united action including workers of other industries.

### **Osaka teachers refused to stand up for “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” in graduation ceremonies**

Everywhere in Japan, teachers are rising up for struggle against “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” in firm solidarity with their fellow teachers in Tokyo. In Osaka, graduation ceremonies are taking place in public high schools from February 24. Osaka High School Teachers’ Union produced union’s flyers and placards against coercion of “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” and union members themselves distributed them in graduation ceremonies taking holidays. In a large number of high schools, all the teachers in charge of the graduating classes refused to stand up in the ceremonies or a majority of the participating teachers joined in the protest action.

### **Now, it is time to act!**

Last year several hundreds education workers refused to stand up or to accompany “Kimigayo” with piano and 248 out of them were disciplined. This struggle has exerted an enormous impact on the whole Japanese society, triggering an open dispute between the national papers --- Asahi, Yomiuri, Mainichi and Sankei --- in their editorials and drawing attention also from the media overseas.

Arrogance of Tokyo Governor Ishihara is the flip side of his fear of education workers’ struggle. When we successfully expand our struggle against “Hinomaru” and “Kimigayo” this spring, his violent attempt would be crashed and Fascist control of education will be defeated.

Okinawa people have a popular proverb: “Now or never! I or no one else!” These long cherished words of Okinawa people are now just directed for us, education workers in Tokyo and all over Japan.

All fellow teachers have the slogan in common: “Never again send our students to the battle field”. Let’s fight together in firm solidarity for the victory!

Your action of today, not of tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, decides the history.

Let’s demonstrate the real power of us, education workers, to arrogant Fascist Ishihara! Let’s fight out with pride.

NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER OF LABOR UNIONS was set up in 1989, the year of dissolution of Sohyo and founding of Rengo. The aim of NCCLU is to establish a class-based labor movement in confrontation with the degeneration of the labor movement represented by Rengo. Centering around Doro-Chiba, a sole union that fought back the Division and Privatization of the National Railways through strikes, and beyond the difference of national federations, it is a rank and file movement of union members and union activists, a movement of regaining labor movement from labor bureaucrats to the hands of workers on the work places.  
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