

**Joint Statement: We support Okinawa Governor Onaga's Decision to Revoke the Approval of Land Reclamation in Henoko:  
The Japanese Government Must Take the Public Opinion in Okinawa Seriously**

Today, Okinawa Governor Onaga Takeshi revoked the approval of land reclamation in Henoko as part of the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Nago City. We support his decision and demand that the Japanese government stop the construction of a new base there.

In the gubernatorial election in November 2014, Mr. Onaga ran on the campaign promise to stop the construction of a base in Henoko, soundly defeating the incumbent governor Nakaima Hirokazu by a margin of 100,000 votes. In fact, previous elections, the prefectural and municipal councils, and actions of citizens in Okinawa clearly and repeatedly expressed the public opinion opposing the base construction (see Appendix). The Japanese government should not ignore the overwhelming opposition among Okinawa residents.

Governor Onaga carefully deliberated on the revocation by consulting with an independent review committee. After considering the reclamation approval, the committee found four problems with its legality: (1) the “necessity of reclamation” is not demonstrated; (2) the condition of “appropriate and rational use of the land” is not met, i.e. benefits of the land use are not demonstrated to exceed costs; (3) environmental impact assessment and conservation measures are inadequate; and (4) the approved reclamation contradicts legally-binding prefectural policies, such as “Okinawa Biodiversity Strategy” and Ryukyu Islands Coastline Preservation Basic Plan.”

Ecosystems and biodiversity are valuable properties for humankind. They are also foundations for the local community to envision its future. Local residents therefore have the rights to participate in the process of deciding how to use natural resources and balance development with environmental conservation.

Moreover, the Aichi Targets adopted at the 2010 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (including Japan as a signatory) define the conservation of vulnerable ecosystems, especially coral reefs, and endangered species as an important goal. According to the international targets, Henoko and Oura Bay qualifies as a “high conservation value” ecosystem since it hosts more than 5,300 species, including 262 endangered ones.

In response to the governor's plan to revoke the approval of reclamation, the Japanese government is expected to file a request for administrative grievance hearings according to Article 255.2 of the Act on Local Autonomy. But this article is meant to protect rights of citizens against the exercise of undue power by the government. Such a request by the national government against the prefecture in a weaker position will contradict the spirit of law and democracy.

We thereby demand that the Japanese government accept the governor's plan to revoke the reclamation approval in light of the public opinion in Okinawa, not file a request for administrative grievance hearings, and stop the construction of a new base, for the sake of protecting the invaluable biodiversity in Henoko and Oura Bay.

## **Appendix: A Timeline of Okinawa Residents' Responses to the Construction of a Base in Hekono**

Dec 1997: Referendum on the construction of an offshore heliport in Nago (54% opposed)

Jan 2010: In the Nago City mayoral election, Susumu Inamine was elected on a campaign promise not to allow the construction of a new based either on sea or land in Henoko

Feb 2010: Okinawa Prefectural Assembly unanimously passed its bipartisan public statement calling for the relocation of MCAS Futenma out of Okinawa Prefecture or out of Japan

Nov 2010: Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima was reelected on a campaign pledge calling for the relocation of MCAS Futenma out of Okinawa Prefecture

Jan 2013: Leaders of all 41 Okinawan municipalities and representatives of Okinawa Citizens' Rally delivered the petition to Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, urging the cancellation of the MV-22 Osprey deployment and the relocation plan of MCAS Futenma within Okinawa Prefecture

Dec 2013: Governor Nakamine approved the landfill permit

Jan 2014: Nago Mayor Inamine was reelected

Aug 2014: Okinawa Defense Bureau began underwater boring

Nov 2014: In the gubernatorial election, Takeshi Onaga was elected on a campaign promise not to allow the construction of a new base in Henoko, defeating the incumbent Nakamine by a margin of 100,000 votes

Dec 2014: In the general election, All Okinawa, the political party opposing the construction of a new base in Hekone, defeated the ruling Liberal Democratic Party

Jan 2015: The government placed floats in the "emergency restricted area," destroying 2-45 tons of coral reefs outside of the area where crushing was permitted

(Source: "Issues of US Military Bases and Relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma to Henoko, Nago City," <http://www.city.nago.okinawa.jp/9/8048.html>)

Friends of the Earth Japan / Ramsar Network Japan / The Nature Conservation Society of Japan / Greenpeace Japan / Peace Boat / Citizens against military bases in Churaumi and in Yanbaru / Henoko Relay / Henoko heno kichikensetsuwo yurusanai jikkoiinkai / Peace News / Citizens' Council to Reform Public Works / herikichi iranai futamiihokujukkunokai / Mishima Shinwo Mamoukai / Green Harmony Japan / KORIYAMA RAKUSYOUMURA / North east Asia Information Center Hiroshima / the Osaka Association for military base free peaceful Okinawa / Peace-Link Hiroshima-kure-iwakuni / heiwakennpou wo mamoru arakawanokai / Kazasimo Fukusima / FBkenpokuyujyonokai / KAFTI / Save the Earth ! Action97 / Alternatives / Sumiko Seki / soratomo / Peace Learning Group in Kamakura / From Earth & Cafe Ohana / The Voice of Gifu Citizens for saving Peace, Human rights and Environment / The Association for Protect the Shiraho Coral Reef / Campaign for Nuclear-free Japan / nakusou hamaokagenpatu tenryunokai /

Henoko-Takae Project / The Association to Protect the Northernmost Dugong / No Nukes Asia Forum Japan / Ponte fra Italia e Giappone - TomoAmici / Meijigakuin University / Sustainable 21 / Green Action Saitama / hashimoto kenhachirou / Japan Bear & Forest Society / Yasukunisanpaiiken" fukuokahanketsu" oikasukai / Bookyotohishennokai • Fukuoka / kanagawaheiwakennpouwomamorukai / toki wo mitsumeru kai / yokohamananbu9jounokai / Wind of Citizens toward Uniting for Peace / Antinuclear power movement in shimanto / GROUP-MIRAI / sakeshiminkyodojimusho / joan-kawasaki / senior • workers coop sendai / Miyazaki group to protect nature and future / shinkyoukennsetukougyouoosaka / Peace Constitution League / nuchidutakara.aichi / kenju no kai / Iruka & Kujira(Dolphin & Whale) Action Network / crossroads\_kamakura / The Struggle Committee Against TOKUYAMA DAM / Article 9 Association • OGAKI / senniniinkai totsuka.sakae.izumi / heiwawotukuruyamatosiminokai / DAYS JAPAN Supporters Club Nagoya / Greens Japan Kyoto Branch / Greens Japan / KOBE Peace i-Network / himituhogohoukanngaerukawasakishiminokai / aoisoranokai / Biodiversity Information Box / Takagi School / Panel for Nuclear Education / Nihonkirisutokyoudankanagawakyoukukotobukitikucenter / oosakaaigawanochisuiokangaeruryuukirenrakukai / Article 9 Association Tokyo established by workers / dousuiroha iranai ! aitinokai / The Community of Yamaguchi-city people to accomplish the Constitution of Japan / Ootagawa-dam study group / Kodomonomiraiwotanoshikusurukai hanno / genpatuiran!yamaguti network / suounadanosizenwomamorukai / NIPPONZANMYOHOJI / The Peace and Nuclear Issues Committee of the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ) / Japan Civil Network for United Nations Decade on Biodiversity / POREPORE SAKURA / FREE SCHOOL ISHINOMAKI TERAKOYA / kanagawaken roudoukumiai kyoutoukaigi / citizen-conscious community / Association of A-bomb survivors' children / Association of concerned citizens for Yamba Dam Project / Fukushima Cultural Support Network. / Friends of lake Biwa / 9nohi-standing-chigasaki / No Nukes Chigasaki / ATTAC Kyoto / sanpachichihouroudoukumiaisourenjou / hibakuiryou wo kangaerukai kagoshima / SuieiNPO / Agenda Project / Allen Nelson Peace Project / Greenpeace Japan / Meeting to talk about the future of the new Hiroshima / Eastern Saitama Hyakunin committee / Nakano Koujyou-iinkai / Nakanono kyoiukuokangaeru kusanonenokai / Nerima Koinonia / Workers' Executive Committee For Anti-nuclear Power Movements / Little Hands / Dugong Network Okinawa / Japan Wetlands Action Network / JAPAN UNION FOR NATURE CONSERVATION / Noto Genpatu Bousai Kenkyu—kai / okinawakouryurentaiiinkai / nerima9jounokai / Stop ! Henoko Sinkiti kensetu ! Osaka Action / anti-war-network / Henokoni kitio zettai tukurasenai Osaka Kodo / Yamato-Koriyama Peace Committee,Nara / utukushiinshikigawawomiraihetewasukai / akita kenpoukyujou • sekaihemiraihe • renrakukai / NPO Aoitori / Solidarity with the rage of Uchinanchu - Santama Citizen's Association / Hinoshi no ima to mirai wo kangaeru kai / Osprey no Yokota kichi heno haibi ni hantaisuru kai / Syndicat du personnel administratif de l'Institut franco-japonais de Tokyo / 9jyounokaikawanisi / kitakyusyu gakko union ui / kansai.okinawasen wo kangaerukai / Ffukushima Children's Fund / Henoko no umini kichiwo tukurasenai KOBE koudou / yurusanaisennsouhououruitabasikoudoujikkouiinkai / Violence Against Women in War Research Action Center / datugennpatuhe! kandenkabunusikoudounokai / Community-based Development Initiatives Center / Shizuoka—housyanou—osennsokuteisitu / GAKUDOU9JOUNOKAI • CHIBA / Mito Peace Forum / Shimin no iken 30 no kai Tokyo / 9jounokai Ube / International Center for Literacy and Culture (ICLC) / rentai rouso .yamagiti / Voice • of • Hiroshima / midorinara / Peace Up Team for Visualization of the Article 9 / Cycle of Life / Tokorozawa 「Peace Declaration City」 Club / CITIZENS' ORGANIZATION for PEACE in OITA / No Base! Linking Okinawa & kyoto / People with Peace Constitution / West-Chugoku District of The United Church of Christ in Japan / Minshuku Yaponesia / Humanrights and Peace Network in Ube / Workers for Peace / Diving team Rainbow / Choufu Church / Santama Network of Cycling for Peace / network earth village / united church of christ tohoku district ministry committee / YWCA of NAGOYA / Abe seiken ni NO ! Tokyo • Chiki Network / 'Katayabira OKINAWA' Moai Nerima / Henoko Umetate Dosya Hnsyutu

Keikaku Hantai Zenkoku Renraku Kyougikai / Pan Setonaikai Inlandsea congress / Takamatsu Tidal Flat Conservation Group / Dugong no sato / Stop Making Caisson for Henoko from Mie / Change Tokyo! / New Wave to HOPE / Nerima Bunkanokai / the nagara river studay citizen group / yomigaere nagaragawa jikkouinnkai / miyamori.630wotutaerukai / wakaba 9 jou no kai sewaninkai / Citizens' Network for Biodiversity in Okinawa / earthvillage@iidasimoina / ODA Reform Network Kansai / Kansai Action Center on Philippine Human Rights Issues / 1000 people committee that does not war in Sakyo KYOTO / Association to Save Tidal Flats in Chiba / 2015 Iwakuni☆Workers anti-war exchanges rally Executive Committee / okinawano takae • henokoni tunagaru naranokai / Asia Wide Campaign YAMAGUCHI / shinaishinai-net / DAYS JAPAN KANSAI SUPPORTERS CLUB / alternative kanagawa / datugennpatukawasakishiminn / chiikikaraheiwawo kanngaerukai / kyoudokyouikuzenkokukyougikai / stopyanbadam • siminnet / Fujimae Ramsar Society / inochinonekkowosodaterukai / OKINAWABUNKAKOZA / OKINAWAKOZA / ikiruasisuto.com / životnu sredinu/ FoE Bosnia and Herzegovina / Friends of the Earth Canada /

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