

RESOLUTION OF PROTEST CALLING FOR THE THOROUGH ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINE AMONG U.S. SERVICEMEMBERS, CIVILIAN PERSONEL AND OTHER RELATED MEMBERS

Taking the string of alcohol-related incidents and accidents since the end of last year involving US military members and other related persons, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly unanimously adopted, on February 25, the letter of opinion and the protest resolution calling for the thorough enforcement of discipline among US military servicemembers, civilian personnel, and other related persons. We have called on the relevant authorities strongly requesting for the fulfillment of our calls.

Despite this, there have been a series of arrests of US military servicemembers and other relevant persons for driving under the influence of alcohol, etc., since the beginning of the current Japanese fiscal year. In the two days of May 30 and 31, there were five apprehensions, showing abnormal circumstances.

Furthermore, on June 6, a Marine Corps sergeant from Camp Hansen was apprehended as a suspect in an incident that occurred on the 24th of the previous month along the street of Kokusai-Dori; and on June 25, the case of another servicemember stationed at Kadena Air Base was referred to the Naha District Public Prosecutor's Office as an accomplice in this incident.

In spite of our repeated calls, it is regrettable that these incidents involving US military personnel and other relevant persons have been taking place. The situation is unacceptable and we cannot help but strongly question the US military in their preventive efforts and in the training, educating, and disciplining of its members.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, from the standpoint of protecting the human rights, lives and properties of the citizens of Okinawa, strongly protest against the recent incidents, and at the same time, strongly demand the expeditious realization of the following items.

1. Full compensation and apologies to be made to the victim and his family.
2. To call for discipline among US military personnel and other SOFA-related persons, and for the implementation of effective regulations and guidance.
3. To immediately conduct a fundamental review of the Status of Forces Agreement.

The above is resolved as stated on this 13th day of July, 2015

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly