



OKINAWA PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

1-2-3 Izumizaki, Naha City, Okinawa JAPAN 900-8501

TEL: (098) 866-2574 FAX: (098) 866-2350

OPA Secretariat Ref. No. 1035

February 15, 2017

Mr. Jason P. Hyland
Chargé d'Affaires
Embassy of the United States of America

SUBJECT:

Presentation of the Resolution of Protest

Dear Sir,

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly hereby presents the appended Resolution of Protest over the US Forces AH-1Z Attack Helicopter Crash Landing Incident. The Resolution was adopted on February 15, in the First (Regular) Session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly for the year 2017.

Sincerely,

Yonekichi Shinzato
Speaker
Okinawa Prefectural Assembly



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February 15, 2017

Lieutenant General Jerry P. Martinez
Commander
US Forces Japan

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February 15, 2017

Lieutenant General Lawrence D. Nicholson
Okinawa Area Coordinator
US Forces Japan

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OPA Secretariat Ref. No. 1035

February 15, 2017

The Honorable Joel Ehrendreich
U.S. Consul General
Consulate General of the United States of America, Naha

SUBJECT:

Presentation of the Resolution of Protest

Dear Sir,

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly hereby presents the appended Resolution of Protest over the US Forces AH-1Z Attack Helicopter Crash Landing Incident. The Resolution was adopted on February 15, in the First (Regular) Session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly for the year 2017.

Sincerely,

Yonekichi Shinzato
Speaker
Okinawa Prefectural Assembly

**Resolution of Protest
Over the
US Forces AH-1Z Attack Helicopter Crash Landing Incident**

At approximately 7:30 PM on January 20, 2017, an AH-1Z attack helicopter based at US MCAS Futenma crash landed on a farm road on Ikei, in Yonashiro, Uruma City.

The location of the crash landing is a farm road used daily by the local farmers and others, and with a resort hotel facility nearby, this could have led to a very serious incident involving the lives and properties of the people. This incident has not only affected the residents in the vicinity but has impacted the people throughout Okinawa Prefecture with great anxiety.

We have seen a string of aircraft accidents of different models in a short period of time, with the AV-8B Harrier crash in September; the MV-22 Osprey in December; and now the AH-1Z attack helicopter, all of which should not have happened. We are left with strong doubts and distrust in the preventive efforts of the US Forces. Furthermore, it is truly regrettable as that the aircraft left the site of the incident the following morning without a thorough explanation as to the cause of the incident, and regular exercises with the same model of aircraft have resumed.

According to the local residents, with the increase in the number of low-altitude flight training and other such exercises in the surrounding areas of the accident site, there has been a decline in the volume of catch in the local fishing and there have been claims by the fishermen of significant impact on the fishery earnings.

Moreover, on the day of the crash landing incident, a US Forces helicopter that took off from Camp Schwab was reported to be engaged in exercises above residential areas, national roads, and other places, with military personnel hanging from the aircraft, despite the attention repeatedly called by the residents and other people in the surrounding areas regarding these drills. The US Forces have shown that their operations take priority over the people of the Prefecture who are forced to live side by side with the bases, and such lack of consideration for the people leaves us with strong feelings of indignation.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives, safety and the living environment of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest the recent aircraft accident and call for the prompt execution of the five following items.

- I. Conduct thorough investigation of the cause of the accident and promptly release the findings to the citizens of the prefecture.
- II. Until the investigation into the cause of the incident is complete, and safety and

preventive measures are put into effect, suspend all flights of the same model.

- III. Cease all drills and exercises above residential areas and other areas outside of the training areas.
- IV. Conduct a thorough review of aircraft maintenance and inspection frameworks and improve efficiency in the safety management and preventive measures against aircraft incidents.
- V. Be thorough in the education and training of the military personnel and in the management of the training and exercises.

The above is resolved as stated on this 15th day of February, 2017.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly