

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST  
OVER THE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES  
BY US MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL ON OKINAWA**

On April 7, 2025, the Okinawa Prefectural Police sent papers to the Naha District Public Prosecutors' Office over an incident alleged to have taken place in March of this year. On April 30, prosecutors indicted a US Marine Corps member on allegations of sexually assaulting an adult female on a US military base and causing injuries to a second woman.

Furthermore, it was also revealed that a different sexual assault incident had taken place in January of this year, by another US Forces personnel.

With every accident and incident that takes place, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly (OPA) has strongly called for the enforcement of strict discipline, the implementation of preventive measures, and ensuring thorough education and other such actions for relevant members. Moreover, it was only recently that the OPA unanimously passed resolutions including a statement of opinion, lodged our strong protest, and called for swift measures to be taken over the incident that took place last July, where a similar case occurred against a minor. It is difficult to say that sincere responses have been made in the various efforts related to preventing recurrences, and with the delays in the forum, in which both the Japanese and US governments agreed to steadily implement, the said efforts remain insufficient.

Incidents like this have been occurring repeatedly, where women's human rights, dignity, and safe and secure working environments are being threatened, and this current situation requires immediate and fundamental improvements. To address this, it is urgently required to implement specific and effective measures in a manner visible to the people of Okinawa, including the review and thorough implementation of human rights education not only for military personnel stationed in Okinawa, but also for US Forces personnel and related persons who are here temporarily for training or other purposes, and also to engage in discussions in a new forum aimed at resolving these issues.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives and properties of the people of Okinawa, solemnly protest these recent incidents and strongly call for the following five (5) items.

1. Re-inspect the human rights education programs for those related to the US Forces (including those stationed long-term and also for those here on short-term stays), and implement these programs effectively and continuously.
2. Implement specific and effective measures aimed at preventing recurrences of incidents and accidents both on and off US Forces bases.
3. Regarding the new forum announced by the Commander of US Forces Japan, it should be held regularly to hold effective discussions regarding the disclosure of incidents, prevention of harm, and measures to prevent recurrences, and disclose the outcome to the public.
4. Both governments of Japan and the US should take responsibility for providing care, offering apologies, and compensating the victims, while disclosing the status of these efforts to the people of Okinawa.
5. Based on Japan's position as a sovereign nation, a fundamental revision should be undertaken regarding the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, which grants privileged treatment to US Forces personnel. In particular, the provisions regarding the transfer of custody in criminal cases should be revised immediately to ensure that Japanese authorities can promptly secure the custody of suspects in cases that occur outside of official duties.

The above is resolved as stated on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

**Okinawa Prefectural Assembly**