

基地重圧に怒り、悲しみ

米軍属女性暴行殺人事件を受け、県民から多くの意見が本紙「声」の欄に寄せられた。今回の事件への悲しみと怒りに触れながら、基地の過重負担や、米軍人・軍属による事件が繰り返されていることに対する日米両政府の責任を問う声などがあった。紙面に掲載した県民の声の一部を紹介する(敬称略、年齢は掲載時)。

Anger, sadness over oppression from bases

After the rape and murder incident involving an ex-US Marine, many readers from throughout Okinawa sent in their opinions to the Ryukyu Shimpo's "Voice" section. As many expressed sadness and anger at this incident, it highlights the responsibility of the Japanese and the US governments in reducing Okinawa's excessive military base-hosting burden, and the repeated incidents by US military personnel and civilian personnel that come with that burden. Below are some of the opinions of Okinawan citizens that appeared in the paper (Summary, Age at the time of issue).

基地周辺に住む恐怖

泉初枝 (53歳 那覇市)

小さい頃、近くに外人住宅が多くあり、当たり前のように英語が飛び交う環境に住んでいました。良き人もいれば悪い人もいて、実際、窃盗や強姦(ごうかん)事件が多くありました。暗くなると、女性1人で外出はできません。戸締まりや施錠も当然欠かせません。「自分の身は自分で守れ」と、父に言われて育ちました。外国人などに追い掛けられるのは日常茶飯事でしたから。凶悪な事件が起こるたび、小さかった頃の恐怖がよみがえります。絶対に起きてはいけな。起こしてはいけない。安全・安心な世の中になるのを祈るばかりです。(5月24日掲載)

Fear to live around the bases

Hatsue Izumi (53years old,Naha)

When I was little, I lived in a neighborhood where there were many houses for foreigners and English was often spoken. There are good people and bad people. However, there were many incidents of stealing and rape. When it got dark, a woman couldn't go out alone. We could never forget to lock up the house. My father taught me, saying, "Protect yourself," because it was common for a woman to be followed by foreigners. Whenever a horrible crime occurs, I remember the fear I felt when I was a kid. It can never happen. We can never let it happen. I just hope our society becomes safe. (Posted on May 24)

基地撤去しかない

比嘉喜敬 (84歳 豊見城市)

沖縄が復帰して44年経ても、重苦しい塊が頭の中に居座り続けている。なぜ繰り返し沖縄は悲しみを打ち込まれるのか、安倍晋三首相はどう考えているのか、その真意を聞きたい。絶対に植民地扱いには許されない。米軍属による女性遺棄に心が割れる思いだ。直ちに日米の地位協定を見直す時期にきている。そして米軍を撤退させるべきだ。沖縄に米軍基地がなければこの悲惨な事件はなかった。日米協定に実効性がなければ、全基地を沖縄から撤去して軍隊は撤退すべきだ。それができないなら、全基地の門に施錠すべきだ。最終的には基地撤去しかない。(5月30日掲載)

The removal of the bases is the only way

Yoshitaka Higa (84years old,Tomigusuku)

Even after 44 years of Okinawa's reversion, a heavy burden remains in my mind. Why is Okinawa repeatedly beset by sadness? I would like to hear the true intent of the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe - what is behind his thinking? We can never allow being treated like a colony. I feel heartbroken about the abandonment of a body by the U.S. military employees. The US-Japan Status-of-Forces Agreement should immediately be reviewed. Moreover, the U.S. military should be removed. If there were no US military bases in Okinawa, such a tragic incident would not have happened. As the SOFA is not effective, the military bases should be removed from Okinawa and their personnel also withdrawn. If this is impossible, all the base gates should be locked. Ultimately, the removal of the bases is the only way. (Posted on May 30)

政治部

滝本 匠 Takumi Takimoto
当路 寿夫 Hisao Tourne
島袋 良太 Ryota Shimabukuro
赤嶺 可有 Naoki Isa

社会部

新垣 和也 Kazuya Arakaki
宮城 隆寿 Takahiro Miyagi

文化部

高江洲洋子 Yoko Takaesu
瀬原正志郎 Seishiro Sesoko
伊佐 尚記 Naoki Isa

南部報道部

宮里 努 Tsutomu Miyazato

デザイングループ

立津 渚人 Yoshito Tatetsu
相 弓子 Yumiko Ai
仲本 文子 Ayako Nakamoto

English version translated and edited by Sandi Ariza, Erin Jones, Megumi Chibana, Miwa Murphy, Jane Close and T&CT

被害者の無念を思う

具志幸雄 (36歳 那覇市)

他県では類を見ないであろう米軍関係者の凶悪犯罪がまた発生した。行き場のない悲しみと怒りで平静を保てない。米軍人や軍属の常軌を逸した犯罪は、軍隊という特殊な環境に原因がある。生きるか死ぬかの戦闘行為では、躊躇(ちゆうちゆう)することなく攻撃するために、相手の苦痛に鈍感にならなければならないからだ。米軍基地の問題は、実際に本土に分散することで、国民に強い関心を持たせなければならない。それにより、真実が周知され、米軍の綱紀粛正の自覚も高まるかもしれない。(6月1日掲載)

I feel chagrined for the victim

Yukio Gushi (36years old,Naha)

Another violent crime by a U.S. military related person occurred that is not seen in other prefectures. I cannot remain calm without somewhere to focus my sadness and anger. The unique environment created by the military on Okinawa is the reason for aberrational crimes by U.S. military personnel and employees. Military personnel are required to become insensitive to others' suffering in order to attack them without hesitation during a life-or-death battle. The issue of the U.S. military bases should be discussed widely in mainland Japan and the national public should have an interest in it. Then the truth would be widely known, and the U.S. military might also become aware of the need for the enforcement of strict discipline. (Posted on June 1)

安心できる日常を

安里春美 (63歳 北中城村)

またしても米軍属による凶悪事件だ。県、市町村議会の抗議決議が相次ぐが、日米両政府は「綱紀粛正、再発防止」という口先だけの対応に終始し、沖縄の現状は変わらない。命を奪われた女性のご家族の心情を思うと胸が痛む。報道を見ると、日本政府の対応に怒りが募る。日米安保が大事と言うならば米軍基地を日本本土に持っていつてほしい。沖縄は日本のために十分尽くしてきた。沖縄に基地がある限り、事件事故は絶対無くならない。これ以上の犠牲は、まっぴらごめんだ。私たちは平和で安心できる日常生活がほしいだけだ。(5月29日掲載)

For everyday safety

Harumi Asato (63years old,Kitanakagusuku)

Another heinous crime by a U.S. military employee. Prefectural and municipal councils have successively passed resolutions of protest. However, both the Japanese and U.S. governments are full of empty correspondence on "the enforcement of strict discipline" and the "prevention of a recurrence." The situation in Okinawa has not changed. When I think about the family of the woman who lost her life, I feel pain in the chest. When I watch the news, I feel angry at the reactions of the Japanese government. If the Japan-US Security Treaty is so important, I want the U.S. military bases to be taken to mainland Japan. Okinawa has sacrificed enough for Japan. As long as the military bases are in Okinawa, incidents and accidents will never go away. I do not want any further sacrifices. We just want an everyday life of peace and safety. (Posted on May 29)

県外紙社説を読んで

山城きよ子 (68歳 与那原町)

米軍属女性遺棄事件に関する全国紙、地方紙10紙の社説を読んだ。8紙には共通のフレーズ「沖縄に米軍専用施設の74%が集中している」と書いてあった。安保条約は日本にとって必要と考える人が今日、多数を占めている。その条約に基づき米軍が駐留している。しかし、その74%は沖縄に置いたままでよいとの考えを持つ人々がいるから、国民の間で議論にならないのであろうか。沖縄では基地から派生するさまざまな問題におびえ、悲しみ、それが怒りとなって連なる日常生活の中で暮らしていることに、想像力を巡らせてほしい。(6月3日掲載)

After reading editorials of non-Okinawan newspapers

Kiyoko Yamashiro (68years old,Yonabaru)

I read the editorials in national and regional newspapers about the abandonment of a body by the U.S. military employee. Eight papers all pointed out the same thing, "74% of Japan's U.S. military facilities are located in Okinawa." Nowadays, the majority of Japanese people think that Japan needs the Japan-U.S Security Treaty. Based on the treaty, the U.S. military has been stationed here. I wonder if the U.S. military issue in Okinawa does not become one of national public discussion because people assume 74% of the bases can remain in Okinawa because it does not affect them. I want people to try to imagine what it is like for Okinawans who live every day surrounded by fear, sadness and anger caused by the military bases. (Posted on June 3)

大国指導者の責任

大濱邦 (42歳 那覇市)

残念なことが起きた。米軍属女性死体遺棄事件である。沖縄はまた怒りと悲しみに包まれた。安倍首相は「非常に強い憤り」を、モンデール元副大統領も「とても怒り」を覚えていたとのことだった。しかし、大国の指導者たちは、日米地位協定の矛盾や県民の人権問題の本質から目を背けてきた己の怠慢に對してこそ、強い憤りを覚えなければならぬのではないか。そういう役割である彼らは、また問題の本質から目を背けたのだ。犯罪者は処罰しろ、責任者は処分しろといったところか。責任者は自分なの。(5月26日掲載)

Responsibility of big nations' leaders

Kuni Ohama (42years old,Naha)

A regretful thing happened. It was the abandonment of a woman's body by a U.S. military employee. Okinawa is again filled with anger and sadness. The Prime Minister said he felt "very strong anger." Former Vice President of the United States Walter Mondale also expressed "strong anger."However, I think leaders of big nations should feel a strong anger against their own default in turning away from dealing with the contradictions of the US-Japan Status-of-Forces Agreement and the principle of the human rights of Okinawan people. Those with major roles again turned away from the nature of the problem. Their action is only to punish a criminal and withdraw a person-in-charge. They are the ones with responsibility. (Posted on May 26)



Lend an ear to the voices of the victims' souls

“Come home with your father.” The father’s call echoed through the grass by the side of the highway in Onna Village. The “mabuiyumi” ritual was being held one month after a young woman’s body was found abandoned here. The ritual is said to be able to return the victim’s soul to her family.

A young woman out on a walk was suddenly violated and robbed of her life by a U.S. military contractor. 61 years have passed since a

six-year-old girl was raped and murdered; 21 years have passed since a twelve-year-old girl was violently assaulted. Yet again, Okinawa was unable to protect the dignity and life of a woman.

Though the Battle of Okinawa ended 71 years ago, the war has not yet ended for Okinawans, who are forced to live their daily lives unable to rest in fear of violence.

On June 19, Okinawa Mass Protest Rallies will be held at Naha’s Ounoyama Athletic Park and elsewhere to protest the rape and murder of a woman by a U.S. military contractor. This special feature by the Ryukyu Shimpo compiles a history of crimes and accidents

「お父さんと一緒に帰るよ」。恩納村の県道沿い、草むらに父親の叫びが響いた。遺棄から約1ヵ月後の魂^{まぶい}込み。被害者の魂は家族の元に帰ることができただろうか。

ウォーキングしていただけた女性^{じゆうめい}が突然、米軍属の男によって蹂躪され、命まで奪われた。幼女殺害事件から61年、少女乱暴事件から21年。沖縄はまたしても女性^{じゆうめい}の尊厳を、命を守ることができなかった。沖縄戦は71年前に終わったはずだが、暴力におびえ、安息のない日常を強いられる沖縄の人々は、いまだ戦争のさなかに取り残されている。

米軍属女性暴行殺人事件を受けた県民大会が19日、那覇市の奥武山陸上競技場などで開かれる。これまでに沖縄で起こった米軍関連の事件・事故、米軍人・軍属の特権を認めた日米地位協定の不平等性、女性や子どもら弱い立場にある人々がことごとく踏みにじられてきた歴史を私たちは忘れない。

今も沖縄の空をチョウのようにただよい、助けを求め続ける魂があるかもしれない。おびたさい犠牲者の魂の声に耳を澄ませ、米軍基地に起因する悲しみの連鎖を断ち切る。沖縄の人々の命と人権、尊厳をいま、守らなければならない。

71年前、米軍が上陸した談谷村渡具知。当時は米軍の艦船や上陸用舟艇が水平線を埋め尽くした＝2016年6月14日 Toguchi, Yomitan Village, where U.S. troops landed 71 years ago. At the time of landing, the horizon was filled with U.S. warships and landing craft, June 14, 2016.

involving the U.S. military that have occurred in Okinawa, delves into the unequal nature of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces agreement, which allows U.S. military personnel and civilian employees special privileges, and describes how the rights of vulnerable people such as women and children have been utterly trampled upon.

There may still be souls drifting through the Okinawan skies like butterflies, continuing to cry out for help. We must lend an ear to the voices of the souls of these countless victims and put an end to the cycle of grief originating from the U.S. bases. We must now protect the lives, human rights, and dignity of the Okinawan people.