

Program of August 5 Rally of Education workers

Report of sister Arlene Inouye

Report of sisters Nezu and Kawarai

Young workers' report on their struggle against Hinomaru and Kimigayo

Discussion

Proposition of International Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba

Join us in August 5 Rally of Education Workers

Sister Arlene Inouye is coming from US

Sister Arlene Inouye is a union member of the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA with 48,000 members) and a major leader of the struggle to stop military recruitment in schools in cooperation with parents and students. She is a teacher of a high school in the poor district of Los Angeles in which Latino occupies 98% of its students. She witnessed in her school military recruiters swagger and quite openly urge students to join the military one after another. Infuriated by this outrageous situation of schools, she began her activity to drive out military recruiters from schools through various ways. Her struggle reached a new dimension in 2003 with founding of the Coalition Against Militarism in our Schools (CAMS) that got support from the UTLA and has become a nationwide struggle, growing into a threatening power to shake up the war mobilization system.

We are great persons!

On August 5 in Hiroshima, we are going to organize a national coordinating rally of education workers with the participation of sister Inouye. The aim of the rally is to promote our struggle through exchanging experiences and encouraging each other of the Japan-US education workers for a greater victory of our movement.

In Japan we are now confronted with a series of reactionary offensives: introduction of job evaluation system and renewal of teacher licensing system and others. It signifies an overall implementation of the newly revised Fundamental Law of Education that requires us to launch a decisive battle against the reactionary attack on education.

Let's follow exemplary struggles of brothers and sisters of the Okinawa High School Teachers Union and the Hokkaido branch of Japan Teachers Union who recently waged a one-hour strike respectively. We could achieve a great breakthrough in our struggle if we successfully develop the struggle against Hinomaru and Kimigayo, fighting back intimidation by means of disciplinary measures.

Let's strengthen nationwide unity of education workers and promote international

solidarity for a powerful development of struggle in workplace.

August 5 Rally last year was a great success

Date: August 5, starts at 13 p.m.

Place: Citizen's Culture Center of Hiroshima-East district (five-minutes walk from the bullet train station)

Contact us: Tokyo 090-9838-0343 (Yoneyama)

Hiroshima 090-6434-8078 (Imaoka)

Endorsement (as of June 15):

ISHIDA Yoshinori (High school Teachers Union of Osaka)

IMAOKA Michiko (Hiroshima District Teachers Union)

KAWARAI Sumiko (Labor Union of Teachers of Schools for Handicapped Children in Tokyo)

KUWASAWA Kenji (Hiroshima District Teachers Union, Youth Section)

SATO Etsuko (Miura Peninsula District Teachers Union)

NEZU Kimiko (Tokyo District Teachers Union, Labor Union of Teachers of Schools for Handicapped Children in Tokyo)

YONEYAMA Yoshie (Tokyo District Teachers Union)

Let's create an international solidarity of education workers

A historical dimension was achieved at the November 3 International Solidarity Rally of Education Workers in Tokyo, in which the two struggles in Japan and the US joined together for the first time under the common slogan, “Never send our students to battlefields”, Japanese teachers’ struggle to refuse standing for Hinomaru and Kimigayo and the US teachers’ struggle to drive out military recruiters from schools.

We have come to realize that we are confronting beyond the border the same attack of educational reforms directed by neo-liberalism policy that aggravates the poverty and disparity and the sending students to battlefields. Above all the conviction has been strengthened all through the rally; the conviction that education workers have power to stop war and that workers united can change the world. We were strongly encouraged by the speech of sister Inouye who told us to be confident in ourselves and in our colleagues, “Maybe I’m great!”—she articulated her belief in such expression. This experience of international solidarity has given us power to develop our struggle further: the successful struggle to prevent dismissal of sister Nezu in the period from January to March this year and tenacious continuation and steady escalation of the struggle nationwide against Hinomaru and Kimigayo. Let’s fight on the bases of workplace struggles with full confidence of our victory.

For a society without war and exploitation

A huge wave of strikes and demonstrations for existence is sweeping in the whole world against war, unemployment, poverty and starvation. A historical May Day was achieved by the solidarity actions of the workers of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) who completely shut down the West Coast ports, and the Iraqi port workers who responded to it with a strike action.

The time has come for us workers to rise up in order to change such a society that can never stop war and no longer feed workers, and to make us workers to take the place of a genuine master of the society. We feel certain that the necessity of the time has brought us in two countries together, sister Inouye and us.

The National Union of Teachers (NUT) in Britain went into a nationwide strike on April 24 for the first time in 21 years upon the decision of the congress to oppose to military recruitment in schools. On June 8 the UTLA in the US also waged a one-hour strike to protest against the budget cut for education along with health and social services by the California State governor, Schwarzenegger.

Now education workers, who are confronted with a bitter offensive of neo-liberalism of war and poverty, should play a pivotal role in developing solidarity of working class.

Let's make August 6 Hiroshima Rally in 63 anniversary of atomic bombing a spring board for a fresh struggle to abolish nuke and war by the international workers' unity.

On April 3 the convention of the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) adopted a resolution proposed by the UTLA to support Japanese teachers' struggle against Hinomaru and Kimigayo.

On June 8, the UTLA waged a one-hour strike from the beginning time to oppose to the budget cut for education by the California State governor, Schwarzenegger

In March, education workers from across the country gathered successively in front of Tokyo Metropolitan Office to prevent the dismissal of sister Nezu because of her disobedience to Hinomaru and Kimigayo.

Japan- US education workers joined together passionately in their struggle with a common slogan "Never send our students to battlefields" in November Workers' Rally in Tokyo last year.