

~1 year after 3.11~

Situation of Rural Women affected by the Great Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Power Plant Accident

Speaker : Women and Mothers from Fukushima

Ms. Kazuko Ito (Human Rights Now)

Ms. Yoiko Ando (Japan Federation of Bar Associations)

Venue : 2nd Floor, UN Church Center Building

Time : 2:30pm to 4:00pm on 7th March 2012 (Wed)

Recovery and Rebirth with Gender View

On 11 March 2011, the earthquake and tsunami, which occurred in Eastern Japan, caused tremendous damage and resulted in numerous deaths. Furthermore, more residents in broader areas of Eastern Japan have been seriously affected by the accidents at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants. To date, living condition of affected people are quite poor and protection of fundamental human rights of affected people are not fully guaranteed. After the nuclear disaster, considerable amount of radioactive materials was released in widespread areas of North East Japan most of which are rural areas, and this creates serious risks to the health of the population.

Lack of protective measure such as support for evacuation and reparation for the people living in contaminated areas, free and swift medical check, providing clean foods and water by the government, causes serious risk of people's right to life, right to health, right to livelihood. In particular expecting mothers, infants, children are the most vulnerable to harm from radiation.

This session will present the situation of rural women affected by the disaster, and discuss challenges including protection of affected women and their families from the ongoing nuclear crisis.



October, 2011

Mr. Ryuichi Hirokawa (DAYS JAPAN)

<<Actual Damage>>

- Approximately 7000 women died
(larger than the number of deceased men by 1000)
- Needs of women were left behind in evacuation centers
- Women including domestic violence victims were (and are) imposed to be silent
- Condolence money is paid to head of family, i.e., men
- Diffusion of radiation was hidden and mothers and pregnant women live with anxiety about health
- Women are excluded from decision-making body for recovery

<< Revelation of Japanese Society Distortion continuing since before this Disaster >>

- Increase of elderly women in northeastern depopulated area
- Deep-rooted gender roll allocation and male-dominated policies centering on units of families
- Women working with low wages on non-permanent basis
- “Myth of security” of nuclear power plant created in the absence of interests of residents and habitual secrecy and closed nature of nuclear power community
- Low percentage of women in national politics and local administration

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