

Situation of women after natural / nuclear disaster in Japan

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Basic principle of the protection of the affected people after natural disaster

1 Affected people by the natural disaster shall be guaranteed all human rights protection under national and international law without any distinction to the other people.

Any discrimination shall not be justified on the ground that they are affected people/IDP

- Japanese constitution

Right to live with minimum standard of life in health and culture

- International convention; right to health, right to food, right to housing etc.



Special protection

1 Affected people is entitled special treatment and protection

based on their vulnerability

2 Most vulnerable people among the population

such as women children, disability elderly • •

should be entitled to special protection.

Human Rights Problem

■ Evacuation center

- Food, housing does not meet international standard.
- Male dominant, women's special needs cannot get paid attention. Right to privacy is not protected.
- Person with disability cannot enter evacuation center with fear of harassment or traumatization.

■ Temporary Shelter

Government cut the food supply and transporting service for people living in temporary shelter, so that most vulnerable people had to remain evacuation center.



Women in disaster

- No discrimination in terms of distribution of basic human needs
 - Women's specific need to be heard,
 - Evacuation center/ temporary shelter shall be safe and secure, with privacy
 - Protection women from violence
 - Counseling Center
 - Equal participation to the operation of shelter
- ⇒ The principle was not implemented:

Human Rights Situation after the Nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima

- Due to the accident in Fukushima Japan, huge amount of radioactive materials was released, which is estimated 168 times of that released by the atomic bomb in Hiroshima.
- This creates serious risks to the health of the population, in particular expecting mothers, infants, children and the young generations most vulnerable to harm from radiation
- ⇒ **Human Rights Problem. right to life, right to health including reproductive health**

Current situation

- However, many citizens in Fukushima still live in highly contaminated area, because the government limited evacuation zones very narrow based on the a **20mSv per year exposure standard**, which is indeed 20 times greater than the previous regulation based on international standard.
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Response of the government

1) Within 20 kilometers around the nuclear plant. ⇒ Prohibited to enter, compulsory evacuation

2) Within 30 kilometers around the nuclear plant ⇒ has been categorized as an “Emergency Evacuation Preparation Area,” or “Planned Evacuation Areas.”

3) Besides, the government is using a 20mSv per year standard to designate areas where evacuation is recommended, and for areas and spots that may become subject to higher radiation levels than this standard, the government undertakes measure for evacuations. Such designated areas or spots are highly limited

What about the Contaminated Areas under 20mSv per year standard?

- **Outside of evacuation zone, very wide area with big population including center part of Fukushima, big cities like Fukushima, Koriyama,**
- Without sufficient financial support for evacuation from the government, many people who do not afford to relocate have no choice but stay the contaminated area even though they may be exposed to health risks.
- Some families including children, babies expecting mothers decided to self evacuation without government support, but which is not majority.



Outside evacuation zone(under 20mSv/year), the government failed to provide protective measure

- The government failed to provide **free medical check, medical care** and provide clean food from outside.
- The prefecture government is conducting research of citizens' health, but in reality, it just sent **questionnaire** to ask behavior and activity of each individual after the accident, not asking people's physical condition, no medical treatment followed to the questionnaire (only 20% population respond)
- **Decontamination**, so far, almost no impact, local government mobilizes ordinary citizens including pregnant women to decontamination activity.
- Under such condition, people are facing serious risk to their rights to life, right to health and reproductive health. The expecting mothers, babies, children and the young generations are most vulnerable to the harm.

Withholding critical information

- Following the accident, the Japanese government got estimated data on how the radiation spread out, which direction and what amount through high level computer system Speedi, but did not disclose the data to the affected population(instead, provided the information to the US government).
- **Without warning, many people run away to the direction of radiation spread out , or stayed outside and exposed themselves to high level radiation.**

“ Safety” Propaganda

- The government conduct no proper guidance regarding the risk of radiation.
- Instead, there is strong campaign and propaganda surrounding Fukushima.


“ it is safe” “ no immediate harm”, “ no evidence of physical harm under 100 m Sv per year”

“ Do not be such nervous” “stress will be the most harmful to children”

Both national, local government took this position.

People who are concerned the situation become minority, isolated, force to be silent, feel hopeless, not encouraged to decide self evacuation.

People got tired, starts to stop protective measure from radiation. Kids play outside without any protective measure.



The young girls are living with fear for the future.

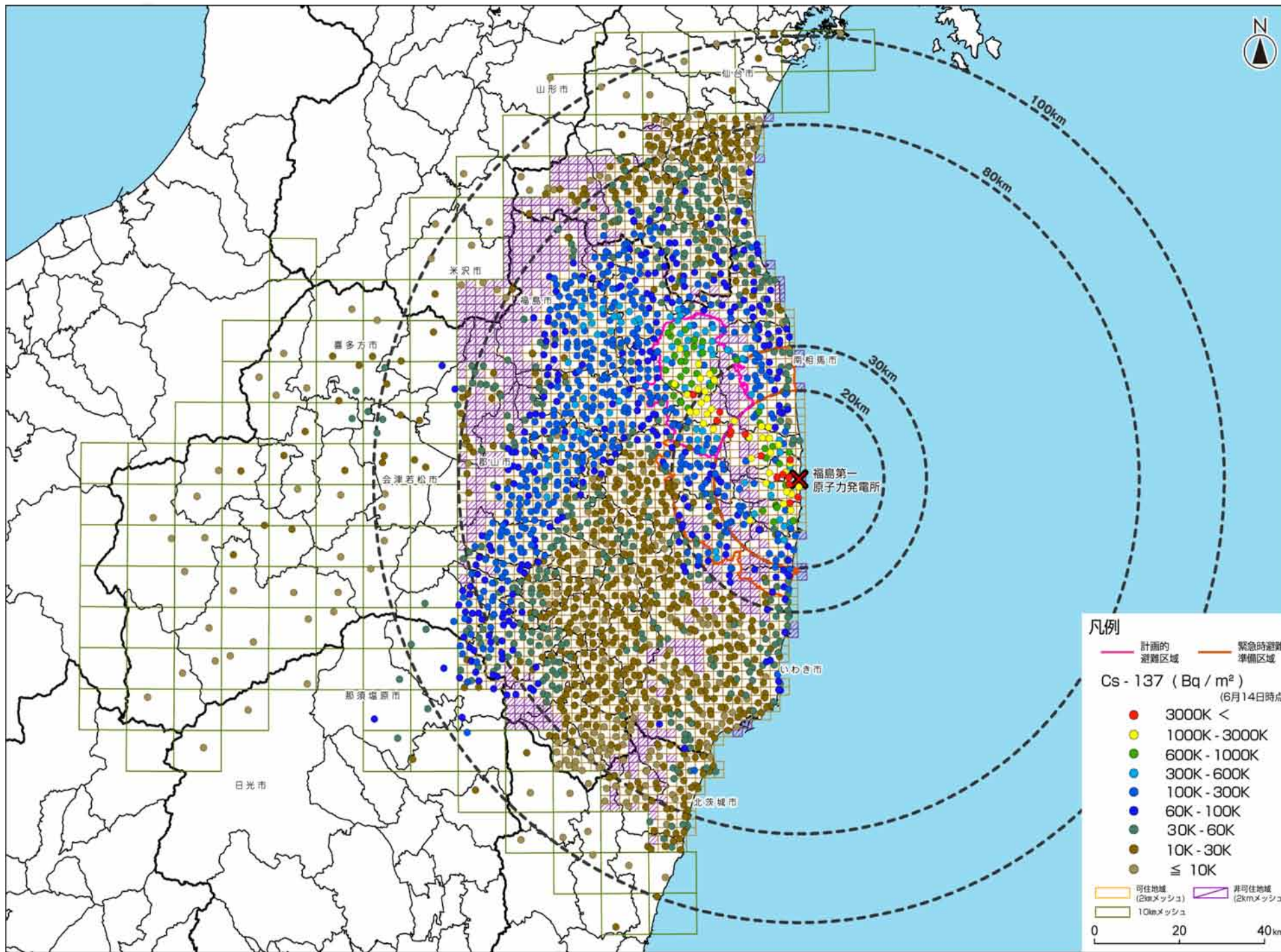
- Can we have children in the future?
- Can we even marry?
- Can we be able to survive and to be adult?
- This is the fear the girl are facing.
There is no reasonable grand to say their future will be safe.

What was the international and domestic standard for protection of people from radiation?

- Japan has already implemented the ICRP standard which is **1mSv per year** as the domestic standard.
- Japanese domestic law prohibit ordinary citizen to enter above 5mSv per year area,
- Prohibit pregnant women exposed above 2 mSv during pregnancy(Industrial safety regulation)
- ⇒ Current situation is breach of both international and domestic standard which has been applied to Japan.

How about the protection of affected people after Chernobyl(Russian Law)

<p>a)Exclusion zone(Article8)</p>	<p>30 km from the power plant</p>	<p>Population are prohibited to stay</p>
<p>b)Zone of Evacuation (Article 9)</p>	<p>*Outside 30km *cesium 137 exceeded 555 kBq/m2 *radiation level exceed 5mSv per year</p>	<p>population is subject to required evacuation Citizen have a right to compensation</p>
<p>c) Zone of stay with the right to evacuation (Article 10)</p>	<p>*Pollution of soils by cesium137 between 185~555kBq/m2, *radiation level exceed 1 mSv per year</p>	<p>Citizen who made a decision about the departure in another place residences, have a right to the compensation of harm and measures of social support</p>
<p>d) Zone of stay with privilege social and economic status (Article11)</p>	<p>*pollution of soils by cesium137 37~185 kBq/m2, * Radiation level under 1 mSv per year</p>	<p>Realization of the complex of countermeasures, which includes medical measures for the radiation and radio-ecological protection.</p>





Proposal of Human Rights Now

HRN propose that the right to compensation and sufficient support for relocation must be provided to people living in contaminated areas exceeding 1 mSv/year so that they can evacuate.

Affected people must be provided long term medical care as well as clean food.

The levels of contamination must be strictly monitored and disclosed to citizens in a timely manner.



To international community

- This is not a isolated situation in Japan but a universal problem in current world. This kind of nuclear disaster could happen again as long as we have nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons. International community as a whole has responsibility to protect young generation and future generation from such disaster.
- We ask international community to closely monitor the situation in Fukushima and make sufficient recommendations to protect people. Also to establish binding standards and norms to protect women, girl and future generation from radioactive hazard, and decide to eliminate such risk as a whole.

The Tepco's response to self evacuee

- Tepco did nothing for self evacuee.
- In the consequence of the government's recommendation and strong pressure from public,
- The Tepco has just commenced the compensation for self evacuees following standard:

Children and expecting mother

Self evacuation 600,000yen(around
72,00dollars)

Staying the contaminated land 400,000yen(around
55,00 dollars)