

Human Rights Now

Oral statement on General Debate under agenda item 3
UN Human Rights Council 22nd Session,
Geneva, 25 February-22 March 2013



Human rights situation of the people affected by nuclear hazard.

Thank you President,

Human Rights Now¹ expresses grave concern over the human rights situation of the people affected by nuclear disaster.²

After the Chernobyl disaster, significant number of children got disease and died, however the magnitude of the problem has been underestimated by the international community.

Two years ago, another nuclear accident happened in Fukushima, Japan.

Despite huge amount of radioactive material contaminated East Japan, the response of the Japanese government has been insufficient to protect people's right to health and life.

Many people in Fukushima, including pregnant women and children still live in highly contaminated areas, because the government limits evacuation zones based on 20 millisieverts per year exposure standard, which is indeed 20 times greater than the international protection standard.

Without any support for relocation, many people have no choice but to stay in contaminated areas.

The medical check provided by the government is slow and insufficient despite cancer appears among affected children.

It is urgently required to provide sufficient compensation and support for relocation to people living in all contaminated areas. Affected people must be provided comprehensive medical check and care.

In this regard, we welcome the work of UN Special Rapporteur on Rights to Health. He investigated above situation in Japan and will submit his report to the next Council session.

Mr. President, nuclear hazard is universal problem in the current world.

We ask the Human Rights Council to act on this important matter, protection of the rights to health and life of people affected by nuclear hazards.

Thank you.

¹ International human rights NGO based in Tokyo with ECOSOC special consultative status. <http://www.hrn.or.jp/eng>

² **The Collective Independent WHO- for the independence of the World Health Organization**, without the UN consultative status shares the same view with this oral statement.