



# Human Rights Now

## Human Rights Now

4F Suzuki Bldg., 335 Yamabukicho,  
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0801 JAPAN

Tel : +81-3-6228-1528

Website: <http://hrn.or.jp/eng>

Email: [info@hrn.or.jp](mailto:info@hrn.or.jp)

11 March 2020

### **40,000 People are Still Displaced and Radiation Levels are Still Dangerous Due to the Ongoing Fukushima Nuclear Disaster**

It has been nine years since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster of 11 March 2011, and the circumstances surrounding affected people remain dire.

More than 40,000 people are currently displaced and the issue of livelihood support and termination of housing assistance has contributed to high levels of stress and suicide rates. The government of Japan should apply the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to all those affected by this disaster and accept the country visit request by the Special Rapporteur on IDPs in the second half of 2021 under the standing invitation on special procedures extended by the government.

Dangerous radiation levels in affected areas and hot spots in populated areas continue to threaten the life and health of affected people. Authorities lifted the evacuation zone designation for all remaining areas with radiation levels up to 20 mSv/year, much higher than the international standard of 1 mSv/year, and they decided to lift the designation of some areas at even higher levels. A government task force has also recommended releasing over 1 million tons of contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean as the quickest and cheapest option for managing it, while dismissing safer options.

The government of Japan must take stronger measures to protect affected persons by implementing a 1mSv/year standard, more aggressively identifying and decontaminating hot spots, and ensuring contaminated water is managed safely.