

**STATEMENT OF PROTEST  
REGARDING THE  
INCIDENT OF AN AIRCRAFT PART DROPPING FROM A  
US FORCES F-15 FIGHTER JET**

At approximately 10:30AM on August 4, 2020, an incident occurred in which a US Forces F-15 fighter jet stationed at Kadena Air Base dropped a metal component measuring 17.8 centimeters in length and 3.6 kilograms in weight. According to information from the US Forces, the exact location where the part was dropped is unknown, and if dropped over water, it is presumed to be approximately 100 kilometers east-southeast from Kadena Airbase, and if over land, along Highway 58.

Although there has been no confirmation on injuries or damages in this recent incident, objects falling from aircraft are a cause of great concern for the citizens of the Okinawa Prefecture who must live their daily lives alongside US Forces installations. Moreover, it does not help to repress the strong indignation felt among the people with the US Forces continuing its operations with the same model of aircraft despite information regarding the cause and explanations are insufficient.

Furthermore, it was around 8:45PM, approximately ten (10) hours after it was confirmed that an aircraft component was dropped, that Okinawa Prefecture was notified of this incident by the Okinawa Defense Bureau. Despite our continuous calls for a smoother and expeditious contact/reporting system when accidents occur, this recent incident has shown how the situation remains unchanged.

Additionally, the circumstances at Kadena Air Base is going against the alleviation of military base burdens, with transient aircraft using the Papa Loop and emitting ground noise and offensive odors, toxic gas generated from the fire at a hazardous materials facility, and parachute drop exercises enforced despite calls from the local authorities to suspend them.

The US Forces and both governments of Japan and the US must not allow the presence of the military installations to cause the people of Okinawa Prefecture to live with fear; and do their utmost toward mitigating the concerns felt by the Okinawan residents.

To that end, in our duty to protect the lives and assets of the people of Okinawa, we strongly protest the recent incident, and call for the prompt execution of the following three items.

1. Conduct a thorough investigation into the cause and circumstances of the incident, inspect the notification system in place, and promptly disclose the findings to the people of the Prefecture and at the same time, implement specific and effective preventive measures.
2. Suspend flights and flight exercises of the same model of aircraft until safety and preventive measures are implemented.
3. Eliminate the “Act on Special Provisions of the Civil Aeronautics Act upon the enforcement of the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement” in order to apply aviation laws that establish the safety and other issues involving flights of aircraft, and fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement.

August 13, 2020

Moriyuki Teruya, Chairman  
The Special Committee on the  
U.S. Military Base Affairs  
Okinawa Prefectural Assembly