

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
HOMICIDE CASE WHERE A FEMALE WAS MURDERED BY A US
NAVY SAILOR FROM THE US MARINE CORPS IN OKINAWA**

On April 13, an incident occurred in Chatan Town where a Japanese female was murdered by a US Navy sailor belonging to the US Marine Corps in Okinawa, and the sailor then committed suicide. Such a violent incident following the 2016 murder case where another woman was killed by a US Forces civilian employee has impacted the citizens of the prefecture with great anxiety and shock.

This recent incident occurred after the easing of the Liberty Policy which regulates the activities during off-duty hours of late-night outings and/or drinking off base. Moreover, there was a no-contact order issued to the sailor in January of this year, prohibiting him from coming into contact with the female victim. Despite this situation, the sailor was permitted liberty, and this leaves questions in the handling by the US Forces and their responsibilities in oversight.

Furthermore, there have been a string of other incidents since this case, such as the traffic accident by a Kadena Air Base airman which involved alcohol, as well as the case where another airman going missing.

Okinawa Prefecture has only 0.6% of the total national area, and shoulders approximately 70.3% of all the military facilities that are used exclusively by the US Forces in Japan. One would have to say that incidents and accidents as those mentioned above are brought on because of the large presence of US military bases on Okinawa.

Every time an incident or accident involving US Forces personnel, civilian employees and other related persons occurs, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has strongly called upon the US Forces and related parties for thorough enforcement of discipline, prevention and human rights education, and other measures. Yet, with another incident such as this recent case to have happened again, we cannot help but to question the effectiveness of the human rights education and other measures for the personnel, civilian employees, and others in the US Forces.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the human rights, lives, and properties of the people of Okinawa, sternly protest this recent incident and call for the strengthening of cooperation and partnership hereafter among the relevant agencies of Japan, Okinawa Prefecture, the Japanese Police, and the US Forces and others, and strongly call for the prompt execution of the following three items.

1. Both governments of Japan and the US to once again express apologies to the people of Okinawa, and fully compensate the bereaving family.
2. Both governments of Japan and the US to take drastic measures to eradicate and prevent incidents and accidents involving US military personnel, civilian employees, and other related persons.
3. Conduct a fundamental review of the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, and at the same time, plan to significantly reorganize and reduce the US Forces bases.

The above is resolved as stated on this 26th day of April, 2019.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly