

Written Statement

REGARDING THE Resolution of Protest over The US FORCES H-60 HELICOPTER CRASH INCIDENT

At approximately 1:46 PM on August 12, 2015, on the waters east of Okinawa Island, an H-60 helicopter of the US Army failed to land on a US military vessel. The aircraft crashed, sustained damage, and seven out of the 17 on board the helicopter were injured in this incident.

It is extremely regrettable as such incidents can lead to serious accidents threatening lives and properties, and causes great anxiety for the citizens of the prefecture who have to live their daily lives in close proximity to US military bases.

In regard to accidents and others related to US Forces aircraft, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, as well as other relevant authorities, have voiced strong protests each time it happens, and demanded investigations to determine the cause and for preventive measures against such aircraft accidents. Despite this, the US Forces have taken unilateral actions, resuming training and other such actions, without disclosing the cause of the accident, or any preventive measures. It is disrespectful to the people of the prefecture, and is absolutely unacceptable that another accident has occurred under such circumstances.

From the standpoint of relieving the fear and anxiety of the people, and protecting the lives and properties of the citizens of Okinawa, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, solemnly protest the recent accident, and strongly demand that the following four items be carried out expeditiously.

1. Thoroughly investigate the cause of the accident and promptly disclose the findings to the citizens of Okinawa.
2. Stop all flights of the same model of aircraft in the prefecture until the investigation

into the cause of the accident is complete, and safety and preventive measures are implemented.

3. Conduct a thorough review of aircraft inspection and maintenance framework and work for safety control and accident prevention.
4. Consolidate and reduce the US Forces facilities in order to remove dangers and risks of accidents, and to clear away the fear and anxiety of the citizens.

This written opinion is submitted based on the provisions of Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

The above is resolved as stated on this 19th day of August, 2015

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly