

Doro-Chiba Earthquake Report No.9

Only Unity and Solidarity of Working Class and People is the Major Fortress

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National Railway Motive Power Union of Chiba (Doro-Chiba)

Who should be sent to jail?

On March 31, three students were arrested in a protest demonstration to TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company). When the demonstrators arrived at the building of TEPCO, they were suddenly assaulted by police who raised a board with the letters, “interference with a governmental official in the execution of his duties”. No clash had occurred before that. These arrests enraged the demonstrators just in front of the TEPCO building. None of the demonstrators knew what actually happened and what caused it. The reason of these arrests given by the Tokyo Metropolitan police was: police aimed “only to make demonstration slow down”. It was a shameless attempt to suppress the struggle. This is the reality of today’s Japan!

Those who should be sent to jail are executives of TEPCO and officials of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, who have long deceived people by the demagogy of “absolutely safe nuclear plants” and are, as a result, exposing the lives of millions of millions of people to the mortal danger just now, and also pro-governmental mass media and scientists who are still persisting, “There is no harm to human health”!

A group of complicit organizations, including the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, TEPCO, Nuclear Power and Industrial Safety Agency, Nuclear Safety Commission, nuclear plant manufacturers, such as Hitachi and Toshiba, Nuclear Research Institutes of universities, Institutes of Radiological Sciences, business-controlled mass media, pro-nuclear power Rengo (Confederation of Japanese Trade Unions) have joined their scheme of promoting

nuclear power policy and attempting to suppress protest actions and alarming voices, allocating officials and personnel by rotation, controlling information through mass media. Nuclear power related institutions have received a large amount of financial aid for nuclear research from TEPCO and government for unrestricted promotion of nuclear plants. The present horrible nuclear catastrophe is an inevitable outcome of all these shameless drives. This is nothing but a crime committed by the state and capital. We must completely break up the whole rotten structure of Japanese society.

The crime of the state and capital

Millions of workers, farmers and fishermen have lost means of life. They live every day in fear of radioactive exposure. Nobody knows how long these days will continue.

The protest demonstration to TEPCO was joined by a farmer in Ibaragi who is forcibly instructed to stop shipment of his vegetables in fear of contamination. He confessed that he participated in the demonstration with a determination to share his destiny with Prime Minister Kan and officers of TEPCO (“to stab each other”). In Fukushima, a farmer, who had been devotedly engaged in organic farming, committed suicide in despair. In the affected area within 20 kilometer from the nuclear disaster thousands of bodies are still left unburied because the fear of strong radioactive contamination prevents rescue troop from approaching the spot.

At this very moment a huge volume of cooling water is pouring into the sea from the stricken nuclear reactor in spite of every operation to

stop it. No appropriate administrative measure is taken to evacuate people in the wider neighboring areas under the pretext to avoid making panic among suffering people there. A president of a subcontractor company, which is presently working for TEPCO in Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant, bitterly confessed, “I have kept saying that nuclear plant is safe. It means I betrayed the affected local community, company employees and all Japanese people. But it’s no time to complain or deplore. One thing I want to make clear is: I won’t be called a hero in doing my work [of repairing the stricken nuclear plant]. I’m only engaged in a work, which is needed and which I’m obliged to accomplish.”

We are now witnessing brutal media control. The chief editor of a weekly magazine was very recently transferred to the sales department as punishment for the publication of an interview with the former governor of Fukushima prefecture, who denounced that all evils came from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the state [He had been driven out of his job because of his critical comment on the nuclear plant in his prefecture a decade ago]. Another example: a comic series which described a story of the death of a contract worker caused by radioactive exposure and the outrageous attitude of his employer, electric power company, which tries to conceal the facts over the death of its employee, was cancelled by the publisher.

The time of patience is over. Now is the time we gather angry voices of people and organize struggle. What is needed is a fundamental change of the whole structure of the society. The horrible disaster shall never be repeated.

The criminal role of labor union bureaucrats

The recent developments have revealed a criminal role of the labor union bureaucrats who are incorporated into the business circle. Rengo, whose policy has been to suppress all oppositions to nuclear plants, drew up a new agenda last August: “promotion of construction and package export of nuclear plant”. The statement of Rengo on the East Japan earthquake thanked the government for its “quick and precise action” and contained no

word on the nuclear plant disaster. The position of Zenroren (National Confederation of Trade Unions under the influence of Japan Communist Party) is even now unchanged: “We are for peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.”

Denryoku-Soren (Confederation of Electric Power Related Industry Workers’ Unions of Japan) has played a vital role in concealing repeated nuclear plant accidents through organizing tour to visit nuclear plants of union officers of every industry by the money of the electric power companies and setting up education program over the “safe nuclear plant”. Its crime is culminated in hiding the facts on the radioactive exposure and death of “nuclear plant gypsy (sic)”, who are subcontract and sub-subcontract workers exploited by electric power companies.



Very beautiful “Nuclear Power Station Exhibition Pavilion” in the facilities of Fukushima Daiichi, where many visitors organized and paid by the nuclear industry have been persuaded of “great nuclear science” and “dream of unlimited, clear and safe energy.”

Jichiro (All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal workers’ Union), which used to be a major promoter of anti-nuclear plant movement all over Japan, has ceased to fight against nuclear plant since it surrendered to the privatization offensive on public service workers. Now in primary schools, education for the promotion of nuclear plant is prevailing by means of the textbook titled “Exciting Wonderland–Nuclear Plant”. It is allowed by Nikkyoso (Japan Teachers’ Union), which stopped opposing nuclear power policy after adopting the policy, “Partnership with the government”.

This is the present situation of Japanese labor union today. Labor union is needed to answer the question what should be done to confront

terrifying developments since the huge earthquake. We must now revitalize labor union by all means. The government is desperately trying to establish “national unity”, instigating patriotism and proposing “political truce” with an aim of suppressing militant wing of labor movement and putting labor movement under siege. They are totally scared by mounting voices of anger against the ruling class. If we allow their offensive of promoting labor-capital cooperation, the result will be awful. It would lead to overall surrender of labor movement to capital. We can't lose time to revive militant labor movement.

The East Japan Earthquake broke out in the

midst of irremediable economic crisis and desperate fiscal failure. Japanese economy will surely collapse and the state finance will face a total bankruptcy. All-out attack on working class and reactionary political offensive will come after. A period of massive dismissal is coming. While agriculture and fishery would be terribly destroyed by radioactive contamination, a large number of workers are going to lose their jobs.

Only unity and solidarity of working class and people is the major fortress. We are firmly determined to cling to this fundamental position and fight back against every kind of difficulties.

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<http://dorochibanewsletter.wordpress.com>