



National Confederation of Trade Unions

Zenroren-kaikan 4F,2-4-4,Yushima,Bunkyo-ku,Tokyo 113-8462
TEL:+81(03)5842-5611/FAX:+81(03)5842-5620/E-mail:zenintel@zenroren.gr.jp

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We condemn crime committed by U.S. Marine in Okinawa

On February 11, Okinawa Police arrested a US Marine stationed in US Camp Courtney in Okinawa on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old girl in his car on the evening of February 10.

We condemn the heinous crime as an act that tramples upon the human rights of Japanese citizens, in particular Japanese women and children. We also urge the governments to bring the suspect to justice and take effective measures to prevent the recurrence of crimes by US servicemen.

When a 12-year-old girl was gang-raped by the US Marines in September 1995, the US military authorities promised to make every effort to US servicemen's crimes by strengthening military discipline. But their crime rate didn't decline. Military crimes cannot be eradicated where there are US bases. Residents near US bases are forced to live in fear.

Given the fact that the US military realignment in Japan is aimed at further promoting the US preemptive attack strategy using Japan as one of its strongholds, risks of crimes and incidents by US servicemen will increase.

The National Confederation of Trade Unions (ZENROREN) demands a reduction and eventual withdrawal of US bases in Japan.

Yoshikazu ODAGAWA
Secretary General
National Confederation of Trade Unions
(ZENROREN)