

## **PROTEST RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COMMITTED ENFORCEMENT OF STRICTER DISCIPLINE ON SERVICE MEMBERS, SOFA-STATUS CIVILIANS, AND OTHER PERSONNEL**

On November 28, the Okinawa Prefectural Police arrested a U.S. military personnel based at Kadena Air Base, on suspicion of trespassing at an apartment in Chatan Town without good reason. The personnel was allegedly drunk at the time of arrest. Such intrusion into a residence is an act of violating a place that should be safest, and therefore is completely intolerable. In addition, a hit-and-run incident occurred on December 4, on a prefectural road in Okinawa City, leaving a man who is still unconscious and in critical condition. The Okinawa Prefectural Police announced on December 10, that it had identified a major based at Camp Courtney as the suspect. It is outrageous that a major, a high-ranking officer in a position to lead subordinates, is involved in this incident. Furthermore, three service members were arrested in succession on December 5 and 6, for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol.

We, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, have strongly requested the U.S. Forces and other relevant parties to thoroughly enforce stricter discipline, prevent recurrence, conduct education on relevant personnel, and take other measures whenever an incident or accident caused by U.S. service members and SOFA-status civilians and other personnel occurs. It is indeed regrettable that despite our requests, the above-mentioned incidents have occurred. The efforts made by the U.S. military to prevent recurrence and the nature of education on service members are being questioned.

Under such circumstances, the U.S. Forces Japan revised on December 9, the off-hours conduct standards (Liberty Policy) that were applicable to all U.S. Forces on Okinawa, limiting off-base access and drinking, and eased the restrictions on drinking outside of the installations. However, such a relaxation amidst frequent recurrence of incidents and accidents related to consumption of alcohol is unacceptable.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives, safety and the living environment of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest against the series of incidents and accidents, and demand the following be realized in a prompt manner:

1. Apologies and full compensation to the victims and their family members
2. Thorough enforcement of stricter discipline on service members, SOFA-status civilians, and other personnel
3. Withdrawal of the relaxation of the off-hours conduct standards (Liberty Policy) and continuance of the restrictions.

The above is resolved as stated on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

**Okinawa Prefectural Assembly**