



OKINAWA PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

1-2-3 Izumizaki, Naha City, Okinawa JAPAN 900-8501

TEL: (098) 866-2574 FAX: (098) 866-2350

OPA Secretariat Ref. No. 1151

March 16, 2017

Mr. Jason P. Hyland
Chargé d'Affaires
Embassy of the United States of America

SUBJECT:

Presentation of the Resolution of Protest

Dear Sir,

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly hereby presents the appended Resolution of Protest over the Tire-Dropping Incident From A UH-1Y Helicopter In A US Forces External Cargo Lift Training. The Resolution was adopted on March 16, in the First (Regular) Session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly for the year 2017.

Sincerely,

Yonekichi Shinzato
Speaker
Okinawa Prefectural Assembly



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March 16, 2017

Lieutenant General Jerry P. Martinez
Commander
US Forces Japan

SUBJECT:

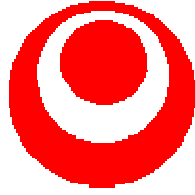
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March 16, 2017

Lieutenant General Lawrence D. Nicholson
Okinawa Area Coordinator
US Forces Japan

SUBJECT:

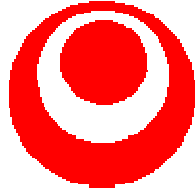
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OPA Secretariat Ref. No. 1151

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Joel Ehrendreich
U.S. Consul General
Consulate General of the United States of America, Naha

SUBJECT:

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Dear Sir,

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Sincerely,

Yonekichi Shinzato
Speaker
Okinawa Prefectural Assembly

**Resolution of Protest
Over the
Tire-Dropping Incident From A UH-1Y Helicopter
In A US Forces External Cargo Lift Training**

On March 8, a US military aircraft, a UH-1Y helicopter was conducting an external cargo lift training in the areas around Shirohara, Ginoza Village and Nakagawa, Kin Town when several tires it was lifting dropped within the grounds of Camp Hansen.

For days since December 6 of last year, the US Marine Corps has conducted external cargo lift training over civilian areas such as residences, farm fields and others. Upon strong protest from the local municipalities and other bodies, the US Marine Corps ceased these drills for a short period of time, and immediately after resuming the exercises, this recent incident took place.

As these external cargo lift drills pose great dangers that can lead to major incidents involving the local citizens, we have strongly called for these exercises to stop. However, the US Marine Corps has taken to ignore the repeated calls from the local municipal governments and other such bodies, and has repeatedly conducted these drills.

Such actions by the US Forces show disregard to the lives of the Prefecture's citizens and completely lack consideration for those local residents who are left with no choice but to continue their daily lives adjacent to military bases. The Japanese Government must stand on firm ground and strongly protest to the US Forces, and both governments of Japan and the United States must seriously consider and discuss effective measures to alleviate the overburden of the military bases on the citizens of the Prefecture.

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 the recent incident where tires were dropped in the external cargo lift training and call for the prompt execution of the three following items.

- I. Cease external cargo training in the skies above civilian areas.
- II. Cease aircraft training in the early morning hours, at night, and above civilian areas.
- III. Be thorough in the education and training of the military personnel and in the management of the training and exercises.

The above is resolved as stated on this 16th day of March, 2017.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly