

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST  
OVER THE  
SPATE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES AGAINST WOMEN  
BY MEMBERS OF THE US ARMED FORCES**

It was revealed in reports this June that an airman assigned to the US Forces' Kadena Air Base allegedly abducted a local girl under the age of 16 in his car and sexually assaulted her in December of last year. It was reported that the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office indicted the US airman on charges of indecent kidnapping and nonconsensual sexual intercourse. With the victim being a minor, this case has impacted the victim's guardians as well as the communities with great shock and anxiety. Furthermore, together with the discovery of this incident, there were new revelations of four (4) other sexual assault cases that happened between January 2023 to the end of May 2024, and outrage is spreading among prefectural residents over such brutal acts that violate the dignity and human rights of women.

Sexual assault against women is an atrocious crime that inflicts not only physical and mental anguish on the victim but also undermines their dignity as human beings. Moreover, the incident that took place in December last year was an extremely despicable act that targeted a minor, and in light of the laws and justice of both Japan and the United States, it is utterly unacceptable and we strongly protest with great indignation.

With each case of sexual assault by US Forces members, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has repeatedly and strongly called for the implementation and enforcement of discipline, prevention, education, and management of all relevant persons. In addition, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly adopted the Statement of Opinion/Resolution of Protest over a similar incident that took place in October of 2021 and called for strict preventive measures just only a short time ago.

Despite this, a spate of such deplorable incidents has allegedly taken place, and we cannot help but question not only the efforts of the US Forces in the human rights education and management systems of their personnel but also their awareness of human rights within the organization.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives and properties of the people of Okinawa, solemnly protest this recent incident and strongly call for the prompt execution of the following five (5) items.

1. Offer apologies and provide complete compensation to the victim.
2. Provide thorough and diligent psychological care to the victim.
3. Enforce strict discipline among US Forces personnel, civilian employees, and other related persons, and develop drastic and specific measures, such as nighttime curfew regulations, that are effective in preventing recurrences of such incidents, and disclose these measures to the citizens of Okinawa Prefecture.
4. Regarding crimes committed by members of the US Forces and related persons in the future, coordinate with the Japan-US Joint Committee and other such bodies to ensure certain and reliable measures are taken so that the Okinawa Prefectural Government and relevant municipal governments are promptly notified while prioritizing the privacy of the victim(s).
5. Fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement which currently gives special privileges to US Forces personnel, civilian employees, and other related persons. In particular, the provisions regarding extradition should be revised as soon as possible.

The above is resolved as stated on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024.

**Okinawa Prefectural Assembly**