

The Government of Japan is pleased to submit additional information related to Japan's response in July 2012, in response to the request dated 31 August 2012 of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Government of Japan is of the view that the people living in Okinawa Prefecture or born in Okinawa are not the subject of "racial discrimination" as provided for in the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (See Japan's response of 31 July 2012). Therefore, Japan does not recognize that the requested information should be provided in Japan's Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Combined Periodic Report. Nevertheless, the Government of Japan provides the following information, in good faith, as requested by the Committee as a State party to the Convention.

- As eliminating risks associated with the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma, which is situated in the center of Ginowan City, Okinawa Prefecture, and adjacent to residences and schools, is an urgent issue, and the indefinite use of MCAS Futenma must be avoided, the Governments of Japan and the United States consider that the plan to relocate MCAS Futenma to Henoko remains the only viable solution that has been identified to date. At the same time, given the fact that the U.S. Forces in Japan (USFJ) facilities and areas are concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, the Government of Japan recognizes that reducing the burden on Okinawa related to U.S. military bases as soon as possible is the utmost priority.
- Based on the above recognition, the Government of Japan, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defense and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has taken various opportunities to conduct direct talks with the people of Okinawa, including the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, and explained to them the Government's stance on the MCAS Futenma relocation plan and measures to be taken to reduce the burden on Okinawa. Most recently, at the meeting with the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture and the Mayor of Ginowan City on 9 October in 2012, when the Governor and the Mayor requested acceleration of relocation and return of MCAS Futenma, the Prime Minister stated that the Government of Japan would strengthen its efforts for reducing the burden on Okinawa including early relocation and return of MCAS Futenma, and promotion of Okinawa, while listening to the voices of the people in Okinawa earnestly and providing sincere explanations to them about these efforts.
- While recognizing that the plan to relocate MCAS Futenma to Henoko is subject to

criticism in Okinawa, the Government of Japan will continue to listen faithfully to the voices of the local people, explain sincerely its stance on the issue, and make sincere efforts to gain their understanding.

- In addition, with regard to the relocation of helicopter landing zones at the Northern Training Area, it was stated in the Special Action Committee on Facilities and Areas in Okinawa (SACO) Final Report that helicopter landing zones would be relocated from the areas to be returned to the remaining area in order to return a major portion (approx. 40 km<sup>2</sup>) of the Northern Training Area (approx. 75 km<sup>2</sup>), and the Government of Japan has gained understanding on the construction work for the relocation from the related local authorities, including the Okinawa Prefectural Government. As the Government of Japan considers that it is highly important to achieve the early return of the major portion of the subject training area and make efforts to reduce the burden on Okinawa, the Government of Japan will continue to make the utmost effort to implement the relocation work.
  
- In any case, the Government of Japan will explain the Government's stance on the measures to reduce the burden on Okinawa related to U.S. military bases, while listening to opinions from the people in Okinawa, and make sincere efforts to gain their understanding.