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NIPPON SEI KO KAI

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To: Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan
Mr. Tadamori Oshima, Chair, the House of Representatives
Mr. Masaaki Yamazaki, Chair, the House of Councillors

Emergency Statement on the Security Bills

We call for the withdrawal and repeal of the Security Bills, which allow the exercise of the right of collective self-defence, on the grounds that they violate the Constitution of Japan. We deem that the "proactive pacifism" advocated by the Abe administration means "creating peace through the ability to wage war".

On July 16, 2015, after forcing through the vote on security legislation at the House of Representatives, Prime Minister Abe stated that the legislation was absolutely necessary in order to protect the lives of Japanese nationals and to prevent wars in today's difficult security environment. On the assumption that Japan is threatened by enemies, which are not even there, it is stressed that we need to be prepared in order to have no regrets. But we want peace, not war. Peace can only be achieved through peaceful diplomacy.

The Constitution of Japan was born out of remorse for a destructive war. It is founded on the ultimate sacrifices of the war victims. Article 9 stipulates that "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes", that "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained", and that "the right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized". It is internationally recognized as a "peace constitution", by which Japan has gained trust as a peaceful state, and which enables Japan to pursue peaceful diplomacy. To allow the exercise of the right of collective self-defence and to send the Self-Defence Force to battle grounds anywhere in the world is clearly against Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan, as so many constitutional scholars have pointed out.

We are a people who live by the biblical word, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). We believe that war can never create peace. So we implore you to immediately withdraw and repeal the Security Bills.

July 17, 2015

The Rt. Rev. Ichiro Peter Shibusawa, Bishop of Chubu, Chair of the Justice and Peace Commission of Nippon Sei Ko Kai (the Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan)

Rev. Satoshi Kobayashi, Chair of the Youth Committee of NSKK

The Rt. Rev. Luke Ken-ichi Muto, Bishop of Kyushu, Bishop in charge of human rights issues Rev. Shin-ichi Yahagi, Provincial Secretary of NSKK

Makoto Tanigawa, Mission Secretary of the Provincial Office of NSKK