

Item10

Oral Statement at the 17th session of EMRIP

Kanako Matsuda (The GINOWAN Churamizu Association)

Thank you, chair.

For generations, Ryukyu/Okinawa has been under the dual colonial rule of Japan and the US. Ancestral lands have been used as military bases and the lives and dignity of many Ryukyuan people have been lost. Military activities have led to environmental destruction and pollution of our land, in addition to health hazard, sexual violence and other negative impacts on Ryukyuan people.

There is a solid causal link between war and climate change. According to British media reports, the carbon dioxide emissions by the armed forces are estimated to be about 5 per cent of the world's total emissions, no matter how small the estimate. However, the actual figures are kept secret. Indigenous peoples are the peoples who particularly face the effects of climate change. Unequal power relations have led to a disregard for the lives and dignity of indigenous peoples. The legitimization of militarization through colonial rule is nothing but environmental injustice. The permanent members of the UN Security Council should prepare for climate change through disarmament.

We propose this from our experiences in Ryukyu/Okinawa, and request the EMRIP and other UN human rights mechanisms to help this.

Thank you.