

The President of Japan Olympics Committee Mr. Yasuhiro Yamashita

### **A letter of request to stop Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics**

We, an organization fighting for the defense of workers' rights and solidarity, express our firm opposition to Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics and demand to stop all preparation for the events, on the occasion of the visit of John Coats, the vice president of the International Olympic Committee, to Japan.

First, the enforced holding of Tokyo Olympics will inevitably lead to further medical collapse now going on under the COVID-19 crisis and destroy the labor and lives of medical care and welfare workers. It concerns all sorts of patients, not only COVID-19 patients. A statement of indignant workers has already been issued to refuse categorically the national mobilization to Tokyo Olympics which demands absolute priority of Olympic Games as well as economy and state power more than workers' lives.

Secondly, a large number of governmental, municipal and local administrative workers have been under the heavy pressure in the midst of the COVID-19 state of emergency and are now faced with the intensification of labor for the preparation of Olympics. Education workers are ordered to mobilize 1,280,000 school children and students to attend the Tokyo Olympics. Many teachers are resolutely refusing to obey this order as repetition of the war-time general military mobilization of students. One of the senior officials of IOC in Japan is recently reported to have committed suicide, disclosing that serious anxiety is spreading even among the executive groups.

Thirdly, far from assuring "safety and security", Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics have been planned and promoted for the expected concession by the ex-administration of Shinzo Abe who outrageously and falsely claimed that the East Japan Earthquake catastrophe and Fukushima nuclear plant disaster were already over and the whole situation was completely "under control" and there is no reason to call off the Tokyo Olympics.

The despotic way of political practice of Abe as well as Suga, his faithful successor, is demonstrated in complete negligence of mounting opposition of Japanese people against Olympics in the midst of the pandemic state of emergency. It reminds us the pre-war Japanese imperialism in plunging into the World War II.

We must point out that the violent campaign for Tokyo Olympics is combined with the ongoing governmental attempts based on the recent Japan-US joint declaration in April for expansion of armament against "Chinese military threat", followed by joint military exercises (by Japanese, US, French, Australian military forces) on the Indo-Pacific Sea area and the continued construction of US military base in Henoko of Okinawa with the final aim of revising "the peace clause 9" of the Japanese Constitution.

Stop all preparation for, and abandon the total plan of Tokyo Olympic Games which are no longer the "festival of world peace".

We demand you to respond to our request by June 22 in writing.

June 15th, 2021, Tokyo Communication Center of Labor Unions