

Can Article 9 Survive the Abe Assassination?

Gerry Yokota email from World Beyond War

I deeply appreciate information about Hiroshima being PM Kishida's electorate. Not only should Kishida sign the NPT, he also needs to seriously support the Japanese Peace constitution, especially Article 9. It is now 77 years since Japan has made war. No other major industrial nation can claim such a commitment to peace. PM Abe did his best to quash Article 9 by building up the home defense forces. Since his assassination, cultish followers of Abe appear to be making overtures to abolish Article 9 so Japan can become a major military power on the world stage. Article 9 is a perfect example of peace in action, not merely words on paper. As Noam Chomsky stated in my film, "Article 9 Comes To America," and I quote, "Article 9 should be a role model for other nations to follow." End of quote.

The Raytheon CEO's, scientists and engineers are well informed before they venture into hypocritical "peace" activities such as the Fenway Park debacle. Until Raytheon moved out of Waltham, a group of us were planning on engaging the head CEO in a non-confrontational discussion about divestment. Our plan of action had to include our past knowledge, philosophy and experience with the subject, or the whole effort would have been ridiculous. "Japan was forced to accept democracy because of its defeat," says Takashima Nobuyoshi, a historian and professor emeritus at the University of the Ryukyus on Okinawa. "As basic human rights were not gained through the sweat and blood of the people, many Japanese people lack a real appreciation of their own rights and are often unaware when they are infringed upon."

Apparently Professor Nobuyoshi views "real" democracy as one that must be won through violent revolution or it is not a valid democracy. He claims that "Japan was forced to accept democracy because of its defeat (in WWII), yet there is no evidence that the Japanese people were filling the streets, clamoring for a homegrown return to the fascist regime of pre-WWII.

A government that rejects Article 9 while at the same time claiming to be a peaceful democracy is suspect at best. Japan's buildup of her Home Security Forces is a premeditated act of psychological terrorism, equal on the world stage to the most powerful nations who comprise the nuclear club and who refuse to sign the NPT Treaty. The 9 nations, led by the USA and Russia, continue to play nuclear roulette with more than 120 peace loving nations, all signatories to the NPT.

It must be stated and restated, that one reason Article 9 has prevented Japan from making war is that her scientists and engineers are prevented from making weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. This raises an important question about scientists and engineers working in the weapons manufacturing business.

William Hartung, Director of the Arms and Security Project in Washington, acknowledged that scientists and engineers are the only people capable of designing and making weapons of mass destruction. I earned a graduate degree in science at Boston Univ. I am a strong supporter of

science, yet I believe it is important that weapons making scientists and engineers be held accountable for crimes against humanity. Now they are the “sacred cows” of American society, protected by federal laws from liability when crimes are committed using their weapons. You may recall that the scientists and engineers working at Los Alamos on the atomic bomb, were celebrated as heroes, after the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They have never been held accountable. They are the source of a nuclear Armageddon. if ever we are to abolish the threat of nuclear war, it is at the source where we must abolish it.

The same corporations and employees that manufacture weapons of mass destruction, produce the assault weapons that are used to murder our collective children on a daily basis here in America. Nuclear holocaust or mass murder of our children, it is at the source where it must be stopped.