

THE JAPANESE WORKERS' COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

2-33-10 Minami-Otsuka, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

tel:+81-3-3943-2420 fax:+81-3-5395-3240 e-mail: hmrights@yahoo.co.jp

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Promoting Human Rights through sport and the Olympic ideal

Statement by Mr. Akira MAEDA

Professor of Tokyo Zokei University

on behalf of the

Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights (JWCHR)

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We welcome the progress report submitted by the drafting group (A/HRC/AC/13/CRP.6). The report describes the distinctive feature of the Olympic Charter as opposition to all forms of discrimination. Any type of discrimination must be prohibited, such as based on race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national and social origin in the field of sports.

In this regard, we would like to introduce a case of the "Japanese Only" sign in a

association football game in Japan. 23 March this year, Japan's best-supported soccer club, the Urawa Red Diamonds played in an empty stadium on Sunday 9 days after a game in which fans were banned for racist behaviour. The club's captain, Japan international Yuki Abe, read aloud a statement in which he regretted the use of the racist banner written in English along with it hung over the stadium entrance. It was the first time in the 20-year history of the Japan League that a match has been played at a stadium closed to fans.

Last year, "hate speech" became the most popular word in Japan. Racist groups have performed demonstrations in Shin-Ohkubo Korean town in Tokyo many times. They had banners stating "Kill Korean" "Get out of here" against Korean minorities. Tokyo Metropolitan Police has unbelievably permitted the racist demonstrations.

As you know, the Expert Workshop organized by OHCHR adopted Rabat Action Plan on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence in Rabat, Morocco on 5 October 2012. And Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted General recommendation No. 35 on combating racist hate speech at 26 September 2013.

Racist hate speech can take many forms and is not confined to explicit racial remarks. As in the case with discrimination under article 1 of Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, speech attacking particular racial or ethnic groups may employ indirect language in order to disguise its targets and objectives. In line with their obligations under ICERD, States parties should give due attention to all manifestations of racist hate speech and take effective measures to combat them. As a minimum requirement, and without prejudice to further measures, comprehensive legislation against racial discrimination, including civil and administrative law as well as criminal law, is indispensable to combating racist hate speech effectively.

We request to Advisory Committee to make the best use of the principles and guidelines of Rabat Action Plan and General Recommendation No.35 to make action and rules in the field of sports.