

12 October, 2008

### **Emergency Statement on Death of Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura**

Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura suddenly died in Los Angeles in the midst of Japan's move to accept the U.S. judicial authorities' proposal of "cooperation in the investigation". From the very beginning, it was an illegal and critical violation of human rights to arrest Mr. Miura in Saipan. In addition to unreasonable deprivation of liberty which lasted for seven and a half months, the Japan-U.S. judicial authorities eventually took his life. They should take total responsibility for this serious consequence.

We strongly protest to the Japan-U.S. authorities with great sorrow and fury.

Mr. Miura had made his own decision to go to Los Angeles. Stating that he would fight on in accordance with the judicial procedure in Los Angeles, he met the attorney and the Japanese consul to arrange for his future treatment, etc. What caused him to die? We must inquire thoroughly into the real fact and responsibility.

We also strongly protest to the media and "analysts". Again and again reporters repeated doubts on Mr. Miura who had been tried and completely acquitted, saying that his death covered up the truth of "Los Angeles suspicion", or Mr. Miura committed suicide, since he knew he couldn't further walk away from the case. The analysts were so shameless that they repeated and spread irresponsible speculations.

We lodge the following claims against the Japan-U.S. authorities and the mass media.

- 1, The judicial authorities of Los Angeles and the USA should disclose all information concerning Mr. Miura's alleged "suicide", overwhelmingly investigate what really happened and make a sincere apology to his bereaved family.

- 2, The Japanese government should apologize to Mr. Miura's bereaved family for the fact that its failure to protect its citizen resulted in his death, remonstrate with the U.S. authorities and demand inquiry into the real facts.

- 3, In the trial Mr. Miura's acquittal was confirmed, so it is an act to damage his reputation for the media to repeat his alleged suspicion and report as if he was presumed to be guilty based on irresponsible speculation. The press should stop further human rights violation, and report on investigation of responsibilities of the U.S, judicial authorities and the Japanese government concerning his death based on the objective truth.

We will continue to appeal forcefully to the public that the alleged case of “Los Angeles suspicion” since 1984 was cooked up by Japan’s mass media, police authority and prosecutors, and Mr. Miura’s death resulted from their joint criminal work.

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