

Request for recognition of health damage by A-bomb. Let's urge the Japanese government to change its Hibakusha policies.

Activities concerning recognition of A-bomb sickness

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At present many A-bomb survivors or hibakushas receive medical treatments for cancer and other diseases as reach ripe old age. Their health conditions are now in serious problem.

Hibakushas, after having survived the disaster, have tided over physical, mental and economic hardships. It would be quite understandable that when they are notified of cancer, they demand state compensations on the assumption that the disease is caused by A-bomb.

The Japanese government is, however, in the position to underestimate A-bomb damages, a position in line with its policy to depend on the nuclear umbrella of the United States and blindly support its nuclear strategy. The government already lost such lawsuits as Matsuya case and Kyoto A-bomb case due to this position, the court criticizing the government's posture towards A-bomb damages and the problematic method of radiation dosage estimation based on DS86. Still, Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry has adopted a more mechanical criterion called "Causal Probability", based on DS86, which disregards the influences of residual radiation and internal exposure. The consequence is even more applications for hibakusha certification rejected.

Faced with this situation, Nihon Hidankyo – Japanese Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations – initiated a movement of group lawsuits. The aim of the movement is not only to cope with the difficulty caused by old age of the A-Bomb survivors, but also to question the government's certification procedure itself or its general policy towards A-Bomb survivors, instead of fighting over validity of individual cases. Those A-bomb survivors who have been denied hibakusha certification for being bombed far from the ground zero or those who was a visitor when bombed but suffered from acute symptoms or persistent illness will be main applicants from now on. In case they are declined, they are to fight in the form of the group lawsuit.

They seek support to the group lawsuits from us, the medical doctors. It may become necessary for us to give opinions on the influences of exposure from the medical standpoint. There still exist various controversial points in this area. That is why cooperation of as many scientists as possible is essential. I hope that the scientists from every country have interest in this matter and express their opinions.