

March 11, 2022

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi

Letter of Request

On February 21, 2022, President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, recognized the independence of two areas controlled by pro-Russian forces in eastern Ukraine and launched a military invasion of Ukraine on February 24. These acts by Russia have violated the territory and sovereignty of Ukraine and are a breach of international law and the UN Charter, which obliges all member states to settle disputes by peaceful means.

According to media reports, many civilians, including children, have been killed, and it is impossible to overlook the fact that the peaceful life of the past is under threat.

In addition, at the time of the military invasion, President Putin's stance of flaunting his possession of nuclear weapons, hinting at the use of nuclear weapons, and his order to place nuclear deterrence forces on "high alert" is also in contravention of the Joint Statement issued by the five nuclear-weapons states, including Russia, in January this year.

While strongly condemning this recent military invasion, JTUC-RENGO resolutely demands an immediate cessation of military operations, withdrawal from Ukraine, opposition to nuclear weapons, and permanent peace.

Seventy-seven years ago, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, taking many precious lives. Even today, there are still large numbers of people who are suffering from the aftereffects of the bombs and those who grieve for the loss of their loved ones. We must not repeat such tragedies in which people's lives, their daily livelihoods, and all that is precious to them are taken away in an instant.

While requesting that the Japanese government take all possible measures to protect Japanese nationals in Ukraine and play a diplomatic role in resolving the situation, as the only country to have suffered atomic bombings in war, JTUC-RENGO strongly urges the Japanese government to take a firm stance against the inhumane use of nuclear weapons with a view to taking comprehensive measures including the cancellation of visas for Russian leaders.

Japanese Trade Union Confederation
President, Tomoko Yoshino