

March 3, 2022

President of the Russian Federation
His Excellency Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

JTUC-RENGO Protests the Military Invasion of Ukraine!

We, the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO), aim to eliminate nuclear weapons and realize a peaceful and stable society and life.

Currently, a military invasion by your country is continuing on Ukrainian soil. 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.

The recent series of acts, such as the unilateral recognition of the independence of the eastern part of Ukraine and the military invasion of Ukraine by your country, 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.

In addition, your country's stance of flaunting its possession of nuclear weapons at the time of the military invasion, statements hinting at the use of nuclear weapons, and the order to place nuclear deterrence forces on "high alert" and other acts are totally unacceptable, naturally, from the viewpoint of the use of inhumane nuclear weapons, but also due to the pressure itself exerted by the power of holding nuclear weapons in the background. These acts are also in contravention of the contents of the Joint Statement issued by the five nuclear-weapons states, including your country, in January this year.

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 strongly condemning the recent military invasion of Ukraine by your country, and urging an immediate cessation of military operations and withdrawal from Ukraine, JTUC-RENGO hereby issues a resolute protest that includes our objections to the series of actions in which the use of nuclear weapons was suggested.

Japanese Trade Union Confederation
President, Tomoko Yoshino