

## Open Letter to the Mayor of the City of Kurume

To Mr. Toshinori Narahara, Mayor of the City of Kurume

February 16, 2010

Dear Mr. Narahara,

Japanese ruling coalition and the Ministry of Defense are going to deploy PAC 3 to JASDF Kouradai Sub Base in the City of Kurume, Fukuoka, in February after the previous PAC3 deployments in SDF Bases in Ashiya and Tsuiki also in Fukuoka.

The deployment of PAC 3 is part of the US Missile Defense system. Deployment of the MD system, which is called 'the shield for preemptive strike,' further enhances missile crises.

In the past, Russian government even said that if the US MD system was to be deployed in the eastern Europe, then Russia would attack it. Considering this, PAC3 deployment to Kouradai Sub Base would oblige citizens of the city to live under a situation where they might suffer possible war disasters, their wish for peace and maintenance of the Article 9 trampled over.

Seen in its right perspective, PAC3 flies only 20km, and has no proven effect without enough numbers of confirmed successful hitting cases in realistic tests. In the current world situations where many peoples are faced with difficulties, how can we tolerate our hard-earned money being spent on this kind of incomplete weapon system?

The issue of PAC3 deployment not only concerns locals but also lives and ways of living of all the citizens in a broad sense. However, the Ministry of Defense requested the municipalities designated for the deployment that they refrain from announcing the details until after the planned PAC3 deployment to Ashiya and Tsuiki SDF Bases (and partly to Kasuga ) were over, and indeed they were brought in to those places without our knowledge of its coming into the bases. These posture of the Ministry of Defense toward local citizens ominously remind us without fail of the detestable secrecy practice of hiding military information during the WW2 under the then military rule in Japan.

For these reasons above, we oppose the scheduled deployment of PAC3 to Kouradai Sub Base.

We request that the Mayor of the City of Kurume agree to our statement and answer sincerely to our questions below.

(1) Whether or not you are agree to the forthcoming deployment of PAC3 to Kouradai Sub Base

(2) Whether or not you have received so far any previous notice from the Ministry of Defense regarding the purpose, volumes, date of the above-mentioned deployment. If you have, whether or not you have an intention to disclose to the public the information on the date of the notice and how it has come to you ( such as in a document or so).

(3) In case the Ministry of Defense contacts the City of Kurume as to when they are carrying out the above-mentioned deployment, whether or not you disclose the information to the public.

( Incidentally, the Ministry of Defense issued a document to the related municipalities which said that those municipalities were supposed to refrain from announcing the deployment dates to the public. To our question regarding this document, the spokesperson of the Ministry has said, ‘the legal legitimacy of the document is not clear, so the disclosure of the deployment date is up to the decision by the municipalities.’)

We would like to ask you to answer these questions in the form of a document till Feb.22nd.

Sincerely yours,

TOYOSHIMA Kouichi,

one of the representatives of the Kyushu Network of Anti-PAC3 and Pro-Article 9 Movements (P-NET)