



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: CERD/EWUAP

31 August 2012

Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 81<sup>st</sup> session the Committee further considered, under its early warning and urgent action procedure, the situation of the Okinawa communities concerning the construction of United States military bases in the area where these communities live. The Committee wishes to thank the State party for the information submitted in reply to the Committee's letter of 9 March 2012.

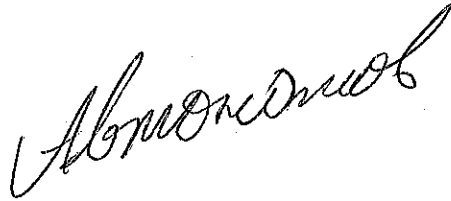
The Committee notes with appreciation the responses and clarifications provided and would like to encourage the State party to continue consulting local communities and involving them on issues affecting them.

Further, taking into consideration the concerns already expressed by the Committee (CERD/C/JAP/CO/3-6, para. 21) and by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism (E/CN.4/2006/16/Add.2) over the persistent discrimination suffered by the people of Okinawa, the Committee requests the State party to provide updated and detailed information in its seventh, eighth and ninth periodic reports due on 14 January 2013, on the measures envisaged or implemented to obtain the support and consent by the local communities for the projects developed in the Okinawa area.

His Excellency  
Mr. Yoichi Otabe  
Permanent Representative of Japan  
to the United Nations Office and other  
International organizations at Geneva  
Fax: +41 22 788 3811

Allow me, Excellency, to express the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Japan, with a view to promote the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexei Avtonomov', written in a cursive style.

Alexei Avtonomov  
Chair  
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination