

Statement :

Protest against press repression by the Prime Minister's office depriving the "right to know"

アピール:「知る権利」を奪う首相官邸の記者弾圧に抗議する

The Prime Minister's office in Japan unilaterally dismissed a news reporter's question as "factual error" and "problematic behavior" and made a Cabinet decision that justifies restricting or obstructing reporters' questions. This reporter asked the Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide SUGA at a press conference, "Red clay is now spreading at the reclaimed site", regarding the construction of the new US military base in Henoko, Nago-shi, Okinawa Prefecture. The fact that the red clay is spreading is obvious when you see the site, and it is natural for the reporter to ask questions at a press conference. The assertion of the Prime Minister's office is a mean act of stigmatizing reporters who do not comply with the Prime Minister's office as making factual errors.

菅義偉官房長官の記者会見で、沖縄県名護市辺野古での米軍新基地建設をめぐり、「埋め立て現場ではいま、赤土が広がっております」と質問した新聞記者に対して、首相官邸が「事実誤認」「問題行為」と一方的に断定し、質問制限や妨害行為を正当化する政府答弁書の閣議決定までしました。しかし、赤土が広がっていることは現場の状況を見れば明白であり、記者が記者会見で質問することは自然な行為です。首相官邸の主張は、意に沿わない記者に「事実誤認」のレッテルを貼る卑劣な行為です。

A press conference is a place for reporters to guarantee the "right to know" of citizens by shooting questions from various angles and asking the government's views on behalf of citizens who cannot attend the press conference. Therefore, the act by the Prime Minister's office to restrict reporters' question deprives the freedom of reporting and the "right to know" of all citizens. We cannot tolerate this behavior of the Prime Minister's office. We strictly protest against the Prime Minister's office and all cabinet members who signed the Cabinet decision and will call for the withdrawal of the Cabinet decision.

記者会見は、記者が、会見場に直接足を運ぶことができない市民に代わって、様々な角度から質問をぶつけ、為政者の見解を問いたただすことによって、市民の「知る権利」を保障する場です。それにもかかわらず、記者の質問内容にまで政府見解の枠をはめようとする首相官邸の行為は、「取材の自由」や全ての市民の「知る権利」を奪うものであり、断じて容認することはできません。首相官邸および閣議決定に署名した各閣僚に対し、厳重に抗議し、撤回を求めます。

The Chief Cabinet Secretary has repeatedly made incorrect answers about the Moritomo & Kake school scandal. On the other hand, he has not replied to

the questions of reporters who have pursued the problem for about a year and a half. The pressroom manager of the Prime Minister's office, who hosts the press conference, interfered with the reporter's question, saying "Please be brief" every few seconds. He restricted the number of questions from the reporter to 1 or 2 questions. These acts by the Prime Minister's office, such as stigmatizing the reporter as making factual errors are suppression and harassment against reporters.

菅官房長官は森友・加計学園問題で自らが誤った答弁を繰り返す一方で、その追及にあたった新聞記者の質問を約1年半にわたって後回しにしてきました。司会役の官邸報道室長は数秒おきに「簡潔にお願いします」と質問を妨害し、質問数も1~2問で打ち切っていました。一方的に「事実誤認」のレッテルを貼ることを含めた一連の首相官邸の行為は、記者に対する弾圧、ハラスメント(いじめ、嫌がらせ)です。

During the Second World War, the Japanese government planned to control the press and reporters and enforced the Newspaper Industry Act and set up the "Nihon Shimbunkai", a semi-controlled organization. Thus, the government severely restricted the free press and coverage activities. As a result, the Japanese press succumbed to the Japanese Military, and brought about the massive numbers of war victims. We must never repeat the same mistake again.

日本では第2次世界大戦中、政府が新聞事業令を施行するなど、報道機関や記者の統制を計画し、準統制団体である日本新聞会を設置させるなど、自由な報道や取材活動を大きく制限しました。この結果、報道はいわゆる「大本営発表」に染まり、取り返しのつかない数の死傷者を出しました。二度と同じ過ちを繰り返してはなりません。

“There is no need to answer you.”; Yoshihide SUGA’s words at the press conference are daggers pointed at all citizens. We, working in the media industry, urge the Prime Minister's office to promptly rectify the unfair press conference and stop the press repression that deprives the citizens of the "right to know."

「あなたに答える必要はない」

記者会見で言い放った菅官房長官の答弁は、全ての市民に向けられた刃です。メディアの現場で働く私たちは、不公正な記者会見のあり方をただちに改め、市民の「知る権利」を奪う記者弾圧をやめるよう、首相官邸に強く求めます。

March 14, 2019.

Japan Mass Media Culture Information Workers' Union Conference (MIC)
Participants of the protest action in front of the Prime Minister's office.

2019年3月14日

日本マスコミ文化情報労組会議(MIC)

官邸前行動参加者一同