

Daini Tokyo Bar Association Chairman statement against Russia's invasion of Ukraine, calling on the Japanese government to make diplomatic efforts and provide humanitarian assistance.

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Daini Tokyo Bar Association
Asaka Kanda, Chairman
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On February 24, 2022, Russian troops launched a military invasion of Ukraine, and the ongoing fights taking place in many parts of Ukraine cast a shadow on hearts of people around the world.

The Constitution of Japan states that every nation in the world, including the Ukrainian nation, has the right to live in peace without fear and deficiency. However, during these past days, Ukraine has suffered numerous casualties among the civilian population, including women and children, and according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of refugees forced to flee to neighboring countries has already exceeded 1 million people.

In the past, when a coalition of countries led by the United States of America launched a military invasion in Iraq, the Association pointed out that the use of force by the United States violated the Charter of the United Nations, and support of such illegal actions by the United States contradicted the principles of pacifism and peaceful international cooperation, which are stated by the Constitution of Japan. (Statement of the Chairman of the Association, March 19, 2003). Last year, in his statement on the Constitution Memorial Day of Japan - May 3, 2021 - the Chairman of the Association stressed that in the light of various events in different parts of the world, during which human rights and freedoms are being jeopardized internationally around the world, the significance of the Constitution of Japan, which appeals to the world the importance of pacifism, becomes more and more important.

In this invasion, the Russian Federation, as a permanent member of the UN, has the opportunity to make efforts for the peaceful resolution of the international conflict, but continues its aggression, threatening with nuclear weapon, which is absolutely unacceptable as it violates the United Nations Charter or international law, therefore the Association strongly protests against it. The provision of the UN Charter (Article 2 paragraph 3) that "all Member States of the UN shall resolve their international disputes peacefully in in such a manner that international peace, security, and justice, are not endangered." should apply to all countries, including Russia, and the strive for a peaceful solution, without the use of military force must be pursued in every situation.

Elie Wiesel, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, a writer originally from Eastern Europe and a Holocaust survivor, once said: "We must never forget that human indifference always helps the aggressor." Analyzing a variety of information obtained from daily news reports and social networks, we continue to stay interested in the background and development of this aggression, the actions of different countries towards a resolution of the conflict, and at the same time closely monitor the conflicts and the human rights situation in other countries of the world.

Based on the preamble of the Japanese Constitution stating that "No nation should focus solely on its own interests and ignore other nations. The foundations of political morality are universal, and according to them, each country is responsible for maintaining its sovereignty and establishing equal relations with other countries." as well as the fundamental principle of the UN Sustainable Development Goals "leaving no one behind", our Association appeals to the Government of Japan to make active diplomatic efforts to achieve a truce, end the war and provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people.