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Protest: MV-22 Osprey preventive landing and Noise Pollution Continued Caused by Night Time Flights
by the U.S. Military

On 14 August 2018, the city received notice from the Okinawa Defense Bureau in regards to an MV-22 Osprey operating out of MCAS Futenma making a preventive landing at Amami Airport. Furthermore, there was another MV-22 Osprey which made an emergency landing at Kadena Air Base on the same day, according to news.

Regarding to Aircrafts operating out of MCAS Futenma which made numerous preventive landing numerous times since last year, we have a strong sense of crisis. The residents live in constant fear and anxiety. At each opportunity, the City of Ginowan has requested a thorough prevention of recurrence, but similar incidents continue to occur. It is not something that can be neglected at any time, and I have strong doubts on the crisis awareness and safety management system of the U.S. military.

Additionally, night time flying of the military aircraft continues to affect the residents. Our recent protest was on July and June 2018 regarding night time flight activities. The city has been requesting the "Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Futenma Air Station" and to show a thorough consideration toward the residents, but we have yet to see any improvement. The city has received noise complaints from nearby residents every day. Our most recent report was on the 14th, noise levels of 92.2dB were recorded at 22:52 at a community center in the Ue-Ojana district. The night time damage of noise pollution has become an everyday matter, throughout the city. These recurring issues have caused much frustration and disappointment.

It has been 22 years since the SACO Agreement to return the land, the residents' threshold of patience has come to their limits. Despite the city's requests and protests to mitigate base related burdens, the situation has not changed, cannot be condoned and we must express of deepest disappointment.

As Ginowan City Mayor whose duty is to protect the lives and assets of over 98,000 citizens, current conditions can not be condoned. Thus, the city strongly protests and demands the following terms be met:

- Thorough investigation of the cause of the recurrence of all preventive landings, including this recent event, as well as publication of specific measures taken to prevent recurrence for the disclosure of information to ease the anxiety of residents.
- For all aircraft belonging to the MCAS Futenma carry out a total inspection of the safety management system including the maintenance system, strictly conduct safety checks again.
- Cease all flight activity after 22:00 to abide by the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Futenma Air Station agreed between Japanese and the US Governments and to show thorough consideration towards the residents at all other hours of the day.
- The closure of MCAS Futenma at the earliest possible date and return of land to solve the root of these arising issues, as well as realization of the agreement to cease all operations on MCAS Futenma in the next 5 years and the alleviation of risks and burdens.