

GIKISHO NO.54  
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Mr. Joel C. Ehrendreich  
Consul General  
American Consulate General Naha

Atsushi Sakima  
Mayor  
Ginowan City

Protest: Accident of Window falls from CH-53 helicopter onto Futenma Elementary school 2

On December 13th, a serious accident occurred in which a window belonging to a CH-53 Helicopter that belongs to MCAS Futenma, fell onto the grounds of the Futenma Elementary school 2.

This accident which occurred this time is a very serious accident in the elementary school that should be a safe and secure area for the children who will lead the future whom are having fun and studying everyday. This absolutely must not be, and I feel strong indignation in response to this incident.

When that accident happened, physical education classes were being held in the sports field that are only 10 meters away from the point where the window falls, but needless to say, if a person is by a large window of 7.7 kilograms, it is a life-threatening situation. The impact of many children and teachers who existed on the spot was immeasurable, giving great concerns and fears to school officials.

The MCAS Futenma in the center of the city and is said to be the "world's most dangerous base" can lead to catastrophes involving citizens in any trouble, just a year ago on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2016, An Osprey crash-landed in shallow waters accident, since that aircraft that belongs to MCAS Futenma has been in trouble one situation after another. These recurring issues have caused much frustration and disappointment. Ginowan city has strongly been requested the base to close and be return to the people as soon as possible and that appeal continues so far, but with 21 years since return agreement, these accident continue to happen all the time, And since the return has not happened at this time, the danger have not changed at all, but current situation that threaten the life's of the citizens by this accident are highlighted again.

The current situation in which the danger of life on the citizen is located right next to everyday life is extremely unique, and the both Japan and the U.S. and the U.S. military must take this situation seriously, the fact that it will be irreparable if a mistake like this is made again. A step like this we must not accept ourselves, we must implement measures that have a sense of crisis.

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

## Note

- Thorough investigation of the cause and prevention plan of recurrence, as well as to publish this plan and contents as soon as possible.
- For all aircraft belonging to the MCAS Futenma including the CH-53 helicopter, carry out a total inspection of the safety management system including the maintenance system, strictly conduct safety checks again, and stop all flights until safety is confirmed.
- As an emergency response, between Japan and the U.S. should seriously consult with each other, promptly show concrete measures to mitigate the burden of the base that the citizens who have an overload burden as well as can feel, and make sure to implement it.
- To fully redeem the MCAS Futenma, which is a citizen's desire, take all measures and realize it as soon as possible.
- Suspend operation within 5 years and make efforts with a sense of crisis and realize steadily to eliminate the risk of MCAS Futenma and reduce the base burden until returning.