



THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Korea-Japan Society for Interchange Censures Suppression of Chongryon

Pyongyang, March 28 (KCNA) -- The Korea-Japan Society for Interchange in a statement Saturday hit out at the Japan Police Agency's search of the houses of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) who are deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on Mar. 26.

The unwarranted anti-DPRK and anti-Chongryon act that activated tens of police and armored cars is touching off strong protest and denunciation and towering resentment. The statement said:

The despicable act that is timed to coincide with the U.S. vicious anti-DPRK "human rights" campaign is apparently pursuant to the U.S. scenario. The U.S. tries to strangle the DPRK with severe "sanctions", talking about "collapse of its social system".

Japan which styles itself a "law-governed state" committed the bullying act, intentionally charging Chongryon with suspicious involvement in a case without legal and scientific validity, not content with working as a shock brigade in carrying out the U.S. anti-DPRK "human rights" campaign. This can never go unnoticed.

Chongryon is a legitimate overseas citizens' organization of the DPRK advocating all democratic and national rights of the Koreans in Japan, and it plays the role of the DPRK mission abroad as the two countries have no diplomatic relations.

The Society strongly denounces the suppression of the leading officials of Chongryon as a serious human rights abuse and an intolerable infringement on the sovereignty of the DPRK.

Japan has not made any proper redemption for its past crimes against humanity, 70 years since its defeat in the war. It is greatly mistaken if it thinks it can go scot-free after suppressing Koreans in Japan.

The Japanese authorities have to apologize for the fascist act and punish those responsible.

If this incident has adverse impacts on the implementation of the DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration and the Stockholm agreement, Japan will have to hold full responsibility. -0-