

Written statement of Kazue Morizono, a plaintiff/victim
presented to the court on August 28, 2015 (24th Civil Division of the Tokyo District
Court)

I live in Koriyama, a town in Fukushima Prefecture. Koriyama is about 60 kilometers west of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. The town has an area nearly the size of central Tokyo. (See note 1.) Fukushima Prefecture is divided into three regions: Hamadori on the Pacific side, Nakadori in the center, and Aizu on the west. Koriyama is in Nakadori. There, as in many other places, no one ever imagined the extent of the contamination.

There were disaster victims in the coastal region who might have been saved but were not helped. Rescue efforts had to be halted because of the radiation.

“If only it had not been a nuclear plant.” A resident of Sukagawa took his life shortly after the accident, leaving that statement in a note. The tragedy of his death was a huge shock to me. On the 9th of August an elderly woman killed herself at an emergency shelter constructed after the earthquake. (Minyu Newspaper, August 9, 2015)

Many others have taken own their lives. They had homes, friends, neighbors, and saw no hope of returning. The media report these stories less and less. Is it right that these injustices continue? (See note 2.)

More than 110,000 people still live as evacuees. Restoration is nowhere in sight. And we remain constantly exposed to low-level radiation.

It was not only people. Think of the suffering and pain of the farm animals and pets – dogs, cats, chickens, pigs, cows and more – often confined and desperate, left behind to die of hunger and thirst. They had no chance to survive. Or their helpless owners killed them. This, too, was part of the chain of events caused by the nuclear accident and radioactive contamination. And it goes on.

The earthquake cut off water to my house. For five days, two or three hours a day, we lined up outside to get water, as radioactive particles fell on us. Then radioactive

iodine was found at our water station. I remember how frightened I was when I learned that. How much radiation did I absorb in those first days?

Is the decontamination work reassuring?

As confusing and contradictory information flowed in, children disappeared from public parks. Soon gone was the sight of mothers and toddlers outdoors. Empty spaces looked like scenes from a science-fiction movie.

Immediately after the accident, the government and some experts told us: “This kind of low-dose radioactivity has no immediate health effects.” The most important thing, they said, was to decontaminate the affected areas, and that, with decontamination, people would be able to live normally again, with full confidence.

So teachers and parents began to decontaminate their local schools and commuting routes. High-pressure water cleaners were used to wash away the radioactive particles adhering everywhere. The effort involved a lot of trial and error. And of course those people were further exposed in the process. One could see such “decontamination” going on everywhere.

“We’re only moving radioactive particles from one place to another,” many said. Yet that was “better than nothing,” and, anyway, the only thing they could do.

My family did the same. We dug up the dirt around the bottoms of rain gutters where exposure of 10 μ SV per hour had been measured, and scraped off a layer of dirt from the yard. We put the dirt into sandbags, stacked them in a corner of the yard, and covered them with a blue tarpaulin. Two years and seven months later they were still there. (See note 3.)

The biggest problem was and still is where to put the contaminated materials. There is no initial storage depot or temporary storage facility. Currently, contaminated materials are stored “on site” at more than 100,000 locations. (See note 4.)

Why were we made to do the decontamination work ourselves? Properly speaking, those who were to blame for the reactor accident should have done this. Not only

TEPCO, but also the manufacturers who built such dangerous reactors, should have carried out the decontamination.

Oddly enough, after some time, decontamination became a public project carried out under awarded contracts. Explanatory meetings on the work were held in every community center and the distributed pamphlets showed the names of the companies participating, including nuclear power plant manufacturers. They, along with TEPCO, were the ones responsible for the accident. Now they are making a profit cleaning up after it. This is absurd.

Do we treasure our children . . . or not?

On the 19th of March, Shunichi Yamashita and Noboru Takamura of Nagasaki University, and Kenji Kamiya of Hiroshima University, were appointed advisers to Fukushima Prefecture.

“A radiation dose of up to 100mSv per year has no negative health effects.”

“It is safe for children to play outdoors in the sandpits.”

“If one has a positive attitude and laughs a lot, there will be no problems.”

One could hear them making such irresponsible, condescending statements at every opportunity. Why were we being brainwashed like this? Because there would have been too many claims for even the national government to pay!

By law, annual radiation exposure dose for civilians had been limited to 1mSv per year. Suddenly, for infants and toddlers, 20 to 100 mSV was “no problem.” I am sure the nuclear power plant manufacturers knew the meaning of this. Would you apply the new limit to your own children and grandchildren?

Finally, I want to talk about the fact that thyroid cancer among children is extremely rare – usually one or two cases per million. At the end of this month, August 2015, the 20th meeting of the “Board of Inquiry on the Health of Fukushima Residents” will be held.

So far, 300,000 people have undergone health check-ups in Fukushima Prefecture. 127 children were diagnosed with malignant tumors of the thyroid gland or suspected malignant tumors. One hundred and four of those children were operated on, and thyroid cancer was confirmed in 103. Many cases had metastasized to the lymphatic glands or other organs. National government and prefectural officials explained: “A

correlation between radiation dose and these cancers is hardly conceivable.” How many children are needed for a conceivable correlation?

“Prognosis after surgery is good,” say the doctors. “The illness is not life threatening,” say the doctors. The children must take medication for the rest of their lives and their parents must live with unending fear and regret.

A new rule was issued for after-school activities: “To take part in school events or sports training, children must submit written permission with the signature and seal of a parent or guardian.” The soil remained radioactive. The health lessons of Chernobyl were not applied. Responsibility was dumped on the parents.

Irradiated by national policy, and by the nuclear reactor suppliers

The national government and prefecture concealed information from the SPEEDI radiation-forecasting system and delayed distribution of potassium iodine tablets to the public in the affected areas after the reactor accident, thereby subjecting many people to avoidable radiation exposure and harm. On top of that, it turned out that when exposure is from all directions, as it was at Fukushima, the dosimeters at the monitoring posts run by the government and the film badges distributed by Fukushima Prefecture to the people, which were worn on the outside of clothing, measure 30 to 40 percent lower than the actual amount of radiation. (See note 5.)

Still that was not all. Those measurements, whatever their accuracy, were only of external exposure. Internal exposure from eating contaminated food and breathing contaminated air must be measured and added to understand the total.

Children and pregnant women should have been evacuated immediately!

Shortly after the accident, many countries, including the United States, took steps to protect their citizens, arranging chartered flights out of Japan, or advising people to evacuate to western Japan. I have heard that many foreign residents left Tokyo or the country. The Japanese government from the beginning did nothing for the citizens of Fukushima but ignore and abandon them, leaving them to do the best they could.

All of this can be described as irradiation by national policy. It is the policy of TEPCO, the national government, local authorities and the nuclear reactor suppliers for whom economic interests are the highest priority.

In the four and a half years since the reactor accidents, the government and lobbyists for the nuclear industry have created a new security myth in the name of reconstruction. Damage from actual radioactivity has been translated as “damage caused by misinformation” and “damage caused by consumers’ believing rumors” (e.g., refusing to buy products from Fukushima). At the same time, information concerning the accident and the radioactive contamination has been controlled and a social climate has been created in which living in contaminated areas is not considered a serious problem, but, rather, a way to reclaim and re-take control of one’s life through one’s own best efforts. (An example is the so-called “Fukushima Ethos Project,” an organization active in Fukushima, connected to the French nuclear lobby. One of the key persons in the project is Jacques Lochard, a conductor of the Belarus Ethos Project and director of the Center of Studies on the Evaluation of Protection in the Nuclear Field, an NGO funded by the French nuclear lobby.)

In a situation where it is completely impossible to think that radioactive contamination could just vanish, the various problems are handled in a sort of Russian roulette manner. The public has lost its right to know – its right to information – and human dignity has been taken away. As a result, the consequences of Fukushima Daiichi are spreading, increasing, inexorably.

It is hard to say that TEPCO is responding sincerely to the victims, as payments of compensation for damage are coming very slowing. Social inequality is increasing. The responsibility (product liability) of the manufacturers of the Fukushima nuclear power plants is not being pursued, although defects in the reactors have been pointed out repeatedly.

With no means of disposing of spent nuclear fuel and no solution in sight for the problem of radioactively contaminated water, the government is rushing to build provisional incinerators to burn contaminated waste. How does that help? Those incinerators themselves will then *become* radioactive waste, and have to be disposed of somehow – but nobody knows how. (See note 6.)

Radiation damage in Fukushima is only one example of the dangers posed by nuclear reactors, concerns for which reach far beyond the prefecture. Yet the nuclear reactor manufacturers continue to pursue only their own financial interests, ducking all other

responsibility, working to resume operation of other nuclear facilities, and planning to export nuclear reactors to other countries! For the people of Fukushima, this is *literally* insult upon injury.

Your Honor, please do not allow the present unjust situation to continue!
Our entire daily lives are dominated by the ongoing consequences of the nuclear reactor accident, and this is directly connected to the nuclear power plant manufacturers. (See note 7.)

Let me close by saying that I pray every single day for the safety of the workers who are still struggling at the site, exposed themselves, continually, to radiation and other dangers, as they work to bring the reactor accident under control.
Without them, Japan would have no future. Thank you.

Notes:

- 1.) About 1,300,000 people are living in the Nakadori area, located in Fukushima Prefecture, corresponding to about 65 percent of the total prefecture population. Towns in Nakadori include Dateshi, Fukushima, Nihonmatsu, Motomiya, Koriyama and Shirakawa. The Tohoku-Shinkansen and the Tohoku highway are passing through Nakadori. More than 160,000 inhabitants of Nakadori had to be evacuated.
- 2.) According to data of the Tokyo-Shinbun newspaper concerning suicides connected to the 2011 disaster, suicides related to the nuclear reactor accident happened in sixteen municipalities. Up to the present day, 118,000 people are still evacuated and have to live far away from their hometown due to the impact of the earthquake and the atomic reactor accident. The number of suicides, approved by the municipalities as caused by the disaster of 2011, keeps on rising further and on the 9th of August of the present day had reached 1,884 cases. In the municipality of Futaba – consisting of eight villages, including Okuma, where the damaged nuclear power plant Fukushima Daiichi is located, and Futaba town - the damages by the nuclear reactor accident are especially severe. Even today about 20 applications per month are filed by relatives of suicide victims for recognition as suicides caused by

the disaster of 2011. (10th of March, 2015, Tokyo-Shinbun)

<http://www.tokyo-np.co.jp/article/feature/nucerror/list/CK2015031002100003.html>

3.) Town authorized decontamination countermeasures in our home were carried out by Mitsubishi Material. Subcontractor came from the cities of Fukushima and Koriyama. Decontamination works took place in November 2014. 4 tons of decontaminated materials (waste) were filled in bags and buried deeply in our garden.

4.) Enclosed materials (article of the Fukushima-Minpo newspaper of the 23rd of August, 2015)

Keeping on site exceeds 100,000 places – No beginning for transport of decontamination waste in sight – schedule for temporary storage facility delayed
Nearly a year has passed since Fukushima prefecture gave approval to the construction of a temporary storage facility for decontamination waste. From the prefectures point of view this was seen as essential to speed up reconstruction of Fukushima. After the decision, decontamination countermeasures were sped up steadily. However, thereby the number of decontaminated waste also increased quickly. Today there are more than 100.000 places in Fukushima prefecture, where decontaminated waste – with no place (facility) to bring to - is just kept “on site”, near the place, where decontamination works were carried out for example in a corner of the garden. Municipalities, burdened with on –site kept decontamination waste, therefore raising their voices urging the ministry of environment to set up a time schedule for beginning of decontamination waste transports to the planned temporary storage facility.

Where to take the decontamination waste?

According to statements of the prefecture, at the end of March of this year state financed decontamination countermeasures of residential buildings were finished on about 264,000 buildings. This means about the double amount of the 136.000 decontaminated buildings in March the year before and about 60 percent of the 432.000 residential buildings, on which decontaminations works must be carried out. The government authorized decontamination in the “zone in preparation for the lifting of evacuation order“ and “restricted residence area zone“ are scheduled to be concluded until end of 2016.

On the other hand, 2.300.000 cubic meter decontamination waste is kept in temporarily storage places. Up to now, just about 11,000 cubic meter of this waste - about 0.5 percent of the kept total quantity- was test-wise transported to the place, where the temporary storage facility is to be built. Temporarily storage places are already filled up to the edge of their capacities and there is no place to store new decontamination waste.

According to statements of Fukushima prefecture the number of places, in which decontamination waste was kept directly "on site" has risen to 102.093 until end of March this year. A year before, at end of March 2014 there were only 53.057 places of "on-site" kept contaminated waste. The amount therefore almost doubled in one year. Responsible departments of Fukushima prefecture assume, that "decontaminated waste will continue to increase in future at the same speed".

Municipalities are screaming for help

The city of Fukushima, with 47.526 places of on-site kept decontamination waste the most concerned about this issue within the prefecture, has up to now not received a schedule for beginning of test transports to the temporary storage facility site. A municipal staff member explains the difficult situation of the town concerning this issue: "Many citizens ask the town to move away decontaminated waste from their homes as quickly as possible. The town would like to meet these claims and set-up a new temporary storage place. But without schedule to start transporting to the temporary storage facility site, getting consent of landowner and local residents of a place, who might be a possible candidate for a new temporary storage place, might not be possible.

The city of Koriyama is examining, whether - as first precaution to the later beginning transports to the temporary storage facility – decontaminated waste could be collected and stored in a so called "loading station". But also here the person in charge says with a sigh: „As long as no dependable schedule exists, we can't even begin with planning for preparation of the "loading station".“

A quick presenting of the transport schedule is required

After beginning of the first test transports to the temporary storage facility site in March this year, the Ministry of environment announced its will to put together a schedule

within 2-3 months concerning transport of radioactively contaminated soil as well as transport to a permanent storage site outside Fukushima prefecture. But until today, after nearly half a year, there is still no official announcement. A speaker of the ministry explains: “We have just begun checking possible waste compression technologies. So we still don’t know, when the schedule will be announced.”

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The “safety guarantee agreement”, achieved by the Ministry of the environment, Fukushima prefecture and the municipalities of Okuma and Futaba, declares the State’s obligation for drawing up a time schedule for transport and construction works and to do annual reporting as well. Hence, representatives of Fukushima prefecture demand a quick announcement of the time schedule, because „if schedule arrangement is further delayed, there will be a negative influence on the storage on site.“

Background

On the 30th of August 2014 Fukushima prefecture officially announced approval of constructing of a temporary storage facility after winning consent from Okuma and Futaba Municipalities, (both considered possible candidates for the temporary storage facility site). On the 1st of September of the same year, former governor Yuhei Sato transmitted the approval to Prime Minister Shintaro Abe in his official residence. In the same month, the Ministry of the environment started negotiations with landowners of Okuma and Futaba Municipalities concerning land of up to 16 square kilometer. Of the 2365 landowner, considered a possibility, 850 people were contacted and 570 people gave approval to investigation of their properties. But only 5 landowners signed a contract until the end of July this year.

<https://www.minpo.jp/news/detail/2015082324844>

5.) film badge dosimeter measure radiation in an environment like in Fukushima, where radiation is coming from all directions, about 30 to 40 percent lower than the actual radiation amount. (Official explanation of CHIYODA TECNO company during a study group of council member of Date town)

<http://fukurou.txt-nifty.com/fukurou/2015/01/post-156b.html>

6)“What garbage tells about our society“ <http://gomif.blog.fc2.com>

7.) On the 31st of July this year mandatory indictment was decided against three former TEPCO managers, after an independent inquest committee, consisting of members of

the public, checked the case for the second time and decided that the former TEPCO officials should face mandatory indictment. The committee member, citizens of Tokyo, have made a decision, which meets the expectations of citizens of Fukushima prefecture and the Japanese People. This is of great importance. I hope, that in the future the nuclear power plant manufacturers will have to face mandatory indictment as well.

Notes:

- 6.) About 1,300,000 people live in the Nakadori area of Fukushima Prefecture, about 65 percent of the total population of the prefecture. Towns/cities in Nakadori include Date, Fukushima, Nihonmatsu, Motomiya, Koriyama and Shirakawa. The Tohoku-Shinkansen and the Tohoku highway pass through Nakadori. More than 160,000 inhabitants of Nakadori had to be evacuated.
- 7.) Based on reports in the Tokyo Shinbun newspaper concerning suicides connected to the 2011 disaster, suicides related to the nuclear reactor accident occurred in sixteen municipalities. At the present time, 118,000 people are still evacuated and have to live far away from their homes due to the effects of the earthquake and reactor accidents. The number of suicides recognized by the municipalities as caused by the disaster of 2011 continues to rise and as of August 9 stood at 1,884. In the municipality of Futaba – consisting of eight villages, including Okuma, where the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station is located, and Futaba town - damage from the nuclear reactor accident is especially severe. Even today, about 20 applications per month are filed by relatives of suicide victims seeking recognition as suicides caused by the disaster of 2011. (March 10, 2015, Tokyo Shinbun)
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- 8.) Eventually, Mitsubishi Material carried out town-authorized decontamination countermeasures for our home. Subcontractors came from the cities of Fukushima and Koriyama. Decontamination work took place in November 2014. Four tons of decontaminated materials (waste) were put in bags and buried deep in our garden.

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Storage on site exceeds 100,000 locations – No start of transport of decontamination waste in sight – schedule for temporary storage facility delayed

Nearly a year has passed since Fukushima prefecture gave approval to the construction of a temporary storage facility for decontamination waste. From the prefecture's point of view this was seen as essential to speed up reconstruction of Fukushima. After the decision, decontamination countermeasures were stepped up steadily. As a result, however, the amount of decontamination waste also increased. Today there are more than 100,000 places in Fukushima prefecture where decontamination waste – with no place (facility) to take it to - is just kept "on site," near the place where decontamination work was carried out, for example, in the corner of the garden. Municipalities, burdened with on-site waste, are raising their voices urging the Ministry of the Environment to set up a time schedule for beginning the transport of decontamination waste to the planned temporary storage facility.

Where to take the decontamination waste?

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At the same time, 2,300,000 cubic meter decontamination waste is being kept in temporarily storage places. Up to now, only about 11,000 cubic meter of this waste - about 0.5 percent of the total – was test-transported to the place where the temporary storage facility is to be built. Temporarily storage places are already filled up to the limit of their capacities and there is no place to store new decontamination waste.

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year. Responsible departments of Fukushima prefecture assume that “decontaminated waste will continue to increase in the future at the same rate.”

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The city of Koriyama is examining whether - as a precaution in the event of delayed transport to the temporary storage facility – decontaminated waste could be collected and stored in a so-called "loading station." But also here the person in charge said with a sigh: “As long as no dependable schedule exists, we can’t even begin planning for preparation of the ‘loading station.’”

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The “safety guarantee agreement” among the Ministry of the Environment, Fukushima prefecture and the municipalities of Okuma and Futaba declares the State’s obligation to draw up a time schedule for transport and construction and to report annually as well. Hence, representatives of Fukushima prefecture are demanding a quick announcement of the time schedule, because, “If the scheduling arrangements are further delayed, there will be a negative effect on storage on site.”

Background

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