

**There Actually Is No Such Thing as a Ryukyu Minority
That is Being Discriminated Against:**
*Demagoguery and Propaganda Must Not Continue to Thrive
in International Society in the 21st Century*

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Yesterday you heard that the people of Okinawa Prefecture, which is actually an integral part of Japan, are a discriminated minority, oppressed by the Japanese government and U.S. military.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

I was born and raised in Okinawa. As a part of Japan, we enjoy the highest standards of human rights, quality of education, welfare, health, and living. And China, a threat to the security of the region and to Japan, as well as human rights in general, is promoting an independence movement in Okinawa by having elected officials and their supporters say we are an indigenous minority. We are not.

Please do not believe the propaganda.

I brought with me a message from a member of the Ishigaki City Council, Yoshiyuki Toita, who writes, "Our current governor is irresponsibly ignoring the role the U.S. bases play in the security of Japan and the Asia-Pacific Region. He is misrepresenting the situation. It is important that he and everyone at the UN recognize the serious challenges in the East China and South China Seas presented by China."

Thank you.