Absolutely No to the Division and Privatization of National Railway! Withdraw Dismissal of 1,047 National Railway Workers! Let’s Organize a Powerful Struggle against Massive Unemployment and Fight Back Neo-Liberal Offensive and Firing under the Pretext of the Earthquake!

June 5th Rally of National Campaign of National Railway Struggle

June 5th (Sunday), 13:00 p.m.
Hibiya Public Hall, Tokyo

JUNE 5TH RALLY OF NATIONAL CAMPAIGN OF NATIONAL RAILWAY STRUGGLE

June 5th, 13:00 p.m.
Hibiya Public Hall, Tokyo

IT0 Akira: Researcher of Japanese Modern History
IRIE Shiro: President of Independent Trade Union of Standard-Vacuum Oil
UTSUNOMIYA Osamu: President of Ehime Prefectural Workers’ Union
OHNO Yoshifumi: Former Director of Aki Labor Standards Supervision Office
OWADA Koji: Secretary General of Metal and Machinery Workers’ Union in Osaka
KAMAKURA Takao: Economist, Emeritus Professor of Saitama University
KITAHARA Koji: Secretary General of Sanrizu-Shibayama United Opposition League against Airport Construction
Kim Weon Jun: Researcher of History of Korean Labor Movement
Go Yeong Nam: Vice-President of Solidarity Union of Japan Construction and Transport Workers Kansai Area Branch
SUZUKI Tatsuo: Lead Lawyer of the Trial of Hosei University Oppression
TESHIMA Koichi: Former Secretary-General of Kokuro Kyushu Headquarters
TAKAYAMA Shunkichi: Lawyer, Representative of Society for Constitution and Human Rights in Japan Federation of Bar Associations
NAKAIE Masao: Former National Vice-President of National Railway Motive Power Union
NISHIDA Takashi: Former Organizer of Socho, President of Tobu General United Union
HAYAMA Takeo: Lead Consulting Lawyer of Doro-Chiba
HANAWA Fujio: Adviser of Setagaya Regional Trade Union Council
MIYASHIRO Morimitsu: Council Member of Kita-Nakagusuku Village of Okinawa Prefecture, Former Member of Zengunro Makiminato Branch
YAMAMOTO Hiroyuki: Secretary Treasurer of Doro-Chiba Support Committee
YAYAMA Yusaku: Former Member of the House of Representatives
SEINO Kazuhiro: Former President of Fukushima Teachers’ Union
Jack Heyman: Former Executive Committee Member of International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10
Solidarity Union of Japan Construction and Transport Workers Kansai Area Branch
32 representatives of confederations and unions affiliated to Korean Confederation of Trade Unions Seoul Regional Council

国鉄分割・民営化に反対し、1047名解雇撤回闘争を支援する全国運動（国鉄闘争全国運動）
For a Powerful Struggle against Massive Unemployment!  
Let's Revitalize Labor Movement!

**Rally for a starting point for a new labor movement**

It's one year since we have launched a nationwide campaign for national railway struggle with slogans: "Don't put out the fire of national railway struggle" "Let's organize a labor movement to counter neo-liberal offensive". While we are fully engaged in developing this fresh movement, East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear plant disaster which took place on March 11, 2011, has changed the whole situation fundamentally. The existing labor unions are abandoning all union activities under the name of "self-restraint" or "political truce". "Four Parties and Four Bodies" headed by Kokuro (National Railway Workers' Union) leadership, which have committed in the "political settlement" last year of the struggle of 1,047 dismissed national railway workers, issued a declaration, "Considering the quake disaster, we temporally suspend political effort to solve the employment issue of 1,047 workers". The reality is, however, we face an urgent need of revitalizing labor movement right now in this particular moment. National railway struggle has never occupied a more significant and decisive position in the whole situation than now. In view of these developments, we, endorsers of the national campaign, have started a serious discussion on the important task of the June 5th National Rally to ignite a fresh start of struggle for the future of workers and labor movement.

We have confirmed the following points as a result of our discussion:

* If we allow further engagement of labor unions in labor-capital collaboration, we will surely lose all labor rights without limit.
* Labor unions are under siege of capital and the state power and union bosses still have no policy to overcome this situation. Opinions are divided between class-struggle orientation and social-movement viewpoint to reconstruct the life and the society.  
* All the disasters after the quake, including tsunami and nuclear plant accident, are crimes committed by capital and the state. These are the results of neo-liberal agenda and privatization. We desperately need a clarification of fundamental strategy of labor movement to change these prevailing trends.  
* Labor movement is responsible for the present situation, in which dissent opinions are suppressed and unfavorable facts are concealed on the nuclear issue by the government and corporations. Current confusion and disruption of the movement against nuclear weapon and nuclear plants has been produced by existing labor unions.

*What we need now is to expose the common social and political roots of neo-liberal offensive, which is the underlying ideology of the Division and Privatization of National Railway and what caused the whole developments of the East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear plant disaster. This must be the urgent task of June 5th National Rally, which confronts imminent massive unemployment and is expected to present an effective form and way of struggle to tackle this serious issue.

*In this situation, the guiding logic and policy of our national railway struggle should be developed under universal viewpoint, or wider perspective of the whole labor and social movements.

The surrounding situation of national railway struggle is now undergoing a violent change. Kokuro is rapidly being co-opted into Rengo (Japanese Confederation of Trade Unions, the major national trade union center) after the "political settlement" reached last year. An all-out capital offensive has been raging over various fields of Japanese labor scene since past year: privatization of the Social Insurance Agency, accompanied by over-all firing of all employees and selective re-employment thereafter ("JNR model"), designated discharge of Japan Air Lines (JAL) workers, mass firing of thousand temporary workers of Japan Post, among others. It has become more and more evident that the fundamental aim of the "political settlement" on April 9th, 2010 of the issue of 1,047 dismissed national railway workers was to liquidate labor movement as a whole.

**Doro-Chiba has blocked outsourcing of JR**

In the present situation, leading position of Doro-Chiba, which has been carrying out the struggle for rail safety and against rationalization and successfully crushed the overall attempt of outsourcing, and of Kan-Nama (Solidarity Union of Japan Construction and Transport Workers Kansai Area Branch), which waged a powerful industrial action last year to shake the domination of the big general contractors, has been gaining greater significance in presenting a future for Japanese militant labor movement. The crucial task for us now is whether we can establish a strong link with numerous workers and people who are raising angry voices in utmost difficulties in the aftermath of the huge quake and to offer them a perspective of fighting back. We must take back unity and solidarity of working class and change the whole situation of labor movement. We heartily call on you all to join us in June 5th National Rally!