

**Women's Association for Peace and
against Military Bases and Militarization across Japan**

Our View and Requests regarding “Black Box Diaries”

We recognize that “Black Box Diaries”, directed by Shiori Ito, is an extremely important and potentially socially transformative work that presents the world with a documentary of the gross sexual assault of a woman.

The basis of this film was Shiori Ito's speaking out of her own sexual damage. This has led many women to take it as their own issue and become the catalyst for the #Me Too movement in Japan.

However, with the release of “Black Box Diaries” to the world, another issue has emerged. As was claimed by the attorneys who represented Shiori Ito in her sexual damage lawsuit, it became clear that the film had been made without permission of the information sources in several scenes. For instance, the video and audio of a very conscientious police officer who was a *de-facto* internal whistleblower, as well as the video and audio of a cab driver who was a cooperator, were used without their permission. In Japan, such use of the information may drive the whistleblower and cooperator to the brink.

Journalists have so far uncovered major cases. Watergate, the Pentagon Papers, and the Weinstein case involving female New York Times reporters that sparked the #Me Too outrage. In these reports, the reporters were very protective of their information sources and did not use the information in the reports without their permission. Yet the reporters have succeeded in revealing the important issues to society.

The information source is “human”. In the case of investigative reporting that has had a great impact on, and brought about transformation, to society, it has been documented that the reporters have been close to their information sources and have carefully engaged in close human communication with them. In such process, although the information sources often did not grant permission, the reporters have not given up, and managed to publish their reports in a creative manner.

“Black Box Diaries” is a record of the gross human rights violations against Shiori Ito, which has extremely important meaning in society. However, we recognize that in

releasing this film, Shiori Ito failed to carefully communicate with her information sources and, as a result, violated their human rights. The hotel whose security camera footage was used in the film without its permission also indicates that it may not be able to provide the footage to outsiders in the future. This means that it may become difficult for victims to reveal the truth and that no recourse may be available to them when similar violations occur.

We hope that this film will be released in Japan, so that many people will become more aware of despicable sexual assault. For this purpose, we request Shiori Ito as follows:

1. Please make further efforts to obtain permission from the information sources, and if she cannot obtain their permission despite her efforts, please re-edit this film by deleting the relevant scenes in order to make it possible to release this film in Japan.
2. As a journalist, please openly accept the criticism and immediately withdraw the lawsuit against the journalist Isoko Mochizuki who has written the signed article regarding the problems described above.

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Yuko Tanaka, Representative