



A.J. Duffy, UTLA President

December 7, 2007

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President, Tokyo Metropolitan Public School Teachers' Union
Nihon Kyoiku Kaikan Bldg., 5F, 2-6-2 Hitotsubashi,
Chiyoda-Ward, 101-0003 Tokoyo, Japan

Dear Brother and Sisters:

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) passed a resolution on October 3, 2007, expressing solidarity with Sister Nezu Kimiko and the Japan Teachers Union as they continue to fight for academic freedom and the preservation of Articles Nine and Nineteen of the Japanese Constitution.

The Japanese people and teachers have renounced war and today it is becoming clearer and clearer that war is not a valid response to international disputes or a just way to use the world's resources. UTLA stands with Sister Nezu Kimiko. UTLA stands with the 388 teachers who have been targeted and punished for exercising their right to act on their conscience. UTLA stands with educators who are opposed to the state enforcing the teaching of war and martial music and propaganda. UTLA stands with the teachers of Japan who continue to provide their students with a vision of peace and justice for a future based on sanity rather than wasteful military spending and endless war.

In our own nation, the USA, we will continue to work for peace and education and it is heartening to us here that your nation has already chosen the path of peace. The infringement and loss of your constitutional rights would be a loss to peaceful workers and free teachers the world over. Stay strong! Your rights are not something to be trampled upon so heavily by those who seek a return to war and they are not something to be dismantled by politicians. They are the soul of your nation and your birthright as Japanese citizens and teachers.

Sincerely,

A. J. Duffy
President, United Teachers Los Angeles