

## Statement Protesting Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Yukio Inoue, Chairman, Labour Lawyers Association of Japan

No to war!

Now is the time to raise our voices.

On February 24 of this year, Russia launched a military invasion of Ukraine.

The invasion is an attempt to rewrite the status quo through military force in violation of international law, including Article 2(3) and 2(4) of the UN Charter, which stipulate the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means.

Russia has also hinted at the use of nuclear weapons. The use of nuclear arms will not only kill and wound a great number of human beings; it will render impossible life upon the soil on which the weapons are deployed. Such actions overstep the bounds of humanity and are unacceptable in light of our experience of being the only country in the world that has been the target of a nuclear attack.

War bears nothing but the death of many. Numerous casualties have already been reported in both Ukrainian and Russian military camps as well as civilians. According to the UNHCR, the number of refugees who have fled Ukraine has exceeded 1.5 million.

It is not only soldiers on the battlefields that are risking their lives. This war is putting the lives of all workers - including those transporting weapons and food, providers of medical services and communications – in grave danger.

The lives of many civilians currently living in Ukraine are likewise at risk. They face a future where they will not be able to work safely in their communities, and where they will be forced to confront poverty.

Lives lost are lives lost forever.

The various freedoms and rights we possess can only be enjoyed in a world of peace.

In addition to proclamations by all of the national labor centers of Japan against the war, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) have harshly condemned this military invasion. Even within Russia, while the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR) has shown its support for the military invasion, the Russian Labor Union (KTR) has issued a communiqué calling for the immediate withdrawal of troops. We stand in strong solidarity with labor organizations around the world and with the anti-war movement in Russia.

As a legal organization working to defend the rights of all workers, we, the Labour Lawyers Association of Japan, in solidarity with the above organizations and workers, strongly protest the military invasion by Russia and call for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of Russian troops.

Once again, loud, clear and in one resonant voice:

No to War!