



“Anti-Vietnam War Struggle and Those Days in Japan”

10・8 Yamazaki Hiroaki Memorial Exhibition Project
 in Vietnam at Ho Chi Minh City War Remnants Museum
 from Aug. 20 to Oct.20, 2017



◆ 羽田・弁天橋 (2014)

What is “10·8 YAMAZAKI HIROAKI PROJECT”?

In remembrance of the late Yamazaki Hiroaki who lost his life in an Anti-Vietnam War (US War in Vietnam) Struggle on October 8, 1967 at Haneda (Tokyo) Airport protesting to Prime minister Sato’s official visit to Vietnam which was clearly intended to encourage the war of slaughter against Vietnamese people, the Organizing Committee of 10·8 Yamazaki Hiroaki Project was launched in March 2014 by his brother and friends from high school and university.

The key executive members of the organizing committee include;

- 1) Yamazaki Tateo (Representative organizer, Yamazaki Hiroaki’s elder brother)
- 2) Sasaki Mikirou (Poet)
- 3) Tsuji Megumu (Attorney at law)
- 4) Yamamoto Yoshitaka (Science historian)
- 5) Mito Kiyoko and 13 other intellectuals.

The initial goals of the committee were; erecting the Yamazaki Hiroaki monument at the site of his death and publishing the commemorative book for the retrospective view of the incident marking the 50th anniversary in the year of 2017.

Started with only few members at that time, the organization has grown up now with over six hundred active supporters recruited throughout Japan. Last year (2016) in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto the committee mounted successfully the exhibitions of the history of Japanese anti-war movement during 1960’s and 70’s, titled “Anti-Vietnam War (US War in Vietnam) Struggle and Those Days (in Japan)”.

In the meantime, with the cooperation of former Prime Minister, Mr. Hatoyama Yukio, and Vietnamese Embassy in Japan, two of the committee members had an opportunity to meet the director of the Ho Chi Minh City War Remnants Museum in August 2015 to discuss about possibility of mounting such an exhibition at the museum, and finally after extensive discussions both concluded to pursue it hospitably and overwhelmingly hoping to be executed in August 2017.

We believe the purpose of this project is not simply limited to recollection of history but also an expression of our enthusiasm for peace by passing down the historically significant but hard-time experiences of Vietnamese people at those days to later generations worldwide.

May the solidarity, friendship and cooperation between peoples of Vietnam and Japan further develop!



Profile of Yamazaki Hiroaki

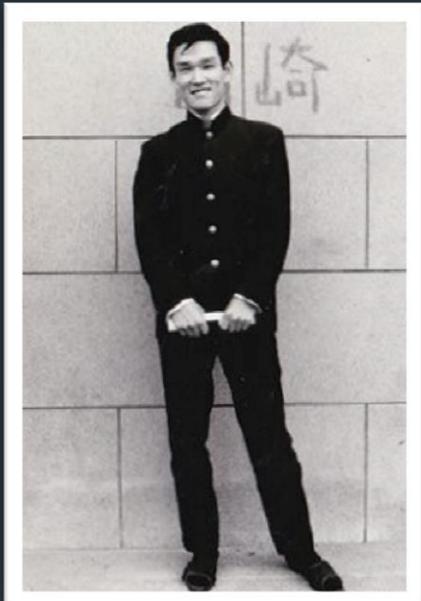
Born on Nov. 12, 1948 in *Kochi* prefecture, Japan, and moved to Osaka Prefecture at the age of three.

After studied at *Jyoto* Elementary School and *Matta* Jr. High School Yamazaki Hiroaki entered *Ohtemae* Sr. Municipal High Schools in Osaka where he was an active member of Social Science Research Circle and he started participating in political student movement such as protesting against Japan-Korea Basic Relations Treaty, Anti-Vietnam War (US war in Vietnam) movement and campaign against Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

After Yamazaki Hiroaki entered Literature Dept. of Kyoto University in April 1967, with the high aim of creating a society where people can become happy he became a revolutionary radical student and joined in the National Federation of Student Self-Government Associations known as *ZENGAKUREN*.

Yamazaki Hiroaki, at the age of eighteen-year-old eleven months, lost his life on Oct. 8, 1967 during the melee of so-called the first Haneda incident that radical student and youth worker protesters fought riot police on *Bentern-bashi*(bridge) near Haneda Airport to attempt to forcibly prevent Prime Minister Sato Eisaku's departure from the airport for Saigon, South Vietnam. Yamazaki Hiroaki evidently died because a beating from police.

Yamazaki Hiroaki's remains have been laid to rest in *Heiwadai* Cemetery in *Katano* city of Osaka, Japan.



しのびよる死の影を山崎君（左端から2人目）は知らなかった。学友は河岸からデモ隊への投石者に「やめろ」とどなっている。（小長井法律事務所提供）



Haneda Struggle (Oct.8,1967)

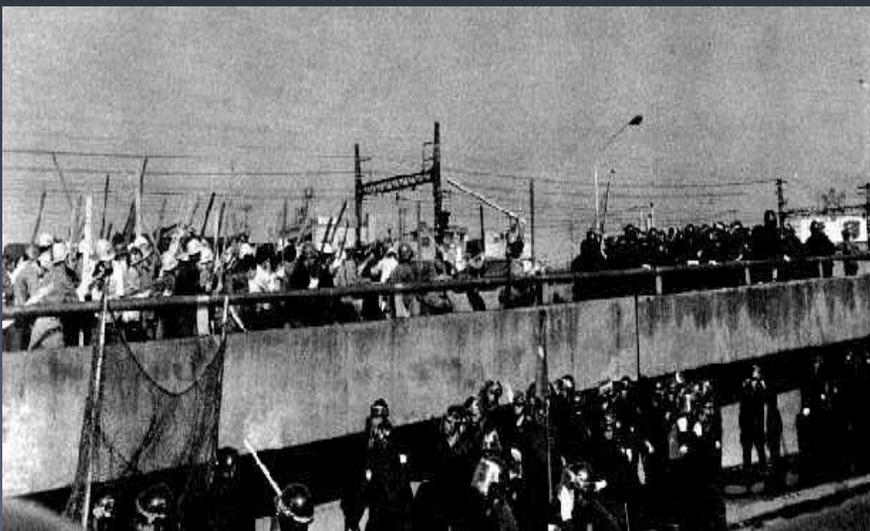
On October 8, 1967, radical activists of *Zengakuren* (All-Japan Federation of Student Self-Government Associations) and *Hansen Seinen Inkai* (Anti-war Youth Committee) attempted to forcibly prevent Japan's Prime Minister *Sato Eisaku*'s departure from *Haneda* Airport for Saigon of South Vietnam as this Prime Minister's official visit is clearly intended to encourage the war of slaughter against the Vietnamese people and to win the approval of international society.

Near Haneda Airport, about 2,500 helmeted students and workers armed with lengths of timber and rocks gathered and fought riot police who were outfitted with their standard meter-long truncheons, duralumin shields, full-face helmets, tear gas guns, and armored vehicles. During fighting on *Benten-bashi*, a bridge that provided access to the airport, both sides held a bloody clash over the security forces' bus-sized vehicles. More than three hundred demonstrators were arrested, several hundred were injured, and an eighteen-year-old student at Kyoto University, *Yamazaki Hiroaki*, lost his life during the melee.

Although police alleged *Yamazaki* was run over to death by a police vehicle commandeered by student and arrested a suspect, they dropped the case due to lack of evidences. On the contrary, immediately after his death, Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health, Tokyo Metropolitan Government announced a postmortem certificate stating the cause of death was cerebral contusion, and the bereaved family and defense team who witnessed his naked corpse testified that there was no evidence of running over (tire marks) on his body as alleged by police. Attorney at law, Mr. *Konagai Yoshihiro* pursued police's allegation and discrepancy about the cause of *Yamazaki*'s death on *Shakai Shinpou* (Oct. 18, 1967 issue) and *Asahi Journal* (Dec. 24, 1967 issue).

While this *Haneda* incident was widely covered by world media, the Federation of Saigon University Students in South Vietnam released a statement signed by executive committee members declaring that they would oppose the Japanese Prime Minister *Sato Eisaku*'s visit to South Vietnam and fight for peace and independence of Vietnam in solidarity with Japanese comradely students (*Mainichi Shinbun* Oct. 10, 1967issue). Further, Mr. Le Quang Chung, the Cairo representative of National Liberation Front for South Vietnam said in a statement "We praise the heroism of Japanese people protesting against Prime Minister *Sato Eisaku*'s visit to South Vietnam and express our appreciation to them. We also extend our sincere condolence to the bereaved family of the student who lost life in the struggle (*Yomiuri Shinbun* Oct. 11, 1967 issue).

Yamazaki was the first person killed in political demonstration in Japan since *Kanba Michiko*, an undergraduate at Tokyo University, was trampled or strangled to death by police on June 15, 1960, and this became a turning point to in the anti-war movement in Japan because it brought radical students and young workers actively into the protest movement for the first time, and thereafter phenomenon was called "10·8 Shock" by them. Since then, the student movement and anti-war movement in Japan picked up stream toward the protest against the US-Japan Security Treaty in 1970 in forms of *Sasebo*, *Oji*, *Sanrizuka*, *Okinawa* struggles, and *Zenkyoto* (All-Campus Joint Struggle League) Movement.



**10·8 Haneda Struggle by the radical students of ZENGAKUREN
(All-Japan Federation of Students' Self-Government Association)
fighting on Benten-bashi (Benten Bridge), one of leading way to**



Sunagawa Struggle

Sunagawa struggle was the chronic protest against extending the runways of *Tachikawa* US Air Base by taking away housing from Japanese civilians in *Sunagawa* town. Ever since 1955 local citizens had resisted the racket made by American planes and repeated proposals to extend the runways into residential neighborhoods north of the base. The protest rekindled early 1967 as the Vietnam War escalated. Residents grew more aware of the vital role the base played as a supply headquarters for sending troops in Vietnam, especially when radical students of *Zengakuren* and young workers of *Hansen* stepped in to lead antiwar protests. A large demonstration in May 28, 1967 resulted in crash against riot police and a number of injuries. Another crash took place on July 9 as 2,500 young people shouted “don’t send planes to Vietnam!”



Sasebo Struggle

By June 1968 Japan and America reached the acme of frictions over military bases, arising from the Vietnam War. One of these was the first-ever port call by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Enterprise* at Sasebo Port of Kyushu on January 19. Although conventionally powered aircraft carriers visited Sasebo regularly during the Vietnam War the difference about *Enterprise* was the synergy of its gigantic size, its nuclear fuel, its pivotal function in the war, and the timing of its arrival in port.

The *Enterprise* affair was a moment of high theater in the antiwar movement in Japan. The first crash occurred on January 17, 1968, when radical students of *Zengakuren* encountered tear gas from the riot police who arrested twenty-seven demonstrators and inflicted more than 100 injuries, and there was further violence the next day when the ship finally entered port. Demonstrations against the visit of *Enterprise* were not confined to Sasebo, or even Kyushu. In Kansai, the Kobe and Osaka offices of the Consulate General were particularly targeted by demonstrations that ranged across six prefectures.



Miscellaneous Items (Flags, Helmets, etc.) Used by Students and workers



For any inquiries and/or joining us as an apostle, please contact us below:

10·8 Yamazaki Hiroaki Project

Ginza ME Bldg.3F,8-10-6 Ginza Cyuo-Ku Toyko Japan 104-0061
c/o TOKYO GINZA SOGO LAW OFFICES
Fax 03-3573-7189 E-Mail:monument108@gmail.com

<http://yamazakiproject.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/10.8yamazakiproject/>
<https://www.facebook.com/yamazakiproject/?ref=bookmarks>