声　明

Let's stand in solidarity with ICC Director Akane, who is fighting Trump's despicable attacks alongside Nobel Peace Prize winner Piray.

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Teruhisa Horio, Representative of the Article 9 Earth Charter

Once, Gandhi resisted racial discrimination and persecution of Indian workers in Durban, South Africa, awakening to the idea of nonviolence.

Recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Piray was born into an Indian Tamil family in Durban, became a lawyer, actively defended anti-apartheid activists like Nelson Mandela, and became the first non-white female judge at the South African High Court.

Subsequently, as Director of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), she led a historic ruling that even large-scale rape and other sexual violence in Rwanda was considered "genocide," and as UN High Commissioner for Refugees, she promoted the mainstreaming of human rights at the UN.

She then became the first judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC), where Tomoko Akane currently serves as its chief.

Immediately after receiving the Peace Prize, Piray visited Akane in The Hague to encourage her as she stood up to the despicable attacks from Trump and others.

Our "Article 9 Earth Charter Association" was founded 10 years ago with the advocacy of "the right to live in peace, non-war, non-armament, non-nuclear life, non-violence, and peace." In subsequent activities, the final "right to live in peace" has been deepened as the "right of all human beings (including future generations) to live peacefully with dignity under a sustainable global environment."

Following Piray, the 'rule of law' that Ms. Akane is risking her life to protect is precisely the fundamental human rights of people around the world, centered on the right to 'live peacefully.' It is not 'rule of law' in the sense of uncritically complying with laws created by those in power.

Since former Prime Minister Abe, Prime Minister Takaichi has frequently claimed to be a "free and open Indo-Pacific based on the rule of law," but in reality, this is nothing more than "rule of law."

We strongly condemn President Trump's sanctions measures, such as asset freezes against senior staff including Director Akane and the ICC itself, as well as bans on transactions with U.S. companies, as outrageous acts that destroy the rule of law in the international community. While reaffirming the true and profound meaning of "rule of law," we want to stand in solidarity with Ms. Pilay and others to protect the ICC and the rule of law in the international community from Trump's despicable attacks.

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