1972: Reversion of Okinawa to Japan

When Okinawa reverted to Japan in 1972, the Diet passed a resolution calling for “measures to be taken to promptly reduce and consolidate the U.S. military bases in Okinawa.”

1996: SACO Agreement

The rape of an elementary school girl by three U.S. soldiers in 1995 aroused the anger of the Okinawan people, which prompted the Japanese and U.S. governments to agree on the total return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma (Ambassador Mondale and then Prime Minister Hashimoto holding a joint press conference)

May 2015: Citizens’ rally against relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko

Today, 72 years since the war ended, roughly 70.4% of the area exclusively used for U.S. military facilities in Japan is still concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, which only comprises about 0.6% of Japan’s total land area. The people of Okinawa Prefecture have expressed their popular will in opposition to the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko.

Whereas the majority of U.S. military bases on the Japanese mainland use bases constructed by the former Japanese military prior to the war, the U.S. military facilities in Okinawa not only use former sites, but also forcibly expropriated public and private land. Okinawa has never once of its own volition offered land to the U.S. military.