

## **90,000 protesters in Okinawa**

Monday 26 April 2010, by [AKIMOTO Yoko](#) (Date first published: 25 April 2010).

Dear all,

There was a big rally of some 90,000 persons in Yomitan, Okinawa from inside and outside of Okinawa today, including Nakaima, governor of Okinawa and all mayors in Okinawa prefecture, who opposed relocation of US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma within Okinawa or the country.

Participants issued a statement calling for immediate closing and relocation of Futenma US Base outside Okinawa or the country.

The rally was a record-high participation in Okinawa expressing public opinion against US Base. In 1995 some 85,000 got together protesting the rape case of a schoolgirl by US servicemen.

Today on 25<sup>th</sup> April, Okinawa was turned yellow. The organizing committee called on all inhabitants in Okinawa to use 'yellow' for a protest color by wearing yellow stole, holding a yellow handkerchief in their hand or hanging yellow cloth under eaves, for instace, in order to deliver their will of a yellow card to the government.

Relocation of Futenma Base is a critical issue between US and Japan. Today's popular protest could force Japanese PM Hatotyama to reconsider the proposed plan of offshore land reclamation planned under the 2006 Japan-US agreement or relocation in Tokunoshima, Kagoshima near Okinawa.

Recently, the voices of reconsidering the security alliance are coming out here in Japan.

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