

Thank you so much. To begin, it is a truly great honor to have the opportunity to address the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan, an organization with a time-honored reputation for excellence, and devotion to the truth.

My name is Yuko Mori, Member of the House of Councilors from the Liberal Party. I have joined with Isoko Mochizuki, reporter with the Tokyo Shimbun, to write the book *Tsuikyū-ryoku*. This roughly translates as, “The Ability to Pursue Problems.” Our goal is to send a clear and strong message to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, that: “We refuse to tolerate any form of autocracy, and will never stop our own pursuit of the truth.”

As you know, there are still no clear answers to the Moritomo and Kake school scandals.

At the National Diet last year, we heard a steady stream of claims that: “There are no records, I have no memories, nothing can be confirmed.” Certainly, we can agree that there are no true governments without records. There is also no workable explanation why so many of Japan’s elite bureaucrats are suddenly suffering from acute memory loss.

Today in Japan, disposable income continues to decline, oppressing the lives of the people. Therefore, we can only wonder why Mr. Abe’s friends continue to receive such preferential treatment. Or, why government-owned land, the common property of all Japanese citizens, has been sold off at dirt-cheap prices.

We also saw how the Director-General of the Financial Bureau of the Ministry of Finance at that time gave clearly bogus answers to Diet questioning. That same Director-Generator was subsequently promoted to be Director General of the National Tax Administration Agency. As such, he is now in charge of all tax collection. The fact that he continues to hold such a post today can only be described as a terrible joke.

We also have the case of Yasunori and Junko Kagoike, husband-wife directors of Moritomo Gakuen School. Back when they were good buddies with Mr. and Mrs. Abe, they were apparently able to purchase state-owned land for next to nothing. Now, for nearly six months, this pair has been held in prison cells without windows, banned from even seeing family members. It would appear that this has been done to keep them from telling what they know.

Under Mr. Abe’s authoritative control, meanwhile, deregulation was advanced on Japan’s National Strategy Special Zones. Chosen as the first school of veterinary medicine to be newly established in Japan in 52 years was Kake Gakuen School. That school is operated by a trusted friend of, yes, Shinzo Abe.

Within that process, Kake Gakuen took part in the Council on National Strategy Special Zones from the first meeting. Participation in this Council is restricted for those with vested interests. Despite that, it came to light that all evidence of the presence of the school at those deliberations was deleted from the minutes. For his part, Mr. Abe refuses to take responsibility for any of these developments. He claims: “The minutes are all open for public access, without any trace of suspicion.”

I will continue to vigorously pursue the Moritomo and Kake school scandals from here on as well. This stance stems from my belief that these scandals are chilling symbols of the so-called “appropriation of the nation for personal use.” That, in turn, suggests a shift toward a dictatorship mode.

Japan is a state based upon the rule of law, and a democratic nation. In the event that the running

of our government becomes distorted to the point of ignoring the procedures determined by law, and channeling special gains to the friends of Mr. Abe, such practices are clear evidence of dictatorship.

In addition to the Moritomo and Kake school scandals, there is the issue of suspension of an arrest warrant in a case of incapacitated rape. That matter is currently being investigated by a nonpartisan group of lawmakers. In this case, female journalist Shiori Ito claimed to have been raped by a male journalist after dining together. Police investigators were preparing to arrest the suspect at Narita Airport.

Just prior to that, however, the warrant was suddenly suspended. That step was ordered by the head of the criminal investigation division at the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department at the time, who is also the former secretary of the current Chief Cabinet Secretary. The rape suspect is a high-profile journalist, known for his extremely close ties with Mr. Abe. This raises serious suspicions about whether Japan's criminal justice system was tampered with for ulterior motives.

On November 17 last year, I launched the "Nonpartisan Group to Investigate the Incapacitated Rape Arrest Warrant Suspension Issue." The group met three times during the Special Diet Session, and questioned Shiori Ito about the incident.

During last year's Ordinary Diet Session, the criminal law on sexual crime was broadly revised for the first time in 110 years – that is, since it was enacted in 1907. Unfortunately, however, Japan has yet to establish a "rape relief center" – that is, a one-stop service providing emergency support for victims, preservation of evidence, and physical and mental care. I will be working hard to gain passage of the "Sexual Crimes Victims Support Bill," lawmaker-initiated legislation that was previously withdrawn, to help firmly support such victims.

This issue generated harsh public criticism of government party members, and Mr. Abe. Following the decision to not indict, the Committee for the Inquest of Prosecution also issued a ruling equivalent to non-prosecution. This prompted claims of human rights violations, and unfair intervention by Diet members in judicial matters. Such criticism, however, fall short of the true and proper target.

With sexual crimes, the authorities have always recognized the difficulties in issuing arrest warrants. In this case, a warrant was produced, and investigators were preparing to make an arrest. Despite that, this sudden suspension of the warrant directly before the arrest was pointed out as being extremely irregular. In view of this, checking to see whether the judicial administration was conducted properly is the natural course of action for any member of the legislative branch. This is an extension of the spirit of the separation of executive, legislative and judicial powers – a key part of the quest to halt reckless use of power.

I also wish to comment on the composition of the Committees for the Inquest of Prosecution. These members are chosen from the ranks of general eligible voters, by drawing lots. This is truly one example of modern-day "black box" administrating.

Due to the "closed-door principle" of the Inquest of Prosecution Law, there is absolutely no knowledge of who conducts these inquests, when they are held, or the type of evidence presented.

I first became aware of the inconsistencies of these Committees some time ago. Specifically, back in 2009, when House of Representatives members and current Liberal Party leader Ichiro Ozawa, head of the Democratic Party of Japan at the time, were on the verge of achieving a change in the government regime. That made Mr. Ozawa a leading candidate for the next prime minister.

However, the so-called “Rikuzankai incident,” sapped of Mr. Ozawa’s political power. In that case, it later became clear that the Special Investigation Department of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office issued an investigativereport to the Committees for the Inquest of Prosecution that was in total conflict with the facts.

In 2013, I was behind the submission of a lawmaker-initiated legislative bill to revise the Law on Committees for Inquest of Prosecution. Unfortunately, that bill was withdrawn. Nevertheless, to address the courage displayed by Shiori Ito as well, I remain staunchly determined to decisively dealing with this issue.

So, we have the Moritomo and Kake school scandals, and the arrest suspension in the case of Ms. Ito. As far as I am concerned, all three of these cases may be described as “Abe pal scandals.” Or, as “three-piece set appropriation of the Japanese nation for personal use.”

Now, the top man in power in Japan, despite strong suspicions of such personal appropriation of our national assets, is determined to amend the Constitution. The document, in other words, designed to curb that power and protect peoples’ rights. He has even proposed a schedule for that process. It is time for the good people of Japan, true holders of sovereign power in this nation, to raise their voices in more vocal opposition to this shameless endeavor.

Reflecting on history, when runaway power is not contained, there are tragic consequences for the countries involved. Today, with missile launches and nuclear testing in North Korea, the severity and tension of our security environment is mounting. It is exactly at such times, therefore, that meticulous information disclosure, humble attitudes by those in power, and extremely restrained use of that power is crucial.

I take great pride in the fact that, for the past 70 plus years since the end of World War II, the Japanese people have enjoyed the blessings of a peace-loving nation, on the cornerstone of the present Constitution. The proof of this statement lies in the fact that, despite the “constitution revision campaign” waged by the Abe administration, opinion polls tell us that the majority of Japanese are particularly negative about any changes in Article 9.

“Seiji towa seikatsu dearu”

It means “politics is people’s lives.”

In other words, “good government is the key to good living.”

Clearly, the mission of government, and of all political mechanisms, is to work out solutions to unjust conditions that we cannot resolve individually. Building a society, that is, in which everyone – women, men, children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and those without them – may live in happiness, prosperity and peace.

Next Monday, the ordinary session of the Diet opens. Japan finds itself run by a government dominated by the Liberal Democratic Party, and particularly, Shinzo Abe. For myself, I will be doing everything in my power to rigidly monitor on the actions of this government, regardless of how harsh the criticism may grow. I will pursue the stated aim of the Liberal Party. Namely, “Government that puts People’s Lives First.”

Thank you so much.

伝統ある外国人特派員協会で、スピーチすることを光栄に存じます。

今回発刊した「追求力」というこの本は、望月記者と森ゆうこの「私たちは独裁政治をゆるさない。どんなことがあっても最後まで追求を続ける」という安倍総理に対する強いアピールだと私は思っています。

未だに真相が解明されていない「森友・加計問題」。

昨年の国会では、「記録がない、記憶がない、確認できない」というフレーズが何度も繰り返されました。記録のない行政などありません。日本の優秀な官僚が次々と記憶喪失になるわけはありません。

可処分所得が減り国民の生活が苦しくなる一方で、なぜ総理のお友達には異例の特別扱いのオンパレードで、国民の共有財産である国有地が、ただ同然で払い下げられたのか、国会の答弁が嘘だったことが誰の目から見ても明らかな当時の財務省理財局長が、税金の徴収責任者である国税庁長官に栄転し、居座り続けていることは、もはや悪い冗談としか言いようがありません。

そして、総理のお友達だった時には国有地をただ同然で払い下げてもらった森友学園の籠池前理事長夫妻は、口封じのためとしか思えませんが、もう半年近くも窓のない拘置所に閉じ込められ、家族の面会さえ禁じられています。

また、国家戦略特区で安倍総理の強力なリーダーシップにより規制緩和が行われ、52年ぶりにただ一校だけ新設される獣医学部の開設事業者であり、総理の腹心の友が経営する加計学園が、利害関係者の参加が制限されている国家戦略特区の会議に初回から出席していたにもかかわらず、その存在を議事録から削除したことが発覚しましたが、「議事録も全てオープンで、一点の曇りもない」と安倍総理は言い張り続け、全く責任を取ろうとしていません。

私は、森友・加計問題の追求をさらに厳しく続けていくつもりです。

なぜならば、これらは国家の私物化、独裁政治の象徴であると考えからです。我が国は、法治国家・民主主義国家です。法律で定められた手続きを無視して、安倍総理のお友達に特別の利益がもたらされるように行政が歪められたのであれば、これを独裁と言わずして何というのでしょうか。

そして、森友・加計問題に加えて、「準強姦事件 逮捕状執行停止問題」を今、超党派で検証しています。これは、伊藤詩織さんというジャーナリストを強姦した疑いで捜査員たちが成田空港で被疑者を逮捕する直前に、官房長官の元秘書官である当時の警視庁刑事部長の指揮で、逮捕状が突然執行停止された事案であり、疑いをかけられた人物が総理と極めて近い著名なジャーナリストであることから、刑事司法が歪められたのではないかとこの問題です。

私は、昨年の11月17日に「超党派で『準強姦事件 逮捕状執行停止問題』を検証する会」を立ち上げ、特別国会開会中に3回の会議を開き、当事者である伊藤詩織さんからもお話しを伺いました。

昨年の通常国会で、性犯罪に関する刑法が1907年の制定以降110年ぶりに初めて大幅に改正されました。しかし、被害者を緊急にサポートし、証拠保全、心身のケアをワンストップで行う「レイプ救済センター」がまだ整備されていません。廃案になった議員立法「性犯罪被害者支援法案」の成立を目指し、しっかりと支援が行われるようにしていきたいと思えます。

この問題については、与党議員や安倍総理を応援する国民から、不起訴になった上に、検察審査会でも不起訴相当との判断が出ているので、人権侵害ではないか、国会議員による司法への不当介入ではないかといった厳しい批判を受けていますが、その批判は全般的な外れです。

そもそも逮捕状を発布することが難しいと当局も認めている性犯罪において、逮捕状が発布され、捜査員が被疑者を逮捕する直前であったにもかかわらず、突然その執行停止が行われたことが異例であると指摘されているのですから、司法行政が適正に行われたか否かを検証することは、権力の暴走を食い止める三権分立の趣旨からも立法府の一員として当然なすべきこととあります。

さらに申し上げれば、一般有権者からクジ引きによって選ばれる審査員によって構成される検察審査会は、まさに現代のブラックボックスそのものです。検察審査会法の非公開の原則によって、誰が、いつ、どのような証拠に基づいて審査したのか、全く分かりません。

私は、自由党代表の小沢一郎衆議院議員が、当時の民主党代表として政権交代を目前にしながら、陸山会事件によってその政治力を貶められた時に、検察審査会の矛盾に気づきました。陸山会事件では、東京地検特捜部が事実とは全く似ても似つかない虚偽の捜査報告書を検察審査会に提出したことが明らかになっています。

廃案にはなりましたが、私は平成 25 年に検察審査会法の改正案を議員立法として国会に提出しました。伊藤詩織さんの勇気に応えるためにも、しっかりとこの問題に取り組んでいきたいと思えます。

森友・加計・逮捕状執行停止問題は、「安倍友事件」、「国家の私物化 3 点セット」です。

国家の私物化の強い疑いをかけられている最高権力者が、その権力を抑制して国民の権利を守るためにある憲法そのものを改正しようと、そのスケジュールまで言及することに對して、主権者である国民はもっと大きな反対の声を上げなければならないと思えます。

過去の歴史を省みれば、権力の暴走を止められない時にその国に悲劇がもたらされます。北朝鮮のミサイル発射や核実験など、安全保障環境が厳しさを増す今だからこそ、情報公開の徹底と、権力者の謙虚な態度、その権力を極めて抑制的に使うことが求められます。日本国民のほとんどは、戦後 70 年以上、現行の憲法の元で平和国家として歩んできたことを本当に誇りに思っていると思えます。安倍政権の改憲キャンペーンにもかかわらず、世論調査で、特に憲法 9 条を変えることに否定的な国民の方が多いことは、その証左ではないでしょうか。

「政治とは生活である。」

自分の力ではどうしようもない不条理を解決して、女性も男性も、子どもも高齢者も、障がいがある人も無い人も、誰もがいきいきと、平和に、そして豊かに暮らすことができる社会をつくるのが、政治の使命であると考えます。

来週、1 月 22 日から通常国会が始まります。安倍一強政治の中で、たとえどんなに批判されようとも、政権を厳しくチェックして、「国民の生活が第一の政治」の実現を追求していきます。

ご静聴ありがとうございました。