

# Abolish the War-Fighting Law! Don't Touch Article Nine!

Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan

The ruling parties forced war-fighting bills into law in the House of Councilors on September 19, 2015. The “peace and security” legislation, as they call it, is aimed to authorize the government of Japan to use force as a means to settle international disputes, an act renounced under Article Nine of the Constitution of Japan, and thus unconstitutional. The name that is given to it, “peace and security,” is a misnomer because their substance is only about how Japan can fight a war. The legislation is based on a recent Cabinet decision intended to flip-flop the widely accepted interpretation of the Constitution. We categorically reject such a blatant act of denying the principle of constitutionalism both the Cabinet and the National Diet are obligated to comply with.

If Japan takes an action under the war-fighting laws, it means Japan will fight a war overseas. The SDF (Self Defense Forces) will send their soldiers to the battlefield, where they are ordered to kill others or others kill them. It also means Japan will become a direct party to an armed conflict. The situation that unfolds as a result will be without “peace and security” unlike what the laws intend to achieve.

When the war-fighting bills were put to deliberations at the Diet, people from all walks of life came out to voice concern and opposition, and among them were scholars in constitutional law. A series of polls revealed that about 80% were not persuaded by the government’s argument for the bills. Despite opposition spreading all across the country, the ruling parties chose to resort to the sheer force of numbers in the Diet and ram through the bills. Their action is by no means justifiable as it represents gross violation of the principles of popular sovereignty and democracy.

We, undersigned, hereby petition:

1. “The peace and security” legislation, which is nothing but a war-fighting laws, be abolished immediately; and
2. The government strictly adhere to the principles of constitutionalism, and defend and enrich Article Nine of the Constitution of Japan.

Signatories:

Name	address	Country

Please send this to:

**“Sougakari” Action Committee**

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