

To Kochi District Court
Kochi Lawsuit for Seafarers who were exposed to radiation at Bikini Atoll
(Lawsuit for Compensation for their Loss)

Sign the Petition for Fair Judgment

Kochi Lawsuit for Seafarers who were exposed to radiation at Bikini Atoll (Lawsuit for Compensation for their Loss) was filed by Japanese fishermen and their bereaved families who lost their lives and health due to radioactive fallout caused by the 1954 U.S. hydrogen bomb tests. This is a lawsuit against the Japanese government, which closed off the possibility of claiming compensation from the U.S., based on Article 29, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution of Japan.

According to a survey by the government at the time, a total of approximately 1,000 fishing boats were exposed to radiation from the six hydrogen bomb tests conducted between March and May 1954. Fishermen were exposed not only to external exposure but also to internal exposure through the intake of radioactive particles into their bodies as they were exposed to and used rainwater and seawater contaminated with radioactive fallout while operating their vessels and ate contaminated fish. The tuna they risked their lives to catch were abandoned as radioactive contaminated fish, their income was low, their compensation was only one-third of the actual loss, and the crew members were left with little or no compensation.

The Japanese government not only closed the door to claims for compensation from the U.S. for the exposed fishermen, but also terminated inspections of the tuna and other fish caught for radiation and did not conduct any subsequent health or epidemiological studies of the crew. Fishermen exposed to radiation at a young age are suffering from leukemia and cancer in their 40s to 60s, losing their lives, or suffering from hospital visits and hospitalization on their meager pensions. In addition, they have been forced to remain silent about their exposure to radiation for fear of their jobs and families, and have continued to suffer because they are worried that their children and descendants will be affected by their own exposure to radiation. A case that threatens people's lives and livelihoods over a long period of time should not have been settled politically.

We hope that this trial will bring a historic judicial decision that will pave the way for relief for many fishermen and their bereaved families who have been neglected and cut off for a long time.

Therefore, we strongly request that the Court make the following points.

1. Please conduct a full fact-finding hearing to the satisfaction of the plaintiffs.
2. Please make a fair judgment taking into consideration the unique nature of the H-bomb tests and radiation exposure, and the political settlement and subsequent responses to the problems discarding the fishermen by the government.



Koho Maru No. 7: At Uraga Fishing Port on May 26, 1957, going to a demonstration at sea to protest the hydrogen bomb test at Christmas Island.

Name	Country	Signature