

Pre-WWII Dictatorial Anti-Trade Union Law Applied Now to Hosei Students

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The Law Concerning Punishment of Physical Violence and Others of 1926--anti-trade union law legislated under the notorious Emperor-Military dictatorship of pre-WWII Japan is now applied to oppress students free-speech struggle in Hosei University.

On April 24, 1500 Hosei students walked out from their class rooms and joined a free-speech rally in front of the main gate of Hosei University. It was really a spirited rally. A new era of students movement has finally opened up.

The police arrested six students for "violation of Public Safety Ordinance of Tokyo"--i.e. holding a rally without prior application.

After the arrests the police and the changed the charge--"violation of the Law Concerning Punishment of Physical Violence and Others of 1926."

This law is the sister law of the "Maintenance of Public Order Law"and historically used to oppress workers' collective actions--strikes, rallies, collective bargainings. On top of it the police and the Tokyo prosecutors office arrested other students in Okinawa, Kansai Airport and so on similar charge.

Article 1 of the law stipulates; "Someone who demonstrates a power of an organization or of a numbers of persons, or ... someone who violated Articles 208, 222 or 261 shall be imprisoned with hard labor...."

The point of the law is "and Others"; if someone act as a member or a supporter of some organization or something like that ("a number of persons") and commit "others"--indefinite scope of actions including handout of flyers, rallies, negotiation with employers etc.--not only he/she is punishable but also other members or supporters are also presumed to be his/her accomplices.

Students and workers hold an emergency rally against this outrageous repression today, May 22, 18:30 pm.

In Solidarity,
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Doro-Chiba Support Committee