

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Speakers from Fukushima Area to Address 3/11 Rally at San Onofre Japanese Delegates will Relate their Experiences, Fears and Concerns about ongoing meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Reactor

March 1, 2012 (SAN ONOFRE) – Activists from San Diego to Eureka will converge at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS,) just south of San Clemente, on the first anniversary of the devastating Fukushima disaster, March 11, 2012. The peaceful protest will occur about ¼ mile south of the SONGS facility.

The program will include two speakers from Japan who have had to endure living near the Fukushima disaster. These speakers will address the assembly using an interpreter.

Ms. Kyoko Sugawara lives in Sendai City near Fukushima with her husband, his parents, and two children (3rd grader and kindergartener). She provided this statement:

I was born and raised in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture (*). I live with my husband, his parents, and our two children (3rd grader and a kindergartener). I am still confused about this honorable invitation because I am just a housewife. Before March 11th, I saw protesters on the street or heard speeches against nukes, but was apathetic about nuclear issues. I ran a small deli that sells food. In the devastation of earthquakes, people rushed to my deli to get their food. Because I did not know anything about radioactive contamination at that time, I led my customers and myself exposed to radioactive contamination.

After a while, I started organizing study groups with lecturers and activists against nukes. With concerned parents, I organized measurement of radioactive contamination in school yards. We found out that our school grounds are as contaminated as the soil in Fukushima. Then, we started negotiations, protests, demands to the board of education in Sendai city, or to municipal governments and representatives. We joke that parents like us are using this HTM Language = Hoshano (radioactivity) Tatakau (fighting) M (against) amongst ourselves despite the fact that many who aren't concerned are called "Radioactive Geeks/Fools" by those who are less concerned. I also have dilemma about this trip because my family members I have constant quarrels about my activism.

(*Miyagi Prefecture is the North neighboring prefecture to Fukushima. It is one of the most devastated places by Tsunamis and earthquakes. Its Onagawa Nuclear Reactor is also damaged by

the disaster, but it is hardly ever reported in news media.)

Mr. Hirohide Sakuma will also be speaking and he provided this statement:

I was born in Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture. I live with my wife and a two year old daughter in Miyagi. My wife is from Aomori, and is furious about Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant and Oma Nuclear Power Plant in Aomori. Since we saw "When the Wind Blows", we became conscious about the horror of nuclear power and weapon making policies. I joined anti-nukes movement since 1988 after Chernobyl. But in some part of my mind, I didn't expect this accident to happen even after I collected so much data about Tepco. I regret that I threw all these data [away] when my daughter was born and when we moved my office in 2010. My family members are able to talk about Fukushima nuclear accident, but are suffering from the response from institutions like kindergartens, federal and municipal governments. As a breadwinner of the house, my mind is constantly debating whether we should evacuate from Sendai, or is this a kind of risk that we can reduce?

The objective of the event is two-pronged, both to commemorate the ongoing disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Power plant that started one year ago -- with three reactors still in full "level 7" meltdown -- and to push for closure of the dangerous San Onofre plant. (Organizers are working with both San Onofre State Park officials and SONGS security and public relations officials so the rally and protest will meet their security and safety concerns. There is no intention to block or occupy the plant.)

Many events are planned throughout the U.S. to commemorate the Fukushima disaster and to bring to light risks at many of the 65 power plants and the 104 nuclear reactors on March 11 and stand in solidarity with the San Onofre event.

The Sierra Club of San Diego (ConsCom) recently endorsed the event.

Despite the earthquake, tsunami, and terrorist risks, the undoing of the San Onofre plant may be due to internal problems. After spending \$640 million to replace the steam generators just 18 months ago, operators thought the plant would run for another 10 to 20 years. Instead, hundreds of heat transfer tubes are exhibiting untimely thinning, baffling experts. The public only found out about the thinning tubes after the unexpected radioactive steam release last month forced management to explain why the entire plant was shut down.

"At some point, the San Onofre plant must be decommissioned. We believe that time is now," said Gene Stone, of Residents Organized for a Safe Environment in San Clemente. "While the plant is shut down for maintenance, we believe this is the right time to start the decommissioning process for the safety of the workers at the plant and the community at large. We must do the right thing now and not put the California economy at risk. Let's not spend one dime more on any more retrofits."

EVENT DETAILS:

Date/Time: March 11, 2012. Gather at 12 noon. March starts at 12:30. Rally 1pm to 3pm.

Location: Rally: 1:00 p.m. about ¼ mile south of the SONGS facility
Directions: I-5 to Basilone Rd exit, ~2 miles south.
March: 12:30 p.m. starting at gate of San Onofre State Beach (~1/4 mile)

Parking: Available at San Onofre State Beach, \$15 day use fee. Shuttle vans will be available to help those who have parked get to the rally site.

Buses: Seats on buses from Balboa Park (Park Ave at Presidents Way) or from Oceanside Transit Center are \$10 each (\$11.54 for tickets purchased with credit cards online.)

Reserve at <http://sanonfreprotest.eventbrite.com> or call 619-501-1031 for questions.

Speakers: Delegate from Fukushima area of Japan; Activists; Hollywood Celebrities; Scientists and Engineers; etc.

Details: See <http://citizenoversight.org>, click "M11 San Onofre Protest"
<http://www.copswiki.org/Common/M11SanOnofreProtestAndRally>

Endorsers to date:

- SD, Sierra Club ConsCom
- [Citizens Oversight Projects \(COPS\)](#)
- Peace Resource Center of San Diego
- Residents Organized for a Safe Environment (ROSE)
- San Onofre Safety (SOS)
- San Clemente Green
- San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice (SDCPJ)
- Talk Nukes
- Ocean Fall
- Green Party of Orange County
- Green Party of San Diego County
- San Diego Puppet Insurgency
- APRL Animal Protection and Rescue League
- Activist San Diego
- North County Forum
- San Diego Artivistas
- San Diego Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD)
- San Diego Veterans for Peace
- Occupy San Diego at Children's Park
- Occupy Encinitas
- Occupy Vista
- Occupy Oceanside
- The Party for Socialism and Liberation
- Orange County Peace Coalition

- Dick Eiden for Congress 2012
- Jerry Tetalman, Candidate for Congress in the CA 49th
- Kevin Keenan
- Jeoffry B. Gordon, MD, MPH
- Ray Lutz, Former Candidate for Congress in CA 52nd
- Bryan Pease, Esq., San Diego City Council District 1 Candidate

<http://www.copswiki.org/Common/M1240> -- Original Event Press Release (2012-02-20)

http://www.copswiki.org/w/pub/Common/M11SanOnofreProtestAndRally/M11_San_Onofre_Flier-1up.pdf -- Event Flyer

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