

SHISO-UNDO NEWS No. 183

Strike Down Prime Minister Takaichi's Outrageous Dissolution! Don't Let Prolong the Life of the Regime, Discarding the Vulnerable, Favoring the Wealthy, and for Wars!

HIRONO Shōzō

At a January 19 press conference, Prime Minister TAKAICHI Sanae stated: "Today, as Prime Minister, I have decided to dissolve the House of Representatives on January 23. Why now? Because I believe it is now up to the sovereign people to decide whether Takaichi Sanae is fit to be Prime Minister." She announced a general election schedule: dissolving the House of Representatives at the start of the ordinary Diet session on Jan. 23, announcing the election on Jan. 27, and holding the vote on February 8.

I find her explanation of "Why now?" completely incomprehensible, and I absolutely do not think Takaichi fits to be Prime Minister. She has done nothing to improve people's lives (devoting herself entirely to preparing for a war state), and now, after just three months since taking the new post, she asks us to "trust me"? What kind of nerve does she have?

However, according to various opinion polls, Takaichi's approval rating stands at 60-70% (while the LDP's approval rating hovers around 30%). The LDP is pouring all its efforts into disseminating information via SNS, and parties like the Constitutional Democratic Party and the Democratic Party for the People are also aggressively using this for their election campaigns. The entire populace is being swayed by this fake, misleading, reactionary information. A structure has formed where Takaichi stirs up xenophobia and war, and if she says anything bold and forceful, it gets consumed as the prevailing mood. She calculated that if she dissolved the Diet and called a general election now, she could win. This is the ultimate "Sanae First" strategy.

Despite daily warnings about Japan's economic peril, the weak yen and soaring stock prices have allowed large corporations and the wealthy to rake in huge profits, while inequality continues to widen. Prices are rising not just for food and drink but for all imported goods, and the vast majority of working-class households struggle daily with the cost of living. Takaichi couldn't care less about this, lashing out with a "Work harder, work harder" whip that rubs salt in the wounds of families grieving over death by overwork.

Yet underlying this is a clear structural shift in the global landscape, including Japan: the decline of power in the US and Western capitalist nations, and the rise of emerging

economies like the BRICS. Now, the world's biggest “hothead,” Trump, declares, “International law doesn't matter; my own moral compass decides.” Takaichi likely leaps for joy, seeing this statement as perfectly aligned with her own worldview.

If the Budget Committee convenes, criticism of her “existential crisis situation” remarks, the “politics and money” issues involving herself and others (the LDP nominated 284 candidates for this election, including 37 lawmakers implicated in factional slush fund scandals), her partner party *Nippon Ishin's* national health insurance evasion problems, and collusion with the Unification Church (Takaichi's own name appears 32 times in the research report) will inevitably become subjects of debate. The scheme is likely to hold the election before the public notices these problems. If they win, they'll claim “we've been entrusted, no issues now,” stonewall everything, and mobilize the entire bourgeois state apparatus to rapidly advance the militarization of society as a whole—not just militarily, but through industrial policy, labor policy, science and technology, education, and more.

However, no “formation of a subject” has emerged to directly confront this crime and the contradictions and cracks within capitalism. This applies to political parties and labor organizations, and indeed to each and every voter.

The “Centrist Reform Alliance” coalition was formed, but its basic policies include positions we cannot endorse: recognizing the exercise of collective self-defense under the “existential crisis situation” clause of the security legislation as constitutional, and shelving the goal of a nuclear-free society to permit reactor restarts.

Of course, the only path to resolve capitalism's contradictions is socialism. Without holding this ideal high and fighting relentlessly for it, the future of working people cannot be secured. Elections alone won't decide everything or dramatically change society. But this election is different. We must clearly demonstrate through action our determination that Takaichi and her ilk absolutely must not win. The stage for mere debate is long past. Going to the polls is a given; we must also spark discussions everywhere – in workplaces, communities, and beyond. There, we must spread the voices saying, “This is wrong!” and “If we allow this, it will truly lead to wars!” and build a concrete movement to overthrow the Takaichi administration. Otherwise, things will truly come to an end. It's not about dismissing the Centrist Reform Alliance as useless, but about declaring, “This election alone, we absolutely cannot allow Takaichi and her ilk to win.” Let's ignite discussions and actions centered on this single point – fighting together – in workplaces, communities, and campuses. (January 25, 2026)

(Shisō-Undō No. 1121, February 1, 2026 issue)