

20th Anniversary of the Democratization of the Republic of South Africa

Nowadays, it may be inevitable for people not to hear about cruel news in the media every day from all over the world. Someone hurts or kills someone else ignoring the person's humanity. Moreover, it seems to be impossible for humans to live in harmony with each other on earth. However, the end of apartheid and the democratization of South Africa, which was achieved 20 years ago, surely gave hope to all human beings that the day will come where all humans can live without any undeserved discrimination and judgment.

In South Africa, when the white settlers first arrived on the land, they started to take over there for their own benefit. Sometimes to acquire the land, they killed large numbers of South African people. Then apartheid was established. It was a system of racial discrimination which means that the black people, who had lived on the land originally, were separated from the white people racially and controlled by the occupants. The system did not only deprive the land and the property of the South Africans but also their freedom and dignity as humans. As a result, many innocent lives had to be lost.

Apartheid was against human rights which are said in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nation. Nobody has the right to take away the rights of others. Therefore the South African people stood up for their rights against their rulers. Of course, the rulers tried to suppress the movement. They aimed to manipulate education and the media to be under their control. In the process, once again, many lives had to be taken, however, violence could not force the South African people to stop their movement against

apartheid. In 1994, after a long time of oppression, apartheid came to an end and was completely abolished. The South Africans finally attained their liberty from discrimination and regained their rights as humans.

Significant sacrifice was paid to make this achievement possible. However, nowadays everyone has forgotten about this great achievement. Unfortunately, a lot of discrimination still exists in this modern world. People judge others unreasonably. Although it might not be obvious, bullying is a serious problem that never decreases everywhere. The situation does not differ from apartheid.

At this time, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the end of apartheid and the democratization of South Africa, we all need to rethink about this great accomplishment. So we can follow the soul of South Africans and make the world a better place to live where we, as human beings, can live in peace and never be judged or discriminated because of our race, gender, religion, nationality or our beliefs.

石黒 暁子



Name : Kyoko Ishiguro
(石黒 暁子)

Age : 17

Grade : 2

School : Konodai girls' school
(国府台女子学院高等部)