

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Regarding the human rights abuse case involving Mr. Toru Goto, a Japanese national who had endured indescribable deprivation of his honor and dignity for over 12 years, I and many American people find it hard to understand why the Japanese government has decided not to prosecute anyone responsible for violating his human rights. Their decision is particularly disappointing to me and a Congressional coalition as well as the Obama Administration, who are totally committed to the principle of freedom of religion and have followed these developments very closely.

I hope that the Japanese government appreciates the mounting concern and attention of the members of both Congress and the government, who inevitably will approach the Japanese counterparts on their decision of not prosecuting those responsible for the gross violation of freedom of religion, one of the most fundamental human rights.

As one of vanguards in America's civil rights movement marching along late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a church pastor myself, I am personally appalled by the manner with which the Japanese government would callously trample on its citizens' religious rights. Let us not forget that the true greatness of a nation lies not just in its capacities of economy, science and technology but in its attitude towards the weakest among its people. The freedom of worshiping the Almighty Creator must be one of the vital pillars of a sound and solid government. If a state is tempted to persecute and incriminate followers of an unpopular religious group, the state is surely on its course of decline.



Former Congressman Walter Fauntroy and Mr. Toru Goto shaking hands (Aug. 2009, Washington, DC)

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# **Kidnapping, Confinement and Forced Conversion A Hidden Human Rights Abuse in Japan**



The Japanese Victims' Association Against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion