

arrest me “two”....

Today Greenpeace members and staff in 24 countries are showing their support to Greenpeace activists, Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki.

At the same time Greenpeace is sending an appeal to the Japanese government to respect the activists freedom of expression and to start an independent inquiry into a major corruption scandal surrounding the Japanese government's whaling program funded by Japanese taxpayers money.

In June last year they were both arrested and held for 26 days without charge and Greenpeace' office in Japan was raided by police.

This happened shortly after the two Greenpeace activists had publicly exposed how members of the Japanese whaling fleet smuggled high value whale meat from the ship Nisshin Maru to the port and sold it for personal gain.

Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki reported their findings to Japanese authorities with the intention of raising awareness about the abuse of taxpayer money and in order to prompt an independent investigation into the program.

Now Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki are being prosecuted risking up to 10 years in jail in spite of the fact that they were simply utilising their right to freedom of expression, which is guaranteed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) article 19. This freedom is essential if Greenpeace as well as other organisations are to be able to expose wrongdoings - environmental as well as humanitarian.

If freedom of expression is a crime we should all be arrested.

Greenpeace