



AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE children's book on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has just been released by Amnesty International. The Japanese version is at right.

JAPAN TIMES PHOTO

Amnesty publishes book on human rights for kids

The Japan chapter of Amnesty International has published a children's book in English that explains the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in easy-to-understand text and pictures.

"We designed the book to show the declaration in simpler words instead of the legalistic language used by the Foreign Ministry," chapter member Akira Ishikawa said.

The declaration was adopted in 1948 at the United Nations General Assembly to acknowledge the importance of human rights.

The book is a translation of a work by poet Shuntaro Tanikawa in May 1990. The organization hopes the new book

will be read by foreign students in Japan or used in schools as an English-language textbook.

For example, Article 2 of the declaration is titled "We hate discrimination" and is illustrated with drawings of people of different races. The original text of the article states, "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex..."

"We hope more people will understand the importance of human rights by reading the book," Ishikawa said.

The book is on sale for ¥2,500 at Tokyo bookstores.