

RERF's letter requesting corrections to Yomiuri Telecasting Corp.'s broadcast (August 17, 2017)

RERF Hiroshima, General Affairs Section, Doc. No. 2017-110  
August 17, 2017

To: Mr. Kan Tsutagawa, Representative Director and President  
Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation

From: Ohtsura Niwa, Chairman  
Radiation Effects Research Foundation

**“Wake up! Plus” aired on August 12, 2017  
(Request for correcting the broadcast content)**

We viewed your corporation’s TV program, “Wake Up! Plus: the truth of the dropping of the atomic bombs—research over treatment, ABCC's darkness” that was aired on August 12th based on an interview we gave on July 28th.

In the program, the moderator and commentators criticized that the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (hereafter “RERF”) does not disclose personal information to A-bomb survivors. However, it is far from the truth. As a matter of regular practice, RERF, complying with the Personal Information Protection Law, strictly manages the health information of A-bomb survivors, in particular, as sensitive personal information. In other words, RERF does not make the personal information public and open. However, RERF discloses information to A-bomb survivors at their request. When we receive a request for disclosure from A-bomb survivors themselves, we try to communicate with them to find out what kind of information they are requesting and whether they can offer us some clues helping us to find the information, and then we take the time to search out the information.

It is regrettable that in the program, “making personal information public and open” is confused with “disclosing personal information to a rightful person,” which gave misleading information to its viewers. At the same time, the program gave the impression that RERF is reluctant to disclose information.

Based on reflection of the ABCC era, RERF has been making sincere efforts to respond adequately and thoroughly to A-bomb survivors’ requests in order to be acknowledged by the public as an open organization. However, with broadcasting of programs such as this one, we fear that our ongoing efforts could end in vain. In order to restore RERF's honor, I would like to ask you to correct the broadcast content in your program.

Yomiuri Telecasting Corp.'s response (August 31, 2017)

August 31, 2017

To: Dr. Ohtsura Niwa, Chairman  
Radiation Effects Research Foundation

From: Jun Yamane, Chief Producer  
Wake up! Plus  
Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation

Response to your letter titled “‘Wake up! Plus’ aired on August 12, 2017  
(Request for correcting the broadcast content)”

We would like to thank you for your cooperation, including the interview you granted us, with our television program “Wake Up! Plus: Truth of what happened after the atomic bombings—Research not treatment, ABCC’s darkness,” which was broadcast on August 12, 2017.

We would like to take this opportunity to respond to the letter we received from RERF, “Hiroshima RERF, General Affairs Section, Doc. No. 2017-110,” dated August 17, 2017.

The program in question covered the research conducted by ABCC, the predecessor organization of RERF, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the atomic bombings, dealing with two main themes: first, the grievance of A-bomb survivors claiming that ABCC conducted research on but did not provide treatment for A-bomb victims; the program then addressed the concern of an A-bomb survivor who felt dissatisfied with RERF’s response to her request for disclosure of medical charts. She had doubts that the medical charts she received comprised the totality of her charts on file. Despite the grievances of A-bomb survivors, the program did not intend to deny RERF’s stance that it has been making sincere efforts to respond adequately and thoroughly in an open manner to A-bomb survivors’ requests for provision of information (disclosure of personal information), based on its reconsideration of and reflection on the ABCC era.

In the letter “Hiroshima RERF, General Affairs Section, Doc. No. 2017-110,” RERF pointed out that our program had confused the release of personal information to the general public with the disclosure of personal information to the A-bomb survivors themselves, giving the misleading impression that RERF is reluctant to disclose information to survivors. However, our program was designed to more closely understand the position of A-bomb survivors, and we thus do not think that the broadcast content needs to be corrected. We ask for your understanding of our position in this matter.

Along with continuing our efforts to draw closer to A-bomb survivors’ feelings, we will make an effort in the future to produce programs with more diverse views by also incorporating RERF’s perspective.

September 12, 2017

**Broadcast of Yomiuri TV's *Wake up! Plus***

The television program *Wake up! Plus*, aired by the Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation (Yomiuri TV) on August 12, 2017, featured a segment titled "Truth of the atomic bombings –Research without treatment: the darkness of ABCC," in which the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF), and its predecessor the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC), were covered. However, the segment included information that was untrue. In response, RERF requested on August 17 that the portions of the program concerned be corrected. On August 31, however, we received a reply from Yomiuri TV indicating that the company did not feel the program's content required correction.

RERF carefully stores the personal information of A-bomb survivors, including that of the survivors' status at the time of bombing and their medical charts. The information has been managed in strict compliance with the Personal Information Protection Law and is not "made open and public" (so that everyone can access the information). When we receive requests for "disclosure" of personal information from A-bomb survivors, however, RERF responds to such requests in good faith and provides the survivors in question with all the relevant materials stored at RERF.

Despite the aforementioned reality, the program confused "making the materials open and public" with "disclosing personal information," and as a result, the program concluded with erroneous remarks by the moderator and commentators, including statements such as "Isn't it strange that the charts and data duly belonging to patients cannot be accessed or viewed by them?" The program thus wound up by giving viewers the mistaken impression that RERF does not disclose personal information to the A-bomb survivors.

Yomiuri TV first requested permission from RERF to do a story on the foundation's future, and with that in mind, RERF participated conscientiously in a long interview. In the program, however, the scene of my reply to the question about "making the materials open and public" was edited and inserted into the scene of the discussion about "disclosure." Because my remark that "making the materials open and public" needed to be carried out carefully from the viewpoint of information management was edited for broadcast to appear as a remark about "disclosure" of personal information, requests to which RERF responds actively, RERF made the judgment that the broadcast in question deserved correction.

It is very regrettable that, despite RERF's request, Yomiuri TV did not air a corrected version of the program. We anticipate that, as a company playing a very important role in today's society, Yomiuri TV will produce future programs based on fairness, neutrality, and accuracy, to ensure that the company does not override the good intentions of those being interviewed and covered.

Ohtsura Niwa  
Chairman  
Radiation Effects Research Foundation