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Statement from a Religious Perspective Opposing the Bill to Establish the National Intelligence Council

Today, the Bill to Establish the National Intelligence Council was passed by the House of Representatives of Japan.

As people of faith, we oppose this bill from the standpoint of upholding the dignity of all human life and the freedom of conscience, which we believe to be given by God.

This bill significantly expands the authority of the state to collect and analyze information. By its very nature, it poses a serious threat to the fundamental freedoms of thought, belief, and expression. Furthermore, it risks fostering a mindset that divides society into “friends” and “enemies,” thereby undermining efforts to build relationships grounded in dialogue and mutual trust.

We cannot forget that, throughout history, surveillance and control exercised by state power have deprived people of freedom of conscience and expression, brought about division and conflict, and left deep and lasting wounds in society. As religious people, we refuse both to be complicit in such wrongdoing and to become its victims again.

True security and peace must be built not on fear or control, but on respect for human dignity and on trust.

Therefore, we firmly oppose the enactment of this bill and call for its rejection.

April 23, 2026

National Christian Council in Japan

Rev. Kano Yoshitaka, Moderator

Rev. Kaori Oshima, General Secretary

This English text is a translation of the original statement issued in Japanese. In case of any discrepancy, the Japanese text shall prevail.