

<p>選挙の妨害 言論の自由をはき違えるな 2024/05/10 05:00</p>	<p>Obstruction of Election Campaigns: Don't Misunderstand Freedom of Speech</p>
<p>言論の自由や選挙の自由は、憲法で保障された大切な国民の権利だ。だからといって、これを濫用して誹謗中傷や恫喝まがいの言動を繰り返すことは許されない。</p>	<p>Freedom of speech and free elections are important rights of the people guaranteed by the Constitution. However, it is unacceptable to abuse these rights and repeat potentially defamatory or intimidating behavior.</p>
<p>先月行われた衆院東京15区の補欠選挙で、政治団体「つばさの党」の候補者とその陣営がとった行動が波紋を広げている。</p> <p>他候補の街頭演説に出向き、拡声器を使って「クズ」「売国奴」などと大声を出し、演説を遮った。他候補の事務所前に押しかけ、大音量を流したこともあった。</p> <p>また、つばさの党は一連の行動を動画投稿サイトに配信した。過激な行動をアピールすることで注目を集めようとしたのだろう。</p> <p>被害を受けた立憲民主党や日本維新の会などの陣営は、演説日程の事前告知をやめたり、回数を減らしたりせざるを得なかった。</p>	<p>In the House of Representatives by-election in Tokyo Constituency No. 15 in April, the actions of a candidate of a political group, Tsubasa no To (Tsubasa Party), and his camp have caused a stir.</p> <p>The group appeared at other candidates' stump speeches and interrupted them by shouting such words as "scum" and "traitors" over a loudspeaker. On one occasion, it stormed in front of another candidate's office and blasted the sound at full volume.</p> <p>In addition, the Tsubasa Party distributed scenes of its actions to a video-sharing website. It is likely that the group was trying to attract attention by flaunting its radical behavior.</p> <p>The affected candidates of other parties' camps, including the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party), were forced to stop giving advance notice of their scheduled speeches or reduce the frequency of their speeches.</p>
<p>街頭演説は、候補者が自らの主張を訴え、有権者はそれを直接聞くことができる貴重な場だ。その機会が奪われれば、公正な選挙は保てなくなり、民主主義の根幹が揺らぎかねない。</p>	<p>Stump speeches are a valuable opportunity for candidates to make their own assertions and for voters to hear them directly. If such opportunities are taken away, fair elections cannot be maintained, and the foundation of democracy could be shaken.</p>
<p>憲法12条は、国民の自由と権利は「国民の不断的努力」によって保持すべきことを訴え、同時に「国民は、これを濫用してはならないのであって、常に公共の福祉のためにこれを利用する責任を負ふ」と定めている。</p>	<p>Article 12 of the Constitution states that the freedoms and rights of the people shall be maintained by "the constant endeavor of the people" and that they "shall refrain from any abuse of these freedoms and rights and shall always be responsible for utilizing them for the public welfare."</p>
<p>つばさの党は、表現の自由や選挙の自由が無制限に保障されている、とはき違えていると言わざるを得ない。公共の福祉に反する言動は、厳に慎むべきだ。</p>	<p>It must be said that the Tsubasa Party mistakenly thinks that freedom of expression and freedom of elections are guaranteed without limitation. The group should strictly refrain from any behavior that is contrary to the public welfare.</p>
<p>選挙の自由妨害罪はどのようなケースに適用すべきか。与野党は具体的な要件を明示し、また現行法で対応しきれないのなら、法改正も検討する必要がある。</p>	<p>To which cases should the crime of obstructing freedom of elections be applied? The ruling and opposition parties need to clearly lay out specific criteria. And if the current law cannot handle the situation, they should consider amending the law as well.</p>

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