Statement from Iwama Shinshin Aiki Shuren Kai Kaicho

直接神気の声

作事の独立より等30ヶ月を通ぎようとしております。現底, だれほどしずつ様 同に注動を始めております事を管理へ出知らせ申します。また、材料も私共へ 協力、共鳴して下りるぎゃへも心より非難中し上げます。

ます、父守和が2002年5月33日にむくなってからの身の地下の出来事をお聞かせ致します。おは、原稿変更あり作って本部へ対いましたが、その時、条載にて、全日本地震の方と進えよう次の二つの事が述べられました。

- 1、「花城運輸長」の名前の返復
- 「会集締余法守」の名書きる会議事業以後わない事
 会集会の無機の中以後る場合、「自然法」の見状を立さない事

知は、いずお洗碗通場を辿りなくてはな者よておりましたので、5 つ目な 2 つ 前はその母までは、「何の問題もない」と述事を充しました。3 つ目は、少し機 様を気持ちで関うました。

地点の定別の呼音は、混るが感じるように、多くのぎゃの含気速とは進う機会 もしております。それは、関係の残える忠実に守っているからており、それが 又の待ちをもかました。 第一、原列で建立のは他の音を形成して行 を洗し、は老性が関係に表したなが使った。「用取無能の問題」の最初な の確定法ののです。又は常に、「この支援退得は関係とけれる場合とある。 関係が心残えて強いた思う意実に表皮しているのだ」に产を打しておりてお りました。また、その又の貸に高減を参ったぎゃ、まに海やの赤さのため「自 周末」なのです。

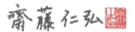
私は、3の他の前には実の型が出るりが外へっている事を見まればし、かからか での主義が必然する事を完全ました。それは、「程息自分の列車におかり 別の出帯では契約の我の推算している事実を発表してするい」という意義でした。ためないで試めて保証おは、面別あり報金する者報として否考表か免款 が必要で実に立るなる他のからかった。しから、、、受着口跡と、その話をとこことをも実施の表表といる。

年は、後年の3年間、今先会や選及に関係を開けない様に適ごす事に、原間度 の表現を出まずにはよりと考えておりました。こころが中毒を組むないうかに、 手で割かれ、分変かの気やなどのような事でも近に、実現が同意が関いていて にない問題されたのです。実中でくなってより、天の手間が人は中間なりて「大 素を引」の今で開始をはっておりました。また、他の数もその人を対すい その範囲の名で出していたと聞いておりました。そか、他の数もその人を対していた とからないの名で出していたと聞いておりました。そかいり認知の中でも、料理 できたいていたと聞いておりました。そか、他の人と本目の室をか です。その考慮からの物の難いを中に関れませんでした。

私は父も持ちに思います。父の考える事は手に私の確にわかりました。今、父 ならどうんであれる中でと思える。何時も考えております。父の後今の後は るには合意な中では世界かり、全力が自じる場合を持ちら、と考え、予か はなったとおり吹きす。場合いの大きる男、関心の言葉の心には実わりはあ うまやな。何表えて進またがじょう同じがいるうます。如の後点は使手列 れてはありません。遂文にも原列といったります。如の後点は使手列 れてはありません。遂文にも原列といったります。如の

株売電原は、今まで適う、返職場等の隣に収み続けます。今先神社に参照し、 様式電ご開発をお削りた、現る正規を発現を管理する人での定に需要して あうます。毎年期のみ管理でなり、季節の登録による管理ななったからかつ 一番表した私に思います。無い・毎日はまれる。会表現機能を確認し、なの表し であった私に思います。無い・毎日はまれる。会表現機能を確認し、なの表し なてきなる事業的と事業し、なの表めにはなかる上が様となるが して参えます。どうぞ、ご構存するる事を付に行うます。まだまだ本的な私で さが、多くの人でとご言葉があります。これまだ本的な私で 念」まっ人でも多くのででは関係してもないたいとなるともあます。





Letter by Hitohiro SAITO Sensei, Son and Successor of Morihiro SAITO Sensei, 9th Dan



10 months have passed since the Iwama group left the Aikikai Federation and became an independent group. It gives me great pleasure to tell all our members that I have been developing my activities slowly but surely with confident steps. In this letter, I

would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, all of you who have been constantly supporting me and offering me your sincere collaborations.

First of all, I would like to tell you about what happened after my father, Morihiro Saito, died on May 13th 2002. I visited the head office of the Aikikai Federation together with the chairperson of the committee of the official funeral ceremony for my father, and we had a meeting with Doshu and another person from the All Japan Aikido Federation.

The following is what was asked of us to do at that meeting:

- 1. To return the name of "Ibaraki Dojocho" to the Aikikai.
- 2. That the Saito family will cease to use the title of "the Aiki Shrine Caretaker"
- 3. That we will stop conferring the Iwama-ryu certificates, if we remain inside the Aikikai Federation.

I had already been thinking that I should return the Ibaraki dojo in the near future so I replied immediately that there was no problem in agreeing to the first and second requests. However, I was a little perplexed about their third request.

As everyone knows, the training we presently do at Iwama, is different from the training held at many other aikido dojos. This is because we have faithfully preserved the Founder's teachings and my father was always very proud of this. This training is based on the principle of the union of Ken, Tai-jutsu and Jo and was transmitted only to my father. My father dedicated his whole life to working with the Founder in the fields and woods, helping him with farming and taking care of trees. He served the Founder in full resonance, literally offering his body and soul. He used to say, "I am teaching sincerely the techniques taught to me by the Founder because this Ibaraki dojo belongs to the Founder alone". The Iwama-ryu group with its own grading system was created for those who were touched by my father's way of living and who chose to follow him as their teacher. These grades were mostly given to his students outside of Japan.

Therefore my answer to Doshu regarding the third matter was that it was my father?s wish to preserve the Iwama-ryu and I asked him to do one thing in return for my acceptance of his request. This was to announce in their official newsletter that Iwama-ryu is practicing the Founder?s aikido. If the Aikikai could show their recognition and acceptance of us, I thought, then the Aikikai certificates would become a shining treasure for all the students of the Iwama-ryu. However, this did not happen and no one in the Aikikai Federation was informed that this meeting between the Aikikai and us took place.

I thought I should not bother the Aikikai Federation or Doshu with the question of the Iwamaryu during the mourning period of three years for my father, so I was not planning to give out any Iwama-ryu certificate. However, after less than one year, my students began to ask me, after receiving the Aikikai certificates, to give them the Iwama-ryu certificate as well.

After my father passed away, the elder students of my father wanted to become independent and founded their own organization with the name of "Takemusu Aiki". They also started to give out their own certificates to their students. In this situation when a split was happening inside our group, there were still many students who chose to follow me in the same way as they followed my father. They are the true treasure my father left for me. Therefore, when I was asked to give the Iwama-ryu certificates, I could not refuse their request.

I feel very proud of my father. I could always understand exactly what my father was thinking at any time. Today, I still ask myself what would my father do if he were still here. I have come to understand that I cannot continue my father's mission inside the Aikikai Federation, without causing more trouble with them. So I decided to leave the Aikikai and founded my own association. There is no change in my feelings of gratitude to the Founder and I will continue to follow faithfully the Founder's spirit. I respect also the former Doshu and the actual Doshu as well. My independence is not the result of conflict between the Aikikai and us. I believe that Doshu understands this.

We, the Saito family, will continue to live next to the Ibaraki dojo. We offer our prayer at the Aiki Shrine and wish the Ueshiba family good health. We feel grateful to the people who are now taking care of the Ibaraki Shibu Dojo. I think it is the best way that many people share the task of taking care of the Aiki Shrine and the dojo.

I will continue to elevate and improve myself, maturing and developing the aikido techniques. At the same time I will continue to follow the Founder and dedicate myself to preserving the teachings of my father. I deeply wish to work with you, and I would like to meet and connect with many people. It is my sincere desire to help as many people as possible to understand "the principle of the true basic techniques" of the Founder.

With best regards, **Hitohiro SAITO**September 2004,
at the International Seminar in Italy, Europe



岩間神信合気修錬会