



## COMMENTARY AND OPINION ON HISTORY &amp; POLITICS

## Hugh's News

## The best defense: a good offense?

by Hugh Turley

On January 22, the *Shukan Asahi*, a popular weekly magazine in Japan, reported on the activities of an organization called Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth. San Francisco Bay area architect Richard Gage, president of the 1,000-member group, is spreading the message worldwide that "9/11 did not happen the way we have been told that it happened."

The *Shukan Asahi* is no easily dismissed tabloid. It is owned by Asahi Shinbum, Japan's second largest newspaper. It is similar to our *Washington Post*-owned *Newsweek*. The widely-respected Japanese media parent is also a publishing ally of the *International Herald Tribune*, which is owned by the *New York Times*.

The American architects and engineers group maintains that the twin towers and another building, known as Building 7, were brought down by controlled demolition. They say that it is impossible for the airplane crashes and subsequent fires to have caused the buildings to collapse.

Gage, who has addressed groups in Australia, New Zealand and Japan, says that he has had more success with foreign journalists. There is "a lot of reluctance from the American press," he said.

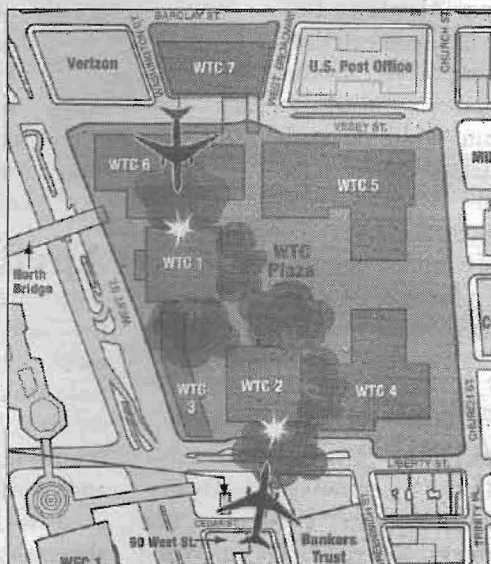
Japanese readers of the *Shukan Asahi* must be puzzled that

the American media have ignored the group's petition to Congress for a new investigation. Short biographies of all the degreed and licensed professionals challenging the official explanation of why and how the buildings collapsed are on the AE-911Truth.org website. That so many prominent men and women would put their professional reputations on the line in this way would seem to be more than newsworthy.

Certainly Japanese lawmaker Yukihiro Fujita thinks so. He invited Gage to meet eight of his colleagues, trying, Gage told the HL&T, "to get the Japanese Prime Minister and legislature to re-examine the official 9/11 story."

But why is Japan interested now, nearly nine years after the fact? According to Fujita, it's because 24 Japanese citizens died in the destruction in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, and, he says, "the official story is not convincing." Japanese citizens have also died in Iraq as a result of the subsequent war on terror.

Very public concerns in Japan about the official 9/11 story may worsen already tense relations between the two countries. In Sep-



tember 2009, the pro-American Liberal Democratic Party that has ruled almost without interruption since 1955 was voted out of power. More recently, of course, the American press seems to have gone into overdrive publicizing defects in the products of the Japanese company that recently supplanted General Motors as the world's largest automobile manufacturer, Toyota Motor Corporation.

While the dissident architects and engineers are ignored (as are U.S. makers of possibly faulty parts for Toyota), Toyota executives are called on the carpet by the U.S. Congress.

Might there be something more nefarious afoot in Japan than simply an interest in truth and justice? Increasingly suspicious of the motives of a U.S. government that is now a principal owner of a rival auto manufacturing company, Japan's newfound interest in 9/11 might be its way of hitting back.