

Appendices

1. House resolution on Japan apology to 'comfort Women' filed in US, Dutch, Canada, EU
2. The Washington Post advertisement, titled "THE FACTS"
3. Media Articles – New York Times, Washington Times etc.
4. Amnesty International Report, 2005
5. The 8th Asian Solidarity Conference for the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan Resolution etc.
6. The World Conference on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery Declaration of the NGO Conference

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 121

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women", during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2007

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HARE, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. WU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women", during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

Whereas the Government of Japan, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, off-

cially commissioned the acquisition of young women for the sole purpose of sexual servitude to its Imperial Armed Forces, who became known to the world as ianfu or “comfort women”;

Whereas the “comfort women” system of forced military prostitution by the Government of Japan, considered unprecedented in its cruelty and magnitude, included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century;

Whereas some new textbooks used in Japanese schools seek to downplay the “comfort women” tragedy and other Japanese war crimes during World War II;

Whereas Japanese public and private officials have recently expressed a desire to dilute or rescind the 1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono on the “comfort women”, which expressed the Government’s sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal;

Whereas the Government of Japan did sign the 1921 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children and supported the 2000 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security which recognized the unique impact of armed conflict on women;

Whereas the House of Representatives commends Japan’s efforts to promote human security, human rights, democratic values, and rule of law, as well as for being a supporter of Security Council Resolution 1325;

Whereas the House of Representatives commends those Japanese officials and private citizens whose hard work and

compassion resulted in the establishment in 1995 of Japan's private Asian Women's Fund;

Whereas the Asian Women's Fund has raised \$5,700,000 to extend "atonement" from the Japanese people to the comfort women; and

Whereas the mandate of the Asian Women's Fund, a government initiated and largely government-funded private foundation whose purpose was the carrying out of programs and projects with the aim of atonement for the maltreatment and suffering of the "comfort women", comes to an end on March 31, 2007, and the Fund is to be disbanded as of that date: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the Government of Japan—

3 (1) should formally acknowledge, apologize, and
4 accept historical responsibility in a clear and un-
5 equivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion
6 of young women into sexual slavery, known to
7 the world as "comfort women", during its colonial
8 and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Is-
9 lands from the 1930s through the duration of World
10 War II;

11 (2) should have this official apology given as a
12 public statement presented by the Prime Minister of
13 Japan in his official capacity;

14 (3) should clearly and publicly refute any claims
15 that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the

1 “comfort women” for the Japanese Imperial Armed
2 Forces never occurred; and

3 (4) should educate current and future genera-
4 tions about this horrible crime while following the
5 recommendations of the international community
6 with respect to the “comfort women”.

○

08.11.2007 – Motion by Van Baalen and co on the subject of the comfort women

The House, having heard the debate,

considering that Japan is a strategic partner in Asia, with whom the Netherlands has been maintaining relations for 400 years, 150 years of which diplomatic relations by 2008, and with whom our country wants to shape a common future;

taking the view that Japan should publicly take full responsibility, without any reserve, for the system of forced prostitution as operated in the years before and during the Second World War, and for the suffering thus caused to the so-called comfort women and about which no doubts can and should be raised;

observing that the Japanese government, by means of the so-called Kono statement from 1993, has acknowledged the fate of the comfort women, has expressed their regret towards the victims and has accepted responsibility with this statement, but at the same time observing that the Japanese government and Japanese members of parliament have, on various occasions, distanced themselves from this, as is shown by the statements by the then prime minister Shinzo Abe last March which were later retracted, and by the advertisement of members of the Japanese House of Representatives in the Washington Post earlier this year on the same subject;

having read the letter which the chairman of the Japanese House of Representatives wrote on 7 November last in reply to the letter of the chairman of the House of 26 June last about the advertisement in the Washington Post and in which he distances himself from said advertisement;

considering that certain teaching materials in Japanese schools do insufficient justice to the acknowledgement of the Japanese war crimes, among them the treatment of the comfort women;

considering that Japan, via the Asian Women's Fund, has offered forms of compensation to the former comfort women, partly financed by public funds, but that this compensation was granted by a private organisation;

entreats the government to urgently ask the government of Japan to abandon any statement which devalues the expression of regret from 1993 and to take full responsibility for the involvement of the Japanese army in the system of forced prostitution;

entreats the government to urgently ask the government of Japan to make an additional gesture by offering the comfort women still alive today some form of direct moral and financial compensation respectively for the suffering caused;

entreats the government to urgently ask the government of Japan to encourage that all teaching materials in Japanese schools provide a factual picture of the Japanese role in the Second World War, including the fate of the comfort women;

and proceeds to the order of the day.

| | | |
|------------|------------|----------------|
| Van Baalen | Wilders | Van der Staaij |
| Van Gennip | Peters | Thieme |
| Van Dam | Voordewind | Verdonk |
| Van Bommel | Pechtold | |

**Canada, IN THE HOUSE: Comfort Women
Wed 28 Nov 2007.**

Moved by: Olivia Chow, MP Trinity Spadina
Adopted by Parliament on November 28, 2007, 3:30pm

That, in the opinion of this House:

- i. During its wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands, from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan officially commissioned the acquisition of young women for the sole purpose of sexual servitude, who became known as 'comfort women'; and
- ii. That some Japanese public officials have recently expressed a regrettable desire to dilute or rescind the 1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono on the 'comfort women', which expressed the Government's sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal; and
- iii. That Japan has made progress since 1945 in recognizing and atoning for its past actions, and for many decades has been a major contributor to international peace, security, and development, including through the United Nations; and
- iv. That the Canada-Japan alliance continues to be based on shared vital interests and values in the Asia-Pacific region, including the preservation and promotion of political and economic freedoms, support for human rights and democratic institutions, and the securing of prosperity for the people of both countries and the international community; and
- v. That the Government of Canada should therefore encourage the Government of Japan to abandon any statement which devalues the expression of regret from the Kono Statement of 1993; to clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the 'comfort women' for the Japanese Imperial Forces never occurred; to take full responsibility for the involvement of the Japanese Imperial Forces in the system of forced prostitution, including through a formal and sincere apology expressed in the Diet to all of those who were victims; and to continue to address those affected in a spirit of reconciliation.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

12.12.2007

B6-0525/2007 }
B6-0528/2007 }
B6-0538/2007 }
B6-0542/2007 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- Georg Jarzembowski, Laima Liucija Andrikiėnė and Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano and Elena Valenciano Martınez-Orozco, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Sophia in ‘t Veld and Marios Matsakis, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Jean Lambert, Raıl Romeva i Rueda and Hiltrud Breyer, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Eva-Britt Svensson, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B6-0542/2007)
- ALDE (B6-0538/2007)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0525/2007)
- GUE/NGL (B6-0528/2007)

on Comfort Women

European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2007 on Justice for the 'Comfort Women' (sex slaves in Asia before and during World War II)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in 2007,
- having regard to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children (1921), to which Japan is a signatory,
- having regard to ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour (1930), ratified by Japan,
- having regard to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women and Peace and Security,
- having regard to the report by Gay McDougall, UN Special Rapporteur on Systematic Rape, Sexual Slavery and Slave-like Practices during Armed Conflict (22 June 1998),
- having regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the 38th session of the UN Committee Against Torture (9-10 May 2007),
- having regard to the Report of a Study of Dutch Government Documents on the Forced Prostitution of Dutch Women in the Dutch East Indies During the Japanese Occupation, The Hague (2004),
- having regard to the resolutions on the comfort women adopted by the US Congress on 30 July 2007, and by the Canadian Parliament on 29 November 2007,
- having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the government of Japan, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s until the end of World War II, officially ordered the acquisition of young women, who became known to the world as *ianfu* or "comfort women", for the sole purpose of sexual servitude to its Imperial Armed Forces,

B. whereas the "comfort women" system included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death or eventual suicide, in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century,

C. whereas the dozens of "comfort women" cases brought before Japanese courts have all ended in the dismissal of plaintiffs' claims for compensation, despite court judgments acknowledging the Imperial Armed Forces' direct and indirect involvement, and the State's responsibility,

D. whereas most of the victims of the "comfort women" system have passed away, and the remaining survivors are 80 or more years of age;

E. whereas over the past years numerous high-ranking members and officials of the Japanese Government have made apologetic statements on the "comfort women" system, while some Japanese officials have recently expressed a regrettable desire to dilute or rescind those statements,

F. whereas the full extent of the sexual slavery system has never been fully disclosed by the government of Japan and some new required readings used in Japanese schools try to minimise the tragedy of the "comfort women" and other Japanese war crimes during World War II,

G. whereas the mandate of the Asian Women's Fund, a government-initiated private foundation whose aim was the implementation of programmes and projects to compensate for the abuse and suffering of the "comfort women", came to an end on 31 March 2007,

1. Welcomes the excellent relationship between the European Union and Japan based on the mutually shared values of a multi-party democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
2. Expresses its solidarity with the women who were victims of the "comfort women" system for the duration of World War II;
3. Welcomes the statements by Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono in 1993 and by the then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in 1995 on the "comfort women", as well as the resolutions of the Japanese parliament (the Diet) of 1995 and 2005 expressing apologies for wartime victims, including victims of the "comfort women" system;
4. Welcomes the Japanese Government's initiative to establish, in 1995, the now-dissolved Asian Women's Fund, a largely government-funded private foundation, which distributed some "atonement money" to several hundred "comfort women", but considers that this humanitarian initiative cannot satisfy the victims' claims of legal recognition and reparation under public international law, as stated by the UN Special Rapporteur Gay McDougall in her above-mentioned report of 1998;
5. Calls on the Japanese Government formally to acknowledge, apologise, and accept historical and legal responsibility, in a clear and unequivocal manner, for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women", during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s until the end of World War II;
6. Calls on the Japanese Government to implement effective administrative mechanisms to provide reparations to all surviving victims of the "comfort women" system and the families of its deceased victims;
7. Calls on the Japanese parliament (the Diet) to take legal measures to remove existing obstacles to obtaining reparations before Japanese courts; in particular, the right of individuals to claim reparations from the government should be expressly recognised in national law, and cases for reparations for the survivors of sexual slavery, as a crime under international law, should be prioritised, taking into account the age of the survivors;
8. Calls on the government of Japan to refute publicly any claims that the subjugation and enslavement of "comfort women" never occurred;
9. Encourages the Japanese people and government to take further steps to recognise the full history of their nation, as is the moral duty of all countries, and to foster awareness in Japan of its actions in the 1930s and 1940s, including in relation to "comfort women"; calls on the government of Japan to educate current and future generations about those events;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Japanese Government and Parliament, the UN Human Rights Council, the governments of the ASEAN States, to the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and Timor-Leste.

THE FACTS

The purpose of this paid public comment is to present historical facts.

At the end of April, an advertisement purporting to tell "The Truth about Comfort Women" appeared in the Washington Post. The claims contained in these statements, though, were anything but the "truth." Rather than being based on "facts," they appeared, if anything, to be the products of "faith." The people of Japan have the highest respect for the United States as a fellow democratic nation and as a strong and reliable ally. For democracy to operate effectively, though, the freedom of speech, thought, academic research, and religion must be guaranteed so that individual citizens can draw their own appropriate conclusions. To enable this, people must have access to correct facts, rather than fallacies, distortions, biases, and factual errors. This public comment seeks to present a number of historical facts relating to "comfort women" that have not been adequately brought to light so as to enable the readers of this respected publication to draw their own conclusions.

FACT 1

No historical document has ever been found by historians or research organizations that positively demonstrates that women were forced against their will into prostitution by the Japanese army. A search of the archives at the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, which houses wartime orders from the government and military leaders, turned up nothing indicating that women were forcibly rounded up to work as *ianfu*, or "comfort women."

On the contrary, many documents were found warning private brokers not to force women to work against their will.

Army memorandum 2197, issued on March 4, 1938, explicitly prohibits recruiting methods that fraudulently employ the army's name or that can be classified as abduction, warning that those employing such methods have been punished. A Home Affairs Ministry directive (number 77) issued on February 18, 1938, states that the recruitment of "comfort women" must be in compliance with international law and prohibits the enslavement or abduction of women. A directive (number 136) issued on November 8, the same year, moreover, orders that only women who are 21 years old or over and are already professionally engaged in the trade may be recruited as "comfort women." It also requires the approval of the woman's family or relatives.



Army memorandum 2197, issued on March 4, 1938

A historian who claims that the number of "comfort women" reached 200,000—a contention frequently quoted in the US media—believes, on the other hand, that the memorandum offers proof of the army's active involvement.

FACT 2

There are many newspaper articles, moreover, that demonstrate that these directives were dutifully carried out. The August 31, 1939, issue of *Dong-A Ilbo*, published in Korea, reports of brokers who forced women to become *ianfu* against their will being punished by the local police, which was under Japanese jurisdiction at the time. This offers proof that the Japanese government dealt severely with inhumane crimes against women.



Unscrupulous Brokers Run Rampant Abduction of Rural Women and Girls

More than 100 Women Victimized Pusan Police Officers Dash Off to Mukden

PUSAN - Unscrupulous brokers have been conspiring to abduct women from poor families by promising them generous rewards in Manchuria (above Japanese soldiers are claimed to be visiting brothels in swarms). Forty-five such brokers were found to be working in Pusan, above they lured unsuspecting young women away from their families and sold them into prostitution in Manchuria. Over 100 women have already been victimized. Intensive investigation by Pusan police has revealed the identity of a Mukden dealer involved in these activities, and six officers were dispatched in the evening of August 29 to the city to arrest this dealer. The arrest is expected to fully expose the nightmarish activities of these brokers.

FACT 3

There were admittedly cases, though, of breakdowns in discipline. On the island of Semarang in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), for instance, an army unit forcibly rounded up a group of young Dutch women to work at a "comfort station." The station was shut down under army orders, though, when this incident came to light, and the responsible officers were punished. Those involved in this and other war crimes were subsequently tried in Dutch courts and received heavy sentences, including the death penalty.

FACT 4

House Resolution 121 sponsored by US Representative Mike Honda and other charges of Japanese maltreatment of "comfort women" are mostly based on testimonies by former *ianfu*. In none of their initial statements are there references to their being coerced to work by the army or other units of the Japanese government.

Their testimonies have undergone dramatic changes, though, after the start of the anti-Japanese campaign. Those who testified in a House of Representatives public hearing first reported that they were whisked away by brokers, but then later claimed that their abductors wore clothing that "looked like police uniforms."

FACT 5

The *ianfu* who were embedded with the Japanese army were not, as is commonly reported, "sex slaves." They were working under a system of licensed prostitution that was commonplace around the world at the time. Many of the women, in fact, earned incomes far in excess of what were paid to field officers and even generals (as reported by the United States Office of War Information, Psychological Warfare Team Attached to U.S. Army Forces, India-Burma Theater, APO 689), and there are many testimonies attesting to the fact that they were treated well. There are records of soldiers being punished for acts of violence against the women. Many countries set up brothels for their armies, in fact, to prevent soldiers from committing rape against private citizens. (In 1945, for instance, Occupation authorities asked the Japanese government to set up hygienic and safe "comfort stations" to prevent rape by American soldiers.)

Sadly, many women were made to suffer severe hardships during the wretched era during World War II, and it is with profound regret that we contemplate this tragic historical reality. At the same time, we must note that it is a gross and deliberate distortion of reality to contend that the Japanese army was guilty of "enslaving young women into sexual slavery" in "one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century," as the House Resolution claims. After all, two-fifths of the approximately 20,000 *ianfu* during the war were Japanese women, as detailed in an academic paper by historian Ikuhiko Hata. We are interested, foremost, in sharing the truth with the American public. Criticism for events that actually occurred must be humbly embraced. But apologies over unfounded slander and defamation will not only give the public an erroneous impression of historical reality but could negatively affect the friendship between the United States and Japan. We ask only that the Facts be objectively regarded so that we may share a correct perception of history.

Translation of an article demonstrating that there was no organized or forced recruitment of women into prostitution by the Japanese military. http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02_1/31_S4.pdf

Assentors

- Diet members**
- The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan**
MASAOKI AKAKE, TOMOMI INADA, TAKI ETOH, TAKASHI OTSUKA, HIDEAKI OKABE, YUICHI OGAWA, CYUBE KAGITA, YOSHITAMI KAMEOKA, MINORU KIHARA, TSUKAYA KOBIKI, MANABU SAKAI, YOSHINOBU SHIMAMURA, MOTOSHII SUGITA, KEISUKE SUZUKI, KENTAROU SONOIRA, MASAOKI TAIRA, TOICHIRO TODA, TOICHIRO DOI, MASAKI DOI, KATSUKO NISHIMOTO, JUN ICHIHASE, YOSHIEI FURUKAWA, FUMIYUKI MATSUMOTO, YOSHIEI MATSUMOTO, YUJI MITOH, KAZUO AICHI, TOMOHIRO YAMAMOTO, ATSUSHI WATANABE, YOSHIO NAKAGAWA
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- Independent**
SHINGO NISHIMURA, TAKEO HIRANUMA

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Political Commentators: HIDEAKI KASE, KANJI NISHIO, KOUCHIROU TOMOKA, HISASHIRO OKAZAKI, SHINGEJI SHIGEMARU, AYOYAMA, HIROMICHI MOTOKI

We, the undersigned members of the Committee for Historical Facts, endorse the public comment presented above

- Taro Yamama Political Commentator | Yoshiko Sakurai Journalist | Nobuaki Hanaoka Political Commentator | Koichi Sugiyama Musician | Kohyu Nishimura Journalist

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"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition

New York: Today, cold winds, partly sunny, high 31. Tonight, clearing, frigid, breezy early, low 14. Tomorrow, sunny, high 33. Yesterday, high 22, low 12. Weather map appears on Page D8.

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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

ONE DOLLAR



AP Photo/Young-jun Associated Press

Japanese students visiting South Korea view photos of Korean women who were sex slaves of Japan's army.

Denial Reopens Wounds of Japan's Ex-Sex Slaves

By NORIMITSU ONISHI

SYDNEY, Australia, March 7 — Wu Hsu-mei said she was 23 and working as a maid in a hotel in 1940 when her Taiwanese boss handed her over to Japanese officers. She and some 15 other women were sent to Guangdong Province in southern China to become sex slaves.

Inside a hotel there was a so-called comfort station, managed by a Taiwanese but serving only the Japanese military, Ms. Wu said. Forced to have sex with more than 20 Japanese a day for almost a year, she said, she had multiple abortions and became sterile.

The long festering issue of Japan's war-era sex slaves gained new prom-

Victims, Outraged at Premier's Remarks, Recount Abuse

inence last week when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe denied the military's role in coercing the women into servitude. The denial by Mr. Abe, Japan's first prime minister born after the war, drew official protests from China, Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines, some of the countries from which the sex slaves were taken.

The furor highlighted yet again Japan's unresolved history in a region where it has been ceding influence to China. The controversy has also drawn in the United States, which has strongly resisted entering the history disputes that have roiled East Asia in recent years.

Ms. Wu told her story on Wednesday outside the Japanese Consulate here, where she and two others who had been sex slaves, known euphemistically as comfort women, were protesting Tokyo's refusal to admit responsibility for the abuse that historians say they and as many as

200,000 other women suffered.

All three — Ms. Wu, who is now 80; a 78-year-old South Korean from Seoul; and an 84-year-old Dutch-Australian from Adelaide — were participating in an international conference for Japan's former sex slaves here. Now, just days after Mr. Abe's remarks, the three were united in their fury.

"I was taken away by force by Japanese officers, and a Japanese military doctor forced me to undress to examine me before I was taken away," said Ms. Wu, who landed here in Sydney on Tuesday night after a daylong flight from Taipei. "How can Abe lie to the world like that?"

Mr. Abe, a nationalist who had built his career partly on playing down Japan's wartime past, made his comments in response to a confluence of events, beginning with the Democratic victory in the American Congressional elections last fall. That gave impetus to a proposed



Among the victims of Japanese sexual slavery addressing a conference in Sydney were, from left, Wu Hsiu-mei of Taiwan; Jan Ruff O'Herne, an Australian formerly from Java; and Gil Won-ok, a South Korean. At right, demonstrators near Parliament in Tokyo with placards denouncing remarks last week by Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, below, denying the role of the country's military in coercing the women into their plight.

Denial by Premier Reopens Wounds of Sex Slaves of Japanese Army in World War II

Continued From Page A1

nonbinding resolution in the House that would call on Japan to unequivocally acknowledge and apologize for its brutal mistreatment of the women.

Even as Mr. Abe's closest allies pressed him to soften a 1993 government statement that acknowledged the military's role in forcing the women into sexual slavery, three former victims testified in Congress last month.

On Monday, Mr. Abe said he would preserve the 1993 statement but denied its central admission of the military's role, saying there had been no "coercion, like the authorities breaking into houses and kidnapping" women.

He said private dealers had coerced the women, adding that the House resolution was "not based on objective facts" and that Japan would not apologize even if it was passed.

The resolution calls for Japan to "formally acknowledge, apologize and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery."

"Prime Minister Abe is in effect saying that the women are lying," Representative Mike Honda, the California Democrat who is spearheading the legislation, said in a telephone interview. "I find it hard to believe



Janet Kato/Reuters

Close allies are urging Mr. Abe to ease the government's 1993 admission of wartime sexual slavery.

that he is correct given the evidence uncovered by Japanese historians and the testimony of the comfort women."

Japanese historians, using the diaries and testimony of military officials as well as official documents from the United States and other countries, have been able to show that the military was directly or indirectly involved in coercing, deceiving, luring and sometimes kidnapping young women throughout Ja-

pan's Asian colonies and occupied territories.

They estimate that up to 200,000 women served in comfort stations that were often an intrinsic part of military operations.

Yet although Mr. Abe admitted coercion by private dealers, some of his closest allies in the governing Liberal Democratic Party have dismissed the women as prostitutes who volunteered to work in the comfort stations. They say no official Japanese government documents show the military's role in recruiting the women.

According to historians, the military established the stations to boost morale among its troops, but also to prevent rapes of local women and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among soldiers.

Japan's deep fear of rampaging soldiers also led it to establish brothels with Japanese prostitutes across Japan for American soldiers during the first months of the postwar occupation, a fact that complicates American involvement in the current debate.

In 1995 a private fund was set up to compensate the women, but many refused to accept any money because they saw the measure as a way for the government to avoid taking direct responsibility. Only 285 women have accepted money from the fund, which will be terminated at the end of this month.

The most direct testimony of the

military's role has come from the women themselves.

"An apology is the most important thing we want — an apology that comes from the government, not only a personal one — because this would give us back our dignity," said Jan Ruff O'Herne, 84, who testified to a Congressional panel last month.

Ms. Ruff was living with her family in Java, in what was then the Dutch East Indies, when Japan invaded in 1942. She spent the first two years in a prison camp, she said, but Japanese officers arrived one day in 1944. They forced single girls and women to line up and eventually picked 10 of them, including Ms. Ruff, who was 21.

"On the first night, it was a high-ranking officer," Ms. Ruff said. "It was so well organized. A military doctor came to our house regularly to examine us against venereal diseases, and I tell you, before I was examined the doctor raped me first. That's how well organized it was."

In Japan's colonies, historians say, the military worked closely with, or sometimes completely relied on, local people to obtain women.

In Pyongyang, now the capital of North Korea, Gil Won-ok said, she lined up outside a Japanese military base to look for work in her early teens. A Korean man, she said, approached her with the promise of factory work, but she eventually found herself in a comfort station in northeast China.

After she caught syphilis and developed tumors, Ms. Gil said, a Japanese military doctor removed her uterus.

"I've felt dead inside since I was 15," said Ms. Gil, who was 16 when the war ended.

Like many comfort women, Ms. Gil was unable to bear children and never married, though she did adopt a son. She now lives in a home with

three other former comfort women in Seoul.

Ms. Wu married twice, each time hiding her background. Somehow the husbands found out, and the marriages ended unhappily. Her adopted daughter is now angry with Ms. Wu for having spoken in public about her past, she said.

As for Ms. Ruff, she returned to the prison camp in Java after her release from the comfort station. Her parents swore her to silence. A Roman Catholic priest told Ms. Ruff, who had thought of becoming a nun: "My dear child, under these circumstances it is wise that you do not become a nun."

"You don't know how hard it was to carry this enormous burden inside you, that you would like to scream out to the world and yet you cannot," Ms. Ruff said. "But I remember telling Carol, 'One day I'm going to tell my story, and people will be interested.'"

"It's a wonderful thing," Carol said.

"You don't know how hard it was to carry this enormous burden inside you, that you would like to scream out to the world and yet you cannot," Ms. Ruff said. "But I remember telling Carol, 'One day I'm going to tell my story, and people will be interested.'"

An old issue between Japan and its neighbors has taken on new prominence.

The Washington Times

www.washingtontimes.com

The truth about Japan's 'comfort women'

By Henry Hyde and Chris Smith

Published April 26, 2007

Recent denials by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that women in Asia were coerced into sexual slavery by Imperial Japan during the war years perpetuate pain and sorrow among victims and their loved ones. As Mr. Abe represents the Japanese people to the world, his views also damage foreign perceptions of the great strides many Japanese have made as peaceful, responsible world citizens since 1946. As friends of Japan, we urge the Japanese people to courageously acknowledge and redress the wrongs perpetrated by Imperial Japan.

The government of Japan, during its colonial occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, organized the subjugation and kidnapping, for the sole purpose of sexual servitude, of young women, who became known to the world as "comfort women." This tragedy was one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century, and was officially commissioned and orchestrated by the government of Japan to include gang rape, forced abortions, sexual violence, human trafficking and numerous other crimes against humanity.

Some of the victims were girls as young as 13 years of age and women separated from their own children; others were abducted from their homes or lured into sexual servitude under false pretenses. Many comfort women were eventually killed or driven to commit suicide when the hostilities ceased, because they were ashamed of what they had been forced to do.

Historians conclude that as many as 200,000 women were enslaved, but very few of them survive today. And not only did the government of Japan fail to fully disclose these war crimes during negotiations for reparations with its former enemies and occupied countries, but some textbooks used in Japanese schools minimize the "comfort women" tragedy and other atrocities, and distort the Japanese role in war crimes during World War II. In fact, Japanese government officials, both elected and career, as recently as June 2005, praised the removal of the term "comfort women" from Japanese textbooks. This kind of treatment of the issue only exacerbates the pain of the survivors.

Victims of Imperial Japanese brutality throughout East Asia and the Pacific and their families want Japan to frankly acknowledge what it has done. A responsible demonstration of humanity from Japan's social and political leaders will promote general healing and trust in the region, while as Mr. Abe surely knows, official denials from Japan's leaders keep these issues alive and alarm its neighbors. Facing history squarely is the first duty of leaders anywhere. In the United States today, for instance, political and social leaders courageously acknowledge a shameful history of slavery and racial discrimination. What makes their efforts courageous is that they challenge long-held myths that were used to justify outrageous behavior that weakened our society. Correcting long-standing myths is hard. Efforts to redress them may not initially succeed, but ultimately they strengthen society and make the country more admirable.

We encourage the Japanese people as freedom-loving people to come to grips with the history

of Imperial Japan. Doing so will yield untold benefits. Japan will earn not only the respect of neighboring countries and friends, but also their trust, which is essential for Japan to become the leader it yearns to be. Preventing such worthy results are modern denials of Imperial Japan's past. It would bring great honor to the Japanese people if the U.S. Congress hears a frank and courageous leader admit the truth and accept responsibility for the past, when Mr. Abe visits Washington later this month.

Former Rep. Henry Hyde, Illinois Republican, was a member of Congress and served as Chairman of the House International Relations Committee until January 2007. Rep. Chris Smith, New Jersey Republican, is the ranking member of the Africa and Global Health subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

POINT OF VIEW/ Koken Tsuchiya: Open up stored records on 'comfort women'

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200704160059.html>

04/16/2007

THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

The government and the Liberal Democratic Party have overreacted to the draft resolution introduced in January to the U.S. House of Representatives that demands Japan formally acknowledge and apologize for forcing women to provide sex for Japanese soldiers during the wars. Similar resolutions have already been adopted by the parliaments of South Korea and Taiwan, so the move is nothing new.

Japan has been strongly urged on repeated occasions to resolve the "comfort women" issue by such international organizations as the United Nations Human Rights Council, the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Labor Organization.

Those facts shows that not only countries that suffered under the Japanese military think Japan has yet to settle the "comfort women" problem, but international organizations that generally maintain neutrality also think so.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Foreign Minister Taro Aso insist "there was no coercion in the narrow sense" and there are "factual errors" in this view of history.

But their arguments do not seem well-grounded. The governments of the Netherlands and South Korea, which both suffered damage from Japan, and these international organizations have conducted their own investigations, including interviews with former comfort women. They have recognized the pain that was inflicted on these women.

On a number of occasions, I have also met and listened to the stories of victims from countries that suffered damage. From what I learned, particularly in countries occupied by Japan such as China and the Philippines, in many cases, women were kidnapped, attacked or confined directly by the military without any involvement by private operators.

Japanese courts have also found evidence of and acknowledged the fact of coercion. The Japan Federation of Bar Associations dispatched members to the related countries to look into damage reports, and it publicized the results. Based on its findings, the federation has four times urged the prime minister to make a formal apology and extend compensation to individuals.

I agree with the theory that the current confusion is caused by the ambiguity of the government's survey released in 1993 and in the wording of the statement issued by then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono.

Meanwhile, there is little evidence that the government has seriously pursued its investigation since 1993. It has been passive at best, not even bothering to interview the surviving comfort women, except for a few in South Korea. Some naysayers have even taken advantage of the government's inadequate response to this issue to try to discredit the Kono statement.

The government must take the blame for failing to take proper measures. It must look further into the situation and hear from the victims to reveal the true situation of "comfort women" and wartime coercion.

Successive prime ministers have offered "apologies." But neither prime ministers nor foreign ministers have ever personally met with these aging victims.

Listening to these leaders' recent statements in the Diet, I got the impression they have not bothered to read the reports released by the Dutch government after 1993, nor the moving account of "comfort women" on the Indonesian island of Buru that was written more than 30 years ago by prominent Indonesian writer Pramoedya Ananta Toer (1925-2006).

Speculation that is not based on a thorough investigation lacks persuasive power.

It is illogical to argue that just because no official documents can be found that record the coercion, it therefore never happened. While many documents were burned when Japan lost the war, a large number of documents still reside silently in storage rooms at ministries, awaiting a full investigation to reveal the truth.

A proposal to set up a special bureau within the National Diet Library to examine such documents, and bills aimed at settling the "comfort women" problem have been repeatedly submitted to the Diet. Before trying to block the U.S. Congress from adopting its resolution, the Diet should deliberate on these bills.

Some may fear the resolution could cause a rift in Japan-U.S. relations. But denying history is much more detrimental to mutual trust between the two countries.

Mike Honda, the U.S. House of Representatives member who submitted the resolution, insists that only after Japan acknowledges its responsibility can it make peace with its victims and pave the way to stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asian Peace and People's Fund for Women (Asian Women's Fund), which dissolved at the end of March, was regarded by victims and victimized countries as a way for the government to evade responsibility. It is time we reconsider what is in Japan's true national interest.

* * *

The author is a former president of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.(IHT/Asahi: April 16,2007)

Shinzo Abe's Double Talk

He's passionate about Japanese victims of North Korea -- and blind to Japan's own war crimes.

Saturday, March 24, 2007; A16

THE TOUGHEST player in the "six-party" talks on North Korea this week was not the Bush administration -- which was engaged in an unseemly scramble to deliver \$25 million in bank funds demanded by the regime of Kim Jong Il -- but Japan. Tokyo is insisting that North Korea supply information about 17 Japanese citizens allegedly kidnapped by the North decades ago, refusing to discuss any improvement in relations until it receives answers. This single-note policy is portrayed as a matter of high moral principle by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has used Japan's victims -- including a girl said to have been abducted when she was 13 -- to rally his wilting domestic support.

Mr. Abe has a right to complain about Pyongyang's stonewalling. What's odd -- and offensive -- is his parallel campaign to roll back Japan's acceptance of responsibility for the abduction, rape and sexual enslavement of tens of thousands of women during World War II. Responding to a pending resolution in the U.S. Congress calling for an official apology, Mr. Abe has twice this month issued statements claiming there is no documentation proving that the Japanese military participated in abducting the women. A written statement endorsed by his cabinet last week weakened a 1993 government declaration that acknowledged Japan's brutal treatment of the so-called comfort women.

In fact the historical record on this issue is no less convincing than the evidence that North Korea kidnapped Japanese citizens, some of whom were used as teachers or translators. Historians say that up to 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines and other Asian countries were enslaved and that Japanese soldiers participated in abductions. Many survivors of the system have described their horrifying experiences, including three who recently testified to Congress. That the Japanese government has never fully accepted responsibility for their suffering or paid compensation is bad enough; that Mr. Abe would retreat from previous statements is a disgrace for a leader of a major democracy.

Mr. Abe may imagine that denying direct participation by the Japanese government in abductions may strengthen its moral authority in demanding answers from North Korea. It does the opposite. If Mr. Abe seeks international support in learning the fate of Japan's kidnapped citizens, he should straightforwardly accept responsibility for Japan's own crimes -- and apologize to the victims he has slandered.

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No Comfort

[New York Times](#)

March 6, 2007

What part of "Japanese Army sex slaves" does Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, have so much trouble understanding and apologizing for?

The underlying facts have long been beyond serious dispute. During World War II, Japan's Army set up sites where women rounded up from Japanese colonies like Korea were expected to deliver sexual services to Japan's soldiers.

These were not commercial brothels. Force, explicit and implicit, was used in recruiting these women. What went on in them was serial rape, not prostitution. The Japanese Army's involvement is documented in the government's own defense files. A senior Tokyo official more or less apologized for this horrific crime in 1993. The unofficial fund set up to compensate victims is set to close down this month.

And Mr. Abe wants the issue to end there. Last week, he claimed that there was no evidence that the victims had been coerced. Yesterday, he grudgingly acknowledged the 1993 quasi apology, but only as part of a pre-emptive declaration that his government would reject the call, now pending in the United States Congress, for an official apology. America isn't the only country interested in seeing Japan belatedly accept full responsibility. Korea and China are also infuriated by years of Japanese equivocations over the issue.

Mr. Abe seems less concerned with repairing Japan's sullied international reputation than with appealing to a large right-wing faction within his Liberal Democratic Party that insists that the whole shameful episode was a case of healthy private enterprise. One ruling party lawmaker, in his misplaced zeal to exculpate the Army, even suggested the offensive analogy of a college that outsourced its cafeteria to a private firm.

Japan is only dishonored by such efforts to contort the truth.

The 1993 statement needs to be expanded upon, not whittled down. Parliament should issue a frank apology and provide generous official compensation to the surviving victims. It is time for Japan's politicians starting with Mr. Abe to recognize that the first step toward overcoming a shameful past is acknowledging it.



STILL WAITING AFTER 60 YEARS

JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS
OF JAPAN'S MILITARY
SEXUAL SLAVERY
SYSTEM



COVER: Korean survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery system protesting at the Wednesday Demonstration outside the Japanese Embassy. © Paula Allen

Testimony of Jan Ruff O'Herne

Jan Ruff O'Herne, was born and raised in the Dutch Indies (now Indonesia). She was 19 years old when the Japanese invaded Java in March 1942. All Dutch people were taken to prison camps. When she had been in the camp for two years, in 1944, the Japanese military took her to a "comfort station" where she was repeatedly raped for three months.

"It's the memories of the first night that stay with me for the rest of my life. I knew nothing about sex; that was my first experience of sex it was just horrific they stripped us of everything that night. It's a feeling you never lose.

We were raped every night. I cut off all my hair during that period to make myself look as unattractive as possible. I cut my hair until I was quite bald, but it did not help me; I became a curiosity object.

I never knew it, but I know it now, there was a reason that I experienced all this suffering. That reason came to me, in my old age, after 50 years I knew that I had to do something. So in my old age, I said 'now I know!' I had to be the speaker; it has to be my voice that has to speak up so these things can never happen again.

First the Korean women publicly spoke out, I saw them on television. Kim Hak-soon was the first Korean woman to speak out. I realised there was no reason to be ashamed anymore, she had the courage to speak out. I thought that the world might not listen to just a few women but if other women also European women spoke out maybe the world would pay even more attention.

I first spoke out in December 1992, I was asked to be a witness at a public hearing on Japanese war crimes. It was the hardest thing I had to do because I had to tell my daughters and grandchildren. I was so ashamed of what happened to me that I couldn't tell my daughter to her face. I wrote it all down and asked her to read it. After I spoke out I collected a box full of letters from people all around the world. Now I've been speaking out for 12 years.

All that time I suffered but couldn't talk about it, when I did it was like a pressure cooker letting out steam. It took the shame away. I've made three trips to Japan to talk about the experience of women in war, to ask the Japanese government to take responsibility for their war crimes, pay compensation and apologise for what was done. I've talked to Indonesian women who were taken out of their villages; of course it wasn't just Dutch women who were used by the military. When I went to Japan I was very well received, especially by the young people who want their government to own up and be responsible for war crimes. I was well received because I came with forgiveness and I really meant it.

My last trip to Japan was about reconciliation. I sat at a table with an elderly Japanese gentleman who had been a soldier. I asked him whether he had raped any of the so called "comfort women" and he said 'of course'. At the time he thought it was right because they had been told it was their right and it was given to them. Being given these women that they could rape was the same as being given a packet of cigarettes. He said now he realises the wrong that he did.

I think speaking out about my experiences has made a difference but these things still happen, it's still going on. Women are being used by soldiers, being raped and tortured. Rape as a weapon in war is still being used. It's important that we keep telling our stories; we have to let the next generation know and learn. I see myself as a campaigner for women's human rights, for all women around the world".

Interview with Amnesty International, Australia, June 2005

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8 Recommendations

The “comfort women” endured horrific and debilitating sexual abuse, have bravely spoken out about the crimes they suffered. The survivors are now elderly; some have died. Their wait and search for justice has been long and painful. The moral and legal basis for their claims is strong, as this report has demonstrated.

There is an imperative to ensure that their claims are adequately heard and that justice is served in their lifetime. Amnesty International recommends that the following actions are implemented with a sense of urgency, in order that justice for the “comfort women” is delivered. The Japanese government must take effective measures to provide full reparations to survivors without further delay.

To the government of Japan and the Japanese Diet:

Japan should immediately implement effective administrative mechanisms to provide full reparations to all survivors of sexual slavery, including, all forms of reparations listed in the recommendations of the Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan’s Military Sexual Slavery.

In particular, the Diet should make a full apology to survivors, including, accepting Japan’s full responsibility for the crimes, acknowledging that the crimes amount to crimes under international law, acknowledging the harm suffered by survivors, denouncing all forms of sexual violence against women and expressing sincere remorse to survivors for the crimes.

Japan should review its national laws to remove existing obstacles to obtaining full reparations before Japanese courts. In particular, the right of individuals to claim reparations against the government should be expressly recognized in national law and cases for reparation should be prioritized taking into account the delay in allowing these claims to be brought and the ages of the survivors. Legislation should be adopted expressly providing that the doctrine of *Kokka-Mutoseki* and statutes of limitations shall not be applied to claims by survivors of sexual slavery, as a crime under international law.

In order to reveal the truth and the full extent of the sexual slavery system, Japan should issue a comprehensive factual report setting out the full scale of the “comfort station” system, including, the location of each “comfort station,” the number of women subject to sexual slavery at each station and their nationality, the ages of the women and girls and any other factual information available.

As an important guarantee of non-repetition of these crimes, Japan should ratify immediately the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

To affected states where “comfort stations” operated or whose nationals were subjected to sexual slavery:

Affected states should ensure that survivors are able to bring claims directly against the government of Japan in their national courts by enacting national legislation:

- a) providing for victims to seek all forms of reparations against a foreign state for crimes under international law;
- b) ensure that such laws prohibit any state immunity for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
- c) ensure that statutes of limitations do not apply to claims for reparations and;
- d) ensure that survivors are able to implement reparations orders without political interference by the government through political discretion.

To all other states, inter-governmental organizations, national parliaments and inter-parliamentary organizations:

Governments, both individually and collectively (including through inter-governmental organizations) and national parliaments and inter-parliamentary organizations should publicly call on Japan and the Japanese Diet to take immediate steps to provide full reparations to survivors of sexual slavery, including all measures recommended above.

The 8th Asian Solidarity Conference for the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan Resolution (Draft)

May 21, 2007

The 8th Asian Solidarity Conference for the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, with the title “15 Years of Asian Solidarity, For Future Tasks and Coalition” was held from 19 to 21 May 2007, with participants from North and South Korea, Japan, Republic of China, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Netherlands, as well as USA, Germany, and Australia.

Since 1991, when the brave survivors’ testified to break their silence, we have made efforts in the UN and international bodies to bring about Government of Japan’s (GoJ) official apology and reparation; including declaring the Emperor Hirohito guilty at the 2000 Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan’s Military Sexual Slavery. These achievements are the result of the Asian and international community solidarity work, for the purpose of healing the pain and suffering of the survivors.

However, despite these efforts and achievements, GoJ is not only refusing to publicly apologize for their war crimes committed against the victims of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery System, but still refusing to give adequate reparation and to honor the facts and truth about Japanese Military Sexual Slavery. Instead, they are repeating statements of denial which appeases GoJ’s responsibilities. Furthermore, disregarding their acts of colonization and aggressive warfare in the past, they are returning to war waging state by reforming the Article Nine of the Japanese Constitution. In addition, the Asian Women Fund has been dissolved in March 2007; it has been confirmed that such a fund has not resolved the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery issue.

In this context, U.S.’s efforts to pass House Resolution 121 and the efforts to pass parliamentary motions in Canada and Australia, illustrate the broadening of coalition among international human rights organizations. It also reaffirms that the international communities more and more realize that the resolution of the issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan is not just relevant to the survivors and citizens of the perpetrator / victim countries, but it is a universal task important to our future.

Therefore, in hope and solidarity, we resolve to do the following:

1. We support activities to successfully pass the Congressional resolution and parliamentary motions in U.S., Canada, Australia and elsewhere.
2. We object the Government of Japan’s attempt to revise the 1993 “Kono statement” and we demand that the GoJ must take full responsibility and necessary execution of policies for official apology, reparation, truth and fact finding, as well as prevention of reoccurrence.

3. We demand the Government of Japan to carry out the recommendations by the UN Human Rights bodies, and we demand the UN Human Rights Council to monitor the issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan.
4. We support the network's efforts to build peace and/or women's museums centered on the issue of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery, dedicated to historical record making, remembering of history and public education.
5. We will expand the Asian Solidarity Conference for Resolution of Military Sexual Slavery issue into Global solidarity Conference, through which the spirit of last fifteen years of Asian activism and achievements will be continued and improved.

All participants in the 8th Asian Solidarity Conference
for the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

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German Participants ; Chung Noh Gross, Peace Women's Association in Germany

American Participants ; Jonghwa Lee, a professor of Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, USA

Mr. Shinzo Abe Japanese Prime Minister

The requisition which demands a solution of the issue of the Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

In Seoul, Korea the 8th Asian Solidarity Conference for the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan was held from this past May 19th to 21st. This international conference has been held since 1992, with the victims and supporting groups together who wish for a solution of the issue. Many people participated in this conference from North and South Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia, Netherlands, and USA, Germany and Australia as well.

Participants of each country protested to the Prime Minister Abe's remark: "There was no compulsion." at the meeting table. The voices of them demanding the retraction of Prime Minister Abe's remark and true solution were successive.

Since 1991, when the courageous testimonies by the victims of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan broke the long silence, we have shared their pain with survivors and the efforts to heal the bruise of their minds and bodies have been made. At the same time we requested of Japanese Government to accept the advice by international organizations such as United Nations which recommends Japanese Government should apologize and compensate. And in 2000 we held Women's International War Criminals Tribunal against Military Sexual Slavery by Japan. Through a large number of actions we have worked to settle this issue and for protecting women's rights, peace and justice.

Asia Women's Fund, which was established in 1995 by Japanese Government to evade its legal responsibility, was dissolved at the end of March of this year but this AWF policy can't be called as a solution of the issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan. A recovery from damage and of dignity of those women in Asia who were forced to be Sex Slaves is still left undone, after all.

Though Prime Minister Abe said, "I follow Kono's comment.", an inconsistent remark has been repeated by him that "the Japanese military never forced but private traders did."

Prime Minister Abe is enthusiastic about evading Japan's faults in the past and also has revised Fundamental Law of Education for the worse and is now promoting to amend for the worse too the peace constitution as symbol of democracy and fort keeping peaces.

Prime Minister Abe is rushing into the direction to build Japan again as a nation which goes to war.

We protest decidedly against such an attitude of Prime Minister Abe and Japanese Government. We demand strongly that Prime Minister Abe and Japanese Government listen carefully to victims' long-term callings, that Japanese Government accepts resolution 121 which was submitted by American Lower House assembly and that

Japanese Government prepares urgently the right answer victims and international society are satisfied with. And we request the followings strong at the same time.

1. Withdrawal of Prime Minister Abe's remark which denies compulsion by army.
2. Opening to the public of all related documents which are now undisclosed.
3. Accept the advices by UN human rights committee recommended repeatedly to Japanese Government and establish legislative measures for truth investigations and compensation immediately.
4. The announcement of apology to those victims in clear and official form and sending the letter of apology for all victims.

**All participants in the 8th Asian Solidarity Conference for the Issue of
Military Sexual Slavery by Japan
on May 21st 2007**

The World Conference on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery Declaration of the NGO Conference

We, the participants of the first World Conference on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery who are survivors of “Japanese Military Sexual Slavery” and the NGO representatives from Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, Germany, Canada, Australia, and the US, have gathered in Los Angeles and hereby jointly declare:

First, regarding the history and legal responsibilities related to the “comfort women” system, we confirm once again the following:

- 1) The Japanese military “comfort women” system was a crime of sexual slavery that was a government-led, and systematically organized, drafting of approximately 200,000 Asian women and girls.
- 2) Japanese Military Sexual Slavery was a crime against humanity and a war crime, according to the U.N. and various international organizations’ official confirmation.

The Asian Women’s Fund, which was offered to some Asian victims, was a failure because it did not constitute a legal reparation from the Japanese government, without the acknowledgement of the criminality of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery, and without official apology and legal responsibility. Therefore, there still lies the responsibility of the Japanese government for legal reparation.

We do not solely focus on setting right history or on the restoration of justice for “comfort women victims, but seek to expand our focus to include women and children around the world who continue to suffer in situations of armed conflict and human rights violation. We believe it is our duty to give hope to these victims.

Therefore, we will keep expanding our coalition with international civil organizations and work together, in order to have the Japanese government accept fundamental principles that resolve the issue of Japanese military “comfort women.”

The following are demands to the Japanese government:

- 1) The Japanese government must immediately take back its denial of the use of force in the military sexual slavery recruitment, and abide by the Kono Statement of August 4, 1993. Further, they must disclose all documents on Japanese military “comfort women” for holistic fact-finding. To do this, the Japanese government must collaborate with the Japanese Diet to establish a bill to find facts.
- 2) The Japanese government must acknowledge Japanese military sexual slavery as a war crime and abide by the “Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and

Reparations for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Resolution” as adopted by the U.N. General Assembly. To accomplish this, the Japanese government must prepare domestic laws to carry out this goal.

3) The Japanese government must stop denying the truth of the past and distorting history. They should focus on teaching the right history to future generations. Through all of this, they can work towards preventing similar crimes from recurring.

4) The Japanese government must establish a museum for the memory and education of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery, and commemoration of the victims.

The unresolved issue of Japanese military “comfort women” is creating a barrier for reconciliation between Japan and Asia. We will continue our activism in order to move beyond the 20th century, scared by war and conflict, for the realization of a new era of peace and reconciliation. The “Comfort Women” issue is one that must be addressed to uphold women’s human rights, build reconciliation in Asia, and realize peace in the world.

Therefore, we, the international solidarity movement, commit to growing in strength and declare to act on the below:

1) We welcome the passage of the United State’s House Resolution 121, requesting an official apology from the Japanese government, and support the campaigns to pass similar parliamentary motions and resolutions in Canada, Australia and the European Union and elsewhere in the world. We will demonstrate our active support in our solidarity actions for the passing of these motions and resolutions.

2) We will actively work together with Japanese civil organizations and the Japanese Diet to urge the Japanese government to take responsibility for a formal apology and reparations, the examination of facts, the prevention of the repetition of such acts through enacting legislative measures and concrete political implementations.

3) We will survey and demand that the issue of Japanese military sexual slavery needs to be continuously handled at the level of U.N. Human Rights Council. Further, we will pressure the Japanese government to accept and implement the U.N. recommendations.

4) We will put our strength into educating the public about “Comfort Women,” through the networked activities with individual countries’ peace and women’s human rights museums.

5) We will embrace the pain and suffering of “Comfort Women” survivors, as if our own, and continue to work in solidarity to secure resources to support the welfare of the survivors through civil organizations as well as government policies.

6) We will develop and advance the spirit and the success of the “comfort women”

movement, in conjunction with contemporary forms of violence against women during armed conflicts.

7) We will value and strengthen international solidarity, in order to eliminate all forms of violence against women in the world, to deter wars and militarism, and to achieve world peace.

October 6, 2007

Participating Organizations at the NGO Conference at the World Conference on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery & The Planning Committee of the World Conference on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery